

Report on the Insights from the Stakeholder Workshop held
in Turkana, Kenya: A Consultation for the Green
Climate Fund Proposal



INITIATIVE ON
Climate Resilience

Authors: Telvin Denje, Shadrack Arum, David Awolala, Dorcas Jalango, Pedro Chilambe

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1.0 Background and Context

The African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES) in collaboration with The Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT in partnership with national, county, and local stakeholders is developing a GCF concept note. The proposed project targets vulnerable communities in Baringo, Kilifi, Narok, Turkana, and West Pokot Counties, and focuses on enhancing community adaptation and resilience to climate change for improved food security and livelihoods. The key thematic areas in the project include; enhancing climate risk preparedness and response through climate information services, promoting climate-smart practices/technologies/innovations, improving access to local-level investment and innovative financing and improving market access among smallholder farmers and pastoralists, and promoting climate-proof supply and value chains. A key component of developing the GCF concept note involves consultative engagement with stakeholders at both the national and county levels.

This report presents insights from climate adaptation and vulnerability consultation workshops held in Turkana County, Kenya. These workshops aimed to develop comprehensive strategies for enhancing climate resilience and food security by leveraging local knowledge, cross-border cooperation, and sustainable practices. The findings from these discussions provide critical inputs for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposal for Kenya, specifically focusing on Turkana County. Key themes include stakeholder engagement, successful interventions, barriers faced by smallholder farmers and pastoralists, and considerations for gender, youth, and environmental and social inclusivity. Kenya, a low-middle-income country with the most diversified economy in East Africa, has demonstrated resilience amid global uncertainties. However, the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions, such as Turkana, face significant challenges in food security due to adverse weather conditions. This report examines the outcomes of the climate adaptation and vulnerability consultation workshops conducted in Turkana County, aimed at informing the GCF proposal for Kenya. The workshops engaged various stakeholders, including government representatives, researchers, and civil society members, to review and validate strategies for climate adaptation. Kenya's economy, the largest in East Africa, has shown remarkable resilience, with a GDP growth of 5.0% in 2023. However, the ASAL regions, particularly Turkana, have experienced significant food security challenges due to erratic weather patterns. The GCF project aims to enhance climate resilience and food security, empowering vulnerable communities in Turkana and other targeted counties. The consultation workshop provided a platform for stakeholders to share their experiences, challenges, and proposed solutions for effective climate adaptation.

2.0 Objectives

The primary objectives of the county stakeholder working session are:

- Alignment of the proposed activities within the GCF concept note and RSA with local needs and priorities.
- Facilitate the sharing of relevant data on climate risks, transhumance routes, and resource availability.

- Development of a detailed action plan outlining the next steps for implementing the GCF project and supporting the RSA, including timelines, responsibilities, and resource requirements.

3.0 Methodology

The consultation workshops employed a participatory approach, engaging stakeholders in discussions to identify challenges, opportunities, and strategies for climate adaptation. Insights were collected through a stakeholder consultation workshop. This qualitative approach ensured the inclusion of diverse perspectives and local knowledge, forming the basis for the proposed strategies and interventions.

4.0 Results and Discussion

i. Stakeholder Engagement and Problem Validation

Stakeholder engagement was crucial in validating climate adaptation risks and problems. The workshop emphasized the need for equipping stakeholders with capacities for thorough validation and interrogation of proposed solutions/interventions. This collaborative approach ensured that the strategies developed were context-specific and responsive to local needs.

ii. Climate Change Ambitions and Adaptation Plans

The discussions highlighted the importance of aligning county climate change adaptation plans with Kenya's national objectives. Robust data and stakeholder engagements is essential in informing these plans, ensuring they addressed the specific challenges faced by vulnerable communities in Turkana.

iii. Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Livestock

The workshops explored the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on agricultural productivity and livestock health. Critical value chains were identified for the development of the proposal, these being Sorghum, Sheep and Goats, and the effects of different climate scenarios on these chains were analyzed on these value chains. This analysis informed the development of targeted interventions to enhance agricultural resilience. Stakeholders agreed on the importance of these value chains, suggesting the additional consideration of Fish for inclusion in the lake communities.

4.1 Discussions in relation to project activities:

i. Early Warning Systems and Risk Preparedness

A proposal for developing a multi-hazard early warning system was introduced. This system aims to provide timely and actionable information on droughts, heavy rains, and diseases. Participatory methods for disseminating and utilizing digital aquatic systems information were emphasized as essential for effective risk preparedness. Currently, in the county, the international refugee council is supporting Anticipatory action planning that could be enriched with this information and provide improved information for more comprehensive planning.

ii. Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Practices

The promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices, including access to improved crop varieties, conservation agriculture, and efficient water resource management, was discussed. Support for local SMEs and financial tools to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience was also highlighted. The county emphasized the importance of investing in fodder production as well, and not only cereals as key for the county.

iii. Community Involvement and Capacity Building

The importance of involving communities in the decision-making process to ensure the sustainability of climate adaptation initiatives was emphasized. Capacity building for local communities to better understand and act on climate information was identified as a key component of successful adaptation strategies.

4.2 Detailed Insights for GCF Proposal Development

Successful Interventions and Activities

The workshops identified several successful interventions and activities in Turkana County that could serve as foundations for the GCF project. These included training community disease reporters, cross-border mass vaccination and treatment programs, joint intergovernmental consultation forums, and various water resource management projects. Support for Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups and ecosystem-based solutions were also noted. These projects are further listed below:

- Community disease reporters and cross-border mass vaccination efforts.
- Joint intergovernmental forums for resource sharing and peacebuilding.
- Water infrastructure projects in Lodwar and capacity building for water resource management groups.
- The Nawiri project and support for Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups in adaptation strategies.
- Initiatives by the Kenya Red Cross for market access and livestock replacement
- Restorative activities on degraded land by the directorate of climate change with agriculture restored land from invasive species.
- Water harvesting and drip irrigation has been successful and sustainable in the county
- There are some existing Early warning system interventions
- Flloca funded an irrigation project in Turkana's west

Barriers for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists

The workshops examined the barriers faced by smallholder farmers and pastoralists in accessing investment and market opportunities. Challenges included the predominance of subsistence farming, inadequate financial models, and limited market orientation. Smallholder farmers and pastoralists face several barriers in accessing investment and market opportunities for the prioritized value chains (sorghum, sheep, and goats). These barriers include:

1. Market Access and Sensitization: Farmers primarily engage in subsistence farming and are not producing for the market. The small size of their farms and the nature of their production limit their marketability. There is a need for education and sensitization on income-generating activities and the adoption of advanced farming techniques like drip irrigation. Additionally, the provision of necessary inputs is crucial to enable the production of both food and high-value crops.
2. Livestock Sector Potential: There is considerable potential in the livestock sector, but the existing marketplaces in sub-counties need strengthening to attract traders. This includes performing thorough infrastructural market assessments and price analyses to understand and adapt to market changes.
3. Government Purchasing and External Challenges: While enhancing government purchasing could be beneficial, there are significant challenges related to climate change and security that need addressing to make this a viable solution.

4. Financial Access and Collateral Issues: Traditional financiers, such as banks and cooperatives, do not recognize the primary assets of pastoralists (e.g., livestock) as collateral. This makes accessing finance difficult. There needs to be a system to assign value to existing assets to replace traditional guarantee models.
5. Group Dynamics and Governance: Effective group dynamics and governance are critical. However, the capacity to meet the requirements of finance institutions is often lacking. Additionally, the financial opportunities available often do not align with the activities and value chains that farmers engage in.
6. Regional Assessment and Capacity Building: There is a need for broader assessments of regions and their capacities concerning the conditions required for successful value chains.
7. Credit History and Interest Rates: The lack of credit history among smallholder farmers leads to high interest rates, which further hinders their ability to access finance.
8. Tailored Financial Products: There is a shortage of financial products tailored specifically for smallholder farmers, which limits their ability to secure necessary investments.
9. Cooperative Financial Models: Developing cooperative financial product models that involve large groups coming together could help mitigate some of these challenges, providing a more sustainable financial framework for smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

These barriers collectively hinder the ability of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to access the investment and market opportunities necessary to thrive in the prioritized value chains of sorghum, sheep, and goats.

Gender and Youth Aspects

Inclusive project implementation was emphasized, with a focus on developing financial products tailored to the realities of youth and pastoralists. Advocacy for gender support policy frameworks and reserving certain roles for specific beneficiary sectors were suggested to ensure equitable participation.

Environmental and Social Considerations

Environmental and social inclusivity of indigenous communities were critical considerations. Existing guidelines on Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and Project Summary Reports (PSR) were suggested for further exploration. Respect for traditional knowledge and conducting risk assessments from an inclusion lens were highlighted as essential steps as highlighted from the following inputs:

1. Guidance on ESS: On the social aspect, there is a need to profile communities, map needs, and develop an inclusion framework for indigenous or marginalized communities. Advice was given in regard to consulting the EMCA 1999 (EIA/EA Regulations 2015).
2. Environmental Impact Assessment: Define the need for a project summary report and complete the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).
3. Respect and Inclusion of Traditional Knowledge: Incorporate traditional knowledge from pastoralists in project planning and execution.

4. PESTEL Analysis: Conduct a Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, and Legal analysis to understand the broader context affecting the communities.
5. Risk Assessment from an Inclusion Lens: Consider the perspectives of women, children, youth, and other marginalized groups to understand the cultural dynamics and necessary safeguards.
6. Local Led Adaptation Principles: Appreciate and integrate local adaptation principles, recognizing that participants are mostly women while decision-makers are often men, these principles could provide a more participatory framework for the intervention, it's suggested to screen the project design through this lens.
7. Formation of Climate Change Committees: Ensure representation of all societal groups' inward climate change committees. Project management committees, provide opportunities for communities to select and elect their members.

5.0 Action Plans and Next Steps

To effectively integrate these insights into the GCF proposal, the next steps include conducting focus group discussions and key informant interviews to gather detailed local insights. Consulting existing action plans and proposals that align with national priorities and meet community needs is paramount. Existing projects will be consulted through interviews to understand the use of adaptive practices, and results and recommendations from monitoring and evaluation activities conducted to adapt and improve strategies based on feedback and changing conditions. Ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders will be fostered to build trust and ensure the sustainability of climate adaptation initiatives. Capacity building and training programs for local communities and government officials will enhance their ability to respond to climate challenges effectively, both prior to and through the timeline of the project.

Conclusion

The workshops in Turkana emphasized the necessity of a holistic and integrated approach to climate adaptation, involