

Integrated natural resources management planning: The workshop report

Mt Elgon Integrated Conservation and Development Project

1999

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About The Project

Mt Elgon Integrated Conservation and Development Project aims to enhance the conservation of biodiversity on Mt Elgon, a dormant volcano straddling the border between Kenya and Uganda. Mt Elgon is the fourth highest mountain in Africa and due to its proximity to the equator, height and antiquity, biodiversity of international significance is found on it.

The Project is implemented by Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Department which administer respectively Mt Elgon National Park of some 34 000 ha and the Mt Elgon Forest Reserve of 74 000 ha. Technical and managerial support for the project comes from IUCN - The World Conservation Union, and funding for the first phase of the project of two and a half years, up to the end of 2000, is from the Netherlands Government.

An integrated natural resources management plan is considered a prerequisite for biodiversity conservation on Mt Elgon. The workshop reported on in this document is an initial step in the process of elaborating such a plan, the completion of which will take several years. During the project's first phase the planning process will be launched, but continuing input from the Project to the planning process for Mt Elgon will only be possible if another donor is willing to support the Project when the present donor's funding terminates.

Contents

- Acknowledgements
- Executive Summary
- Acronyms
- Introduction
- Background to the Workshop
- Workshop Objectives
- Workshop Structure
- Workshop Synopsis

- Welcome and Logistics
- Objectives of the Workshop
- An Introduction to Mt Elgon
- Official Opening of the Workshop

Workshop Papers

- The Significance of the Resources of Mt Elgon to Neighbouring Communities.
- The high altitude vegetation of Mt Elgon in Kenya as influenced by climate and fire.
- Tourism and Mt Elgon.
- The Economic Value and Potential of Indigenous and Plantation Forests of Mt Elgon.
- Forest Resources of Mt Elgon and Elgeyo Sawmill.
- The Role of Pan Paper in Sustainable Forest Management in Kenya.
- Habitat use of two syntopic rodents (*Otomys barbouri* and *O. typus*) on Mt Elgon and the influence of fire-induced habitat changes.
- Resources and current management practices in Mt Elgon National Park.
- Resources and current management practices in the Forest Reserves on Mt Elgon.
- Conservation and management issues in Mt Elgon National Park.
- Conservation and management issues in the Forest Reserves of Mt Elgon.
- The roles of various institutions in the management of Mt Elgon Forest.
- Institutions and natural resources management conflicts: the case of Mt Elgon forest user groups.
- Policy and institutional issues for collaboration between communities and natural resources managing agencies.
- Management planning procedures and the policy framework for natural resources management planning in Kenya Wildlife Service.
- Joint management of natural resources by Kenya Wildlife Service and Forest Department.
- Management planning procedures and policy framework for natural resources management planning in the Forest Department - opportunities and constraints.
- Integrated Natural Resources Management Planning: Issues and Process.
- Integrated natural resources management planning: a project perspective
- New tools for natural resources management planning.
- The way ahead: the process and timetable for developing an integrated natural resources management plan for Mt Elgon.

Workshop Recommendations

Workshop Closing

Workshop Evaluation

Annex 1 - Participants
Annex 2 Workshop Program

Acknowledgements

This workshop was only possible because of generous funding support to the Mt Elgon Integrated Conservation and Development Project from the Government of the Netherlands.

Thanks are due to a number of people who assisted with the workshop, in particular Ms Bea Coolman, First Secretary, Ecology and Environment, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Nairobi, who graciously consented to officially open the workshop, and also Mr K. Shivoko, District Commissioner, Mt Elgon District who took time out from a busy schedule to officially close the workshop.

Contributions to the workshop in the form of written papers and comments during workshop discussions have yielded a rich repository of material which will be an invaluable resource to the planning team charged with producing the integrated natural resources management plan for the Mt Elgon ecosystem. These contributions by all workshop participants are gratefully acknowledged.

Assistance from those who chaired workshop sessions, acted as rapporteurs, lead discussion groups or presented the conclusions of the group discussions was indispensable for the smooth running of the workshop, and we would like to place on record our appreciation of this support.

Joint Workshop Hosts

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District Forest Officer
Trans Nzoia District

Edin Kalla
Assistant Director
Kenya Wildlife Service

James Omare
District Forest Officer
Mt Elgon District

Musa Enyola
Project Manager
MEICDP

Executive Summary

Mt Elgon Integrated Conservation and Development Project sponsored this workshop on integrated natural resources management planning for the Mt Elgon ecosystem at the Kitale Museum from 6th to 10th September 1999. Fifty seven people drawn from a range of stakeholders in the Mt Elgon ecosystem participated in the workshop.

The purposes of the workshop were:

1. To establish a participatory process that will result in the production, by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Kenya Forest Department (KFD), of an integrated natural resources management plan for the National Park and Forest Reserve on Mt Elgon.
2. To collect and share information about Mt Elgon and its resources and issues impinging on their management.
3. To disseminate, via documentation of the proceedings of the workshop, information about Mt Elgon, its resources and their management.

The workshop was arranged around two broad themes:

1. Information about Mt Elgon's natural resources, issues related to their management, and how this information and these issues should be addressed in management planning for Mt Elgon
2. Devising a process for preparation of a new integrated ecosystem management

Twenty one papers were presented during plenary sessions of the workshop and formed the basis for group discussions. Brief synopses of these papers are presented in this report. The full text of the papers and also the workshop discussions and findings are to be collated and published as workshop proceedings by the end of 1999.

Major conclusions of the workshop were:

1. The planning process should be driven from the field by the two principal partner agencies - KWS and KFD. Specialist support is available from the headquarters of these two agencies. The project can provide some resources to facilitate the planning process.
2. KWS and KFD should constitute locally a Steering Committee to oversee the preparation of the plan. This committee would consist of the DFOs of Trans-Nzoia and Mt Elgon District plus the Warden of Mt Elgon National Park. The Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor would be available in an advisory capacity to support the Steering Committee.

3. The Steering Committee should convene a first meeting within two weeks of the workshop to initiate preparation of the management plan.

Acronyms

CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DFO	District Forest Officer
EARO	East African Regional Office
KEFRI	Kenya Forest Research Institute
KFD	Kenya Forest Department
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
MECDP	Mt Elgon Conservation and Development Project (Uganda)
MEICDP	Mt Elgon Integrated Conservation and Development Project (Kenya)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NP	National Park
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Introduction

From 6th to 10th September, 1999, the Mt Elgon Integrated Conservation and Development Project (MEICDP) hosted a workshop on "Integrated Natural Resources Management Planning - Mt Elgon" at the Kitale Museum. The workshop was attended by 57 participants from a broad range of organisations and interests. Participants and their organisational affiliations are listed in Annex 1.

According to the project formulation document, MEICDP is to strengthen "institutional capacities and capabilities of local management institutions for sustainable management of the Mt Elgon ecosystem". One of the means proposed for achieving this project output is support to activities helping to achieve optimal management of the Mt Elgon ecosystem, including the preparation of a long term management plan for the Kenyan side of the Mt Elgon ecosystem.

This report describes the workshop planning and organisation and gives a brief overview of the papers, main conclusions and recommendations reached. More detailed coverage of the workshop, including the full text of all the papers presented, is to be made available when the proceedings of the workshop are compiled and released later this year.

Background to the Workshop

In April 1999 the project circulated a discussion paper on natural resources management planning for Mt Elgon. This paper mooted the need for a workshop to launch the initiation of a management planning process. Feedback given to the project on this paper supported this proposal. A workshop planning committee consisting of the project's Chief Technical Advisor, the Regional Biodiversity coordinator from Kenya Wildlife Service and the Assistant District Forest Officer for Trans-Nzoia District was constituted to plan the workshop. The committee held its first meeting on 4.6.99 and several other meetings followed to plan the workshop content and program. The first announcement of the workshop was issued to invitees on 28.6.99 by the DFOs of Trans-Nzoia and Mt Elgon Districts, the Regional Assistant Director, KWS and the Project Manager.

Workshop Objectives

The explicit objectives of the workshop were:

1. To establish a participatory process that will result in the production, by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Kenya Forest Department (KFD), of an integrated natural resources management plan for the National Park and Forest Reserves of Mt Elgon.
2. To collect and share information about Mt Elgon and its resources and issues impinging on their management.
3. To disseminate, via documentation of the proceedings of the workshop, information about Mt Elgon, its resources and their management.

The workshop also served to announce and launch the planning process within the broad grouping of stakeholders who attended and also amongst others who were invited but did not attend. Since this was the first workshop of this size sponsored by the project, it also helped to publicize the project to a wide audience extending well beyond those who attended.

It was decided during the planning of the workshop to aim for a broad coverage of issues related to Mt Elgon, while at the same time realising that breadth of coverage would limit the depth to which issues could be discussed. Since it is envisaged that other workshops will be convened in the course of plan elaboration, these will present opportunities for the deeper coverage of some issues that might require attention as the planning process evolves.

Workshop Structure

The workshop was structured around 21 papers dealing with various aspects of Mt Elgon's natural resources and their management. Annex 2 lists all the papers which were presented. The papers were arranged into one of two themes:

1. Information about Mt Elgon's natural resources, issues related to their management, and how this information and these issues should be addressed in management planning for Mt Elgon.
2. Devising a process for preparation of a new integrated ecosystem management plan.

Authors were limited to fifteen minute presentations on their papers in plenary sessions, and then collectively participated in a short question and answer session during which participants were able to seek clarification of points raised in the papers.

Workshop sessions were interspersed with breaks for morning and afternoon tea and a buffet lunch.

Group discussions followed the presentations on the papers. During these discussions the groups aimed to identify key issues related to the resources of the mountain and their management and, in sessions devoted to the second theme, the key issues related to the process of developing a management plan and how they should be dealt with.

The second, third and fourth days of the workshop commenced with a Rapporteur giving a brief summary of the previous day and highlighting key points from the presentations and discussions.

Abstracts of most presentations were circulated to participants before the workshop; those abstracts not circulated prior to the workshop, were, with one exception, supplied to participants on registration.

The structure used for the workshop had some limitations imposed by the need to keep to a very tight time schedule. Having presentations on a series of papers before questions and clarifications could be sought from the presenters probably inhibited spontaneity to some extent, since the concepts expounded upon in the presentations were no longer fresh in the minds of the audience when question time came around.

Time constraints also limited the length of plenary discussions; in the main, the plenary sessions in the workshop were taken up with presentations either of papers or else the conclusions reached in group work. Opportunities for questions and clarifications on both types of presentations were insufficient. To provide more time for interaction between presenters of papers and participants, authors of papers were encouraged to act as resource persons to the groups discussing the papers they had presented.

Workshop Synopsis

Welcome and Logistics

The workshop proceedings were initiated with Mr Paul Ongugo in the chair. Musa Enyola, Project Manager MEICDP was the first speaker and the day's proceedings were opened with a prayer, followed by the Manager's welcome and explanation of workshop logistical arrangements. Participants introduced themselves to conclude this part of the first plenary session.

Objectives of the Workshop

An outline of the workshop's objectives was given by Gerry Neville, CTA of MEICDP. The purpose of the workshop was to support the project output of strengthening institutional capacities and capabilities for natural resources management. This output is derived in the project formulation document (which was formulated with a ten year planning horizon for the project) from the project's development goal (the overall goal to which project contributes) and its immediate objective (that which project can by itself achieve).

Due to the complexity of the task of developing a management plan for Mt Elgon a workshop was seen as the best means of garnering inputs from a wide range of perspectives on Mt Elgon and its natural resources and their management. It was emphasised that the project was very keen to have all views expressed during the workshop and that all views, no matter whose, were of equal value to the workshop's deliberations. It was hoped that participants while sharing their knowledge with one another would contribute to mutual learning about Mt Elgon.

An Introduction to Mt Elgon

This was a half hour slide show presented by Viola Clausnitzer on Mt Elgon, based mainly on slides obtained during a year living near the summit of Mt Elgon while gathering research data. This presentation was designed to show participants aspects of Mt Elgon which many had not seen and also to serve as an alternative to a field visit to Mt Elgon which time constraints and logistical problems would have made quite difficult. The presentation showed the general landscape of Mt Elgon, its resources and the multiplicity of uses to which these resources are put.

Official Opening of the Workshop

The Official Opening was by Ms Bea Coolman, First Secretary, Ecology and Environment, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Nairobi. (The Netherlands Government funds MEICDP).

Ms Coolman commended the interest in Mt Elgon evidenced by the large number of people participating in the workshop. She stated that the situation of the Mt Elgon ecosystem on both the Ugandan and Kenya sides of Mt Elgon is becoming critical and this was demonstrated in the slide presentation. Community dependence on the Mt Elgon ecosystem means that finding a way

towards a sustainable management system for Mt Elgon is an uphill task and a major challenge for the workshop which she declared open. She said it was important that experience and knowledge be shared in the process of formulating the management plan. Donor funding is limited and it is very important that the people of Kenya accept full responsibility for the management of their natural resources. If the management of natural resources on Mt Elgon is to be sustainable, then it is essential that community members be full participants in the planning process.

Workshop Papers

A total of twenty one papers were presented during the workshop with fifteen addressing the first theme of the workshop - the natural resources of Mt Elgon and issues related to their management - while six of the papers addressed the second theme - the planning process.

Brief synopses of the workshop papers are set out below.

The Significance of the Resources of Mt Elgon to Neighbouring Communities. Doris Ombara, Zip Mugonyi. Sammy Kasuro Masai and Grace Waliala.

Mt Elgon has traditionally been an important resource for people living in its vicinity. These resources fall into the following categories:

- a. traditional socio-cultural: sites on the mountain for ceremonies; plant and animal products for ceremonial and medicinal purposes.
- b. ecological: rains giving water; fresh clean air; productive land with considerable agricultural potential.
- c. economic and livelihood - e.g. a source of materials like firewood, timber and foodstuffs.

The communities have a big stake in Mt Elgon due to its impact on their livelihoods, yet they now perceive themselves as having little decision making power on the use of forest resources due to the present day roles of KWS and KFD in natural resources management on Mt Elgon, which has displaced the traditional management arrangements of the local communities.

The high altitude vegetation of Mt Elgon in Kenya as influenced by climate and fire.

Karsten Wesche, University of Marburg, Germany.

The vegetation of Mt Elgon is substantially influenced by fire, mostly of anthropic origins. Occasional severe fires have the greatest impact on the vegetation and the severity of these fires is correlated with periodic severe drought conditions. Severe fires seem to occur every five to ten years. In 1997,

dry weather conditions resulted in 30% of the caldera area of Mt Elgon being burned.

Tourism and Mt Elgon.

Mary Kisivuli, Warden, Saiwa Swamp National Park (Formerly Regional Tourism Co-ordinator, Western Region, Kenya Wildlife Service).

Mt Elgon is a potentially very rich, though currently under-utilised, tourism resource. Current level of visitation averages around 2,750 persons annually, most of whom are Kenyan residents. Revenue generated from tourism is hence quite low. The national tourism promotion strategy has concentrated on the coastal areas and national parks where the "big five" wildlife species can be viewed. A re-orientation of this marketing strategy to focus more on the Western Region of Kenya is a pre-requisite for expansion of tourism in the Mt Elgon region.

The Economic Value and Potential of Indigenous and Plantation Forests of Mt Elgon.

C. D. Kahuki, Forest Department, Nairobi.

The Mt Elgon forest ecosystem is a rich resource; resources in the Forest Reserves may be used for both consumptive and non-consumptive purposes, while in the National Park only non-consumptive uses are permitted. Resources available include biological and non-biological products, ecological and environmental services, socio-cultural services and education and scientific services. Valuation of the resources of the Mt Elgon ecosystem is complicated as market prices do not exist for all of them; values for the same resource also differ between different users and resource inventories are inadequate. Lack of resource data is a hindrance to valuing the ecosystem's resources and will also impede management planning.

Forest Resources of Mt Elgon and Elgeyo Sawmill.

Daljit Wirk, Manager, Elgeyo Sawmill, Iten.

The timber industry in Kenya is worth \$40 million annually and employs 80,000 people. Elgeyo sawmill draws its log supplies from plantations that have been established over the past 40 years. Over the last ten to fifteen years replanting has lagged behind the rate of plantation logging. Difficult terrain makes logging costly. Private investment in forest plantations is not viable because the long term resource security needed to justify such investment does not exist.

The Role of Pan Paper in Sustainable Forest Management in Kenya.

P. A. Diro, Deputy Director (Forestry), Pan African Paper Mills.

Population increase is raising demand for forest products and increasing pressure on Kenya's forest resources. Failing urgent remedial measures,

demand for forest products is projected to outstrip supply by 2020. Industrial plantations of fast-growing exotic species are now a major component of Kenya's forest resources. Pan Paper Mill commenced operating in 1974 with an initial paper production capacity of 45,000 tonnes per annum, subsequently raised to the current level of 120,000 tpa, for which a pulpwood intake of 400 000m³ per annum is required.

To enhance future availability of pulpwood, Pan Paper, in conjunction with the Forest Department has established 26,000ha of forest plantation while it has clear-felled 14,000ha. As well, Pan Paper is sponsoring research at Kenya Forest Research Institute to develop a disease resistant variety of *Pinus radiata* which used to be the most productive plantation species and also produced pulpwood of a quality superior to the other plantation species in Kenya, until outbreaks of needle blight disease made this species uneconomic.

Habitat use of two syntopic rodents (*Otomys barbouri* and *O. typus*) on Mt Elgon and the influence of fire-induced habitat changes.

Viola Clausnitzer, University of Marburg, Germany.

Fire has a major impact on the vegetation pattern of the upper parts of Mt Elgon. Both rodent species have a strong preference for grassland habitats, the amount and distribution of which reflect fire history. Without fire, both species would have a more patchy and localised distribution.

Resources and current management practices in Mt Elgon National Park.

Edin Kalla, Assistant Director, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kitale.

The major natural resources of the park are its biodiversity - about 240 species of birds, big game species, primates, predators, insects and reptiles, and resources like water, for which Mt Elgon is a major catchment, attractive mountain scenery and caves. Current management practices focus on conserving and protecting the park's biodiversity from the threat of poaching and illegal logging, tourism and the resolution of conflicts between the communities neighbouring the park and wildlife.

Major management challenges are the current low tourism revenue in relation to the park's potential, insufficient staff, inadequate financial resources, fire - a major threat to biodiversity during the dry months from December to March, insecurity due to the occasional intrusion of cattle rustlers into the park and escalating human-wildlife conflicts resulting from rapid human population increase.

Resources and current management practices in the Forest Reserves on Mt Elgon.

D. K. Too, District Forest Officer, Trans Nzoia District.

The paper describes the extent of various vegetation types in the Mt Elgon Forest Reserve, and their resource uses. Forest management practices aim to protect and conserve forest resources while at the same time encouraging forestry development as a key contributor to the national economy, through controlled usage of forest products. Commercial forest harvesting is confined to forest plantations of exotic species, except in Mt Elgon district where small quantities of indigenous species of timber are harvested.

Management planning consists of annual work programs and harvest planning. Silvicultural management is carried out by zoning the forest into either productive (industrial forests or plantations) or protective (consisting of indigenous forest in which commercial harvesting is precluded by government ban) zones.

Major management constraints include inadequate funds for operational activities, plantation damage and destruction by wildlife, fire, poor infrastructure and communication facilities, lack of manpower, human population growth and forest encroachment, illegal forest products harvesting, insecurity, inadequately skilled workforce, insufficient vehicles, poor staff facilities, inadequate law enforcement and forest excisions.

Conservation and management issues in Mt Elgon National Park.

Robert Ndeti, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kitale.

The major conservation and management issues in Mt Elgon National Park are poaching, insufficient information about the park's natural resources, inadequate boundary demarcation, encroachment onto state lands outside the park which are important for wildlife habitat, wildfires, cultural activities such as cattle rustling and associated insecurity, wild honey and fruit gathering, inadequate land use planning, exclusion of local people from park management, cross-border issues, inadequate financial resources and inadequate facilities for tourism.

Conservation and management issues in the Forest Reserves of Mt Elgon.

James Omare, District Forest Officer, Mt Elgon District.

The forest reserve is threatened by fires caused by honey hunters and charcoal producers, illegal logging of valuable timber trees, damage by wildlife to plantation trees by debarking and trampling of small seedling, illegal grazing of domestic livestock and pests and diseases such as the cypress aphid in plantations. Forest losses caused by excision and encroachment further deplete the forest resource.

Management is constrained by lack of vehicles and communication equipment and insufficient physical infrastructure such as forest roads. Shortage of operational funds impedes forest management; retention for local use of

revenue raised locally would alleviate this problem. Staff shortages and skills deficits further hinder forest management, while inadequate staff facilities depress morale and staff effectiveness.

Existing forest policy is inadequate. Two examples are the lack of provision for community participation in forest management and the omission of the concept of "multiple use". Legal sanctions for infringement of forest laws are applied too leniently and hence they are not an adequate deterrent to infringement of forest laws.

The roles of various institutions in the management of Mt Elgon Forest.

James Kimondo, Kenya Forest Research Institute.

Three principal actors in forest management on Mt Elgon are the Forest Department, Kenya Wildlife Service and the communities living adjacent to the mountain. While the roles of KFD and KWS are legally defined, that of the communities is obscure. The role of KFD is likely to be modified when the new draft forest policy, which broadens the institutional framework for forest management, and clarifies the roles of various partners, is adopted. The project is potentially an opportunity for trying some innovative approaches to participatory forest management and also for improving collaboration in the field between KWS and KFD.

Institutions and natural resources management conflicts: the case of Mt Elgon forest user groups.

Paul O. Ongugo and Jane W. Njuguna, Kenya Forest Research Institute.

Six well-differentiated groups of forest users exist in communities adjacent to Mt Elgon; these groups are differentiated on the basis of the use they make of the forest - non-resident cultivators, firewood collectors, pole and post cutters, hunters, water collectors, medicinal plants collectors and honey harvesters. The groups are not formally organised, though they know and respect customary rights that each has to use the forest. They recognise and are concerned about the deteriorating condition of the forest and are keen to contribute to sustainable forest management.

Conflicts have arisen amongst the user groups during the tribal clashes of 1995, and also from cattle rustling. Pole and post harvesters and non-residential cultivators are in conflict with KFD because there is no mechanism for these parties to interact on their common concern of long term sustainable forest harvesting. The main problems facing forest users are lack of clear forest resource management policies, conflicting legislation and insecurity caused by cattle rustling and illegal fires.

Policy and institutional issues for collaboration between communities and natural resources managing agencies.

Wangwe Baraza, District Environmental Conservation Officer, Bungoma and Mt Elgon Districts.

The strategies and methodologies for achieving sustainable participatory conservation are currently inadequately developed, and the implications are poorly understood by policy makers, managers and communities. Institutional arrangement and policy instruments which facilitate the alleviation of poverty in the forest-adjacent communities through rural development are integral components of sustainable indigenous forest conservation. The local community though fully aware of the ecosystem's biodiversity values have insufficient insights on the issues at stake, as they have limited capacity to interact at par with government agencies as key stakeholders.

Management planning procedures and the policy framework for natural resources management planning in Kenya Wildlife Service.

Bernard Kaaria Irigia, Stephen Manegene and Paula Kahumbu, Kenya Wildlife Service, Nairobi.

The KWS general resource management policy is specified in the Sessional Paper No 3 of 1975. The current planning process followed by KWS does not adequately capture the integrated approach to natural resources management planning. Weaknesses in the planning process have resulted in plans that are difficult to implement in the field, failures in co-ordination between different levels of planning, overemphasis on infrastructure development, insufficient attention to monitoring, conflicts in policy and insufficient co-ordination for joint planning with the Forest Department.

Development of a management planning manual, better information management, upgrading planning and monitoring skills in HQ and field staff and early involvement in the planning process of all stakeholders are measures proposed for overcoming these weaknesses.

Joint management of natural resources by Kenya Wildlife Service and Forest Department.

H. M. Kabugi, Forest Department, Nairobi and G. N. Gathaara, Kenya Wildlife Service, Nairobi.

KWS and KFD have some shared interests in biodiversity conservation, but also differing emphases in the management of the natural resources in their respective jurisdictions; KWS allows only non-consumptive use of natural resources on the lands it controls, while KFD permits also consumptive uses on the lands it controls. In pursuit of complementarities in their management of natural resources, and to minimise the risks of conflicts between them, especially over the management of wildlife on lands vested in KFD, they have established a formal Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate joint management of forest areas harbouring biodiversity of particular significance.

This arrangement is of mutual benefit to both organisations, and considerable progress has been made with joint management of natural resources, especially at the headquarters level of both organisations.

Management planning procedures and policy framework for natural resources management planning in the Forest Department - opportunities and constraints.

E. N. Mugo, Forest Department, Nairobi.

Forest management planning in Kenya is currently guided by Sessional Paper No 1 of 1968, though a new forest policy is imminent. Forest management planning is institutionalised within the KFD and the importance of planning is well appreciated. The department has personnel experienced in management plan preparation and implementation, and is experienced in the use of management planning for forest development.

The main constraints faced by the organisation in management planning is lack of staffing continuity in planning work and hence shortened institutional memory. Insufficient co-ordination between projects has resulted in the production of a variety of management plans developed through varying planning processes. Plan implementation has been adversely affected by inadequate budgetary provisions for continuous updating and revision of management plans.

Integrated Natural Resources Management Planning: Issues and Process.

Humphrey Kisioh, IUCN - EARO, Nairobi.

Key issues for integrated natural resources management planning are the linkage between conservation and development as encapsulated in the expression "sustainable development"; the notion of stakeholder participation in the planning process; the role of Protected Areas in sustainable development; the need for Protected Areas Systems as a basis for conservation planning; the zoning of land uses in natural resources management planning.

Sound ecosystem management planning takes time; rushing through it courts failure. Ecosystem management planning is best done by a Planning Team established early in the planning process and representing the major stakeholders.

Integrated natural resources management planning: a project perspective.

David Hinchley, Mt Elgon Conservation and Development Project, Mbale, Uganda

The experience of developing a management plan for the Ugandan side of Mt Elgon highlighted the importance of clarifying roles and responsibilities for the planning process before planning began, allowing sufficient time and resources

for community consultation processes and for collating information, writing the plan and obtaining input and feedback from all relevant stakeholders. The management plan should also be produced in a "user-friendly" format so that reference is often made to it and that it does not end up languishing on a dusty shelf.

In parallel with plan development should come collaborative management approaches involving communities living around the area for which the plan is developed. Co-operation with local authorities is critical for the attainment of effective protected area management. In the planning process the issue of cross-border co-operation should be carefully considered, especially for security measures against cattle rustling and matters such as poaching, fire management, tourism promotion and radio communication systems.

New tools for natural resources management planning.

Gerry Neville, MEICDP, Kitale.

Good planning depends on good information, especially spatial information, about the resources for which the plan is being made. In support of the management planning process for Mt Elgon, new colour aerial photography of the mountain and surrounding area has been obtained, and computer-based mapping techniques are being introduced. It is hoped to eventually deploy these systems in the District Offices of KWS and KFD to assist field implementation of the new management plan for Mt Elgon.

The way ahead: the process and timetable for developing an integrated natural resources management plan for Mt Elgon.

Musa Enyola, MEICDP, Kitale.

There is widespread agreement that management planning for natural resources should be participatory. While many stakeholders have a legitimate interest in the planning process, it is clear that KWS and KFD have to lead it. An important part of the process will be establishing an adequate means for consulting the multiplicity of stakeholders in Mt Elgon.

Gathering information is a major part of the process. It appears that one plan covering both the Forest Reserves and the National Park may suffice. While MEICDP can facilitate plan production it cannot take responsibility for compiling it. Production of the plan will require commitment, transparency, participation and harmony amongst key actors. Careful scheduling of the work required to complete the plan is needed as is full commitment of the necessary human, physical and financial resources.

Workshop Recommendations

On the final day of the workshop, in plenary session, participants agreed on two key issues to be the focus of the final round of group discussions. Four groups were formed randomly and discussed the following topics on which they formulated recommendations:

Groups 1 & 2 : The process to be followed in developing a new management plan for Mt Elgon and the steps to be taken to develop the plan

Groups 3 & 4 : The structure, content and scope of the plan

In the plenary discussions following the presentations of the groups three important conclusions were reached:

1. The planning process should be driven from the field by the two principal partner agencies - KWS and KFD. Specialist support is available from the headquarters of these two agencies. The project can provide some resources to facilitate the planning process.
2. KWS and KFD should constitute locally a Steering Committee to oversee the preparation of the plan. This committee would consist of the DFOs of Trans-Nzoia and Mt Elgon District plus the Warden of Mt Elgon National Park. The Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor would be available in an advisory capacity to support the Steering Committee.
3. The Steering Committee should convene a first meeting within two weeks of the workshop to initiate preparation of the management plan.

Workshop Closing

Mr Musa Enyola introduced the Mr K Shivoko, District Commissioner, Mt Elgon District who was to officially close the workshop, and briefly summarised what had been accomplished during the workshop. He invited several of the participants to relate to the District Commissioner their personal experiences of the workshop.

Mr Enyola then invited Mr Shivoko to address the Workshop.

In his closing address Mr Shivoko stressed that Mt Elgon is a unique national resource, the proper management of which will bring benefits to the entire nation. Much can be learned from experience in management planning on the Ugandan side of Mt Elgon. Impediments to sound management, whether cultural attitudes and perceptions, insecurity or lack of knowledge about the biodiversity of the mountain, should be addressed by awareness creation, workshops and policy development. Involving all stakeholders in the process is one means of avoiding conflicts over resource usage.

Close collaboration between the project implementing agencies, KWS and KFD, and the local community is required to meet the challenges faced in pursuing the goals of the project.

Sustainable management of the Mt Elgon ecosystem ties in very well with the government's stated objective of environmental conservation, poverty eradication and income generation for development. The government therefore appreciates and fully supports the objectives pursued by the project as they are in line with government development objectives.

Mr Shivoko concluded his remarks with the observation that participants had learned a lot from the workshop which would be beneficial for the planning process and he then declared the workshop officially closed.

[photo] Mr K Shivoko, District Commissioner, Mt Elgon District, officially closing the workshop

Workshop Evaluation

On the final morning of the workshop, participants were asked to complete and return a simple workshop evaluation form. Three questions were asked in this form

- What did you like about the workshop?
- What did you think could have been done better?
- What other comments / suggestions do you have about the workshop?

Things the participants liked were:

- The diverse interests represented in the workshop, the information sharing and the open discussion.
- The accommodation and workshop logistics.
- Prior circulation of abstracts of papers presented.

Things that were not liked:

- The workshop venue; poor acoustics, hard chairs and darkness of the hall.
- Too many papers were presented; overlap between the themes of some papers; lack of time for discussion; non availability of papers during discussions
- Lack of clarity of workshop objectives.
- Absence of tour operators amongst the participants

Suggestions for improvement included:

- Include a field trip in the program
- Workshops should be shorter

From the organisers' perspectives too, shortcomings were apparent. In the main these can be attributed to the ambitious scope of the workshop - both in terms of subject matter covered and in the amount of material considered. Future workshops in the planning process are likely to be smaller and more tightly focused on a narrow range of subject material.

As a venue for future workshops, provision of a public address system in the Kitale Museum Hall would overcome its major drawback, especially for shorter events in which the uncomfortable chairs would be less of an issue. But smaller workshops would make other venues in Kitale viable alternatives to the museum too - e.g. VI training hall; rooftop meeting room of the Highview Hotel.

Annex 1 - Participants

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Annex 2 Workshop Program

Monday 6th

1400-1700

Participants arrive and register at Kitale Museum

Tuesday 7th

0900-0920

Chairman morning session : Mr Paul Ongugo

Rapporteur : Humphrey Kisioh

Welcome & Logistics : Mr Musa Enyola

0920-0940

Introduction to the workshop and its purpose : Gerry Neville

0940-1010

An introduction to Mt Elgon

A slide presentation by Ms Viola Clausnitzer, University of Marburg, Germany

1010-1030

Official opening : Ms Bea Coolman, First Secretary, Ecology and Environment,
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Nairobi

1030-1100

Tea

1100-1230

Papers : Fifteen minutes for presentation of each paper

1. Zip Mugonyi, Doris Ombara, Sammy Kasuro Masai and Grace Waliala : The Significance of the resources of Mt Elgon to neighbouring communities.
2. Karsten Wesche : The high altitude vegetation on Mt Elgon as influenced by climate and fire. (Presented by Viola Clausnitzer)
3. Mary Kisivuli : Tourism and Mt Elgon
4. C Kahuki: The economic value and potentials of indigenous forests and plantations on Mt Elgon
5. Daljit Wirk : Forest Resources of Mt Elgon and Elgeyo Sawmill
6. P A Diro : The role of Pan Paper in sustainable forest management in Kenya

1230-1300

Questions / clarifications on the papers

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1600

Chair : Mr Mohammad Awer

Group Discussions on the morning presentations

Groups 1 & 2 : Papers 1 & 2

Groups 3 & 4 : Papers 3 & 4

Groups 5 & 6 : Papers 5 & 6

1600-1630

Tea

1630-1730

Groups present their findings / conclusions on the papers they discussed

1815-?

Drinks at the Highview Hotel

Wednesday 8th**0830-1030**

Chair: Ms Yemi Tessema

Rapporteur : Dr Joseph Njunge

Recap of the previous day - Humphrey Kisioh

Presentation of Papers: Fifteen minutes for presentation of each paper

7. Viola Clausnitzer: The rodent communities of Mt Elgon: endemics, biodiversity and the response to fire-induced habitat changes
8. Edin Kalla: Resources and current management practices in Mt Elgon National Park
9. D K Too: Resources and current management practices in the forest reserves on Mt Elgon
10. R Ndeti: Conservation and management issues in Mt Elgon National Park

1030-1100

Tea

1100-1200

Presentation of Papers continues:

11. James Omare: Conservation and management issues in the forest reserves of Mt Elgon
12. James Kimondo: Roles of various institutions in management on Mt Elgon
13. Paul Ongugo and Jane Njuguna: Institutions and natural resources management conflicts: the case of Mt Elgon Forest
14. Wangwe Baraza: Policy and institutional issues for collaboration between communities and natural resources managing agencies

1200-1300

Questions / clarifications on the papers

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1600

Chair Mr Edin Kalla

Group discussions on the papers

Groups 1 & 2: Papers 8, 9 & 10

Groups 3 & 4: Papers 10, 11 & 12

Groups 5 & 6: Papers 12, 13 & 14

1600-1630

Tea

1630-1800

Groups present their findings / conclusions on the papers they discussed

Thursday 9th

0830-1030

Chair: Mary Kisivuli

Rapporteur : Sean White

Recap of the previous day : Dr J Njunge

Presentation of papers:

15. Paula Kahumbu, Steve Manengene & Bernard Kaaria: Management planning procedures and the policy framework for natural resources management planning in Kenya Wildlife Service. Presented by Bernard Kaaria
16. H M Kabugi & G N Gathaara: Joint Management of natural resources by Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Department. Presented by H Kabugi
17. E N Mugo: Management planning procedures and the policy framework for natural resources management planning in the Forest Department - opportunities and constraints
18. Humphrey Kisioh: Integrated natural resources management planning: issues and process
19. David Hinchley: A project perspective on integrated natural resources management planning - a case study: Mt Elgon Conservation and Development Project, Uganda
20. Gerry Neville: New tools for integrated natural resources management planning
21. Musa Anyola: The way ahead - the process and timetable for developing an integrated natural resources management plan for Mt Elgon

1030-1100

Tea

1100-1200

Questions / clarifications on the papers

1200-1300

Group discussions on the papers

Groups 1 & 2: Papers 16, 17 & 18

Groups 3 & 4: Papers 18, 19 & 20

Groups 5 & 6; Papers 20, 21 & 22

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1500

Chair Mr H Kabugi

Group discussions continue

1500-1530

Tea

1530-1700

Groups present their conclusions / findings

Friday 10th**0830-1030**

Chair: David Hinchley

Recap of the previous day - Sean White

Group Work

Groups to formulate recommendations to KWS/FD/MEICDP on the new integrated natural resources management plan for Mt Elgon. Matters on which guidance is sought include:

- the process to be followed;
- the content of the plan;
- the schedule for plan production;
- resources - human and financial - for preparing the plan;
- how can / should planners cater for constraints that may be faced in plan implementation.

Recommendations could also extend to other matters which the groups consider relevant.

1030-1100

Tea

1100-1245

Groups present their findings

1245-1300

Workshop Close

Mr K Shivoko, District Commissioner, Mt Elgon District.

1300

Lunch

Notes to readers

This report has been compiled in October 1999 by:

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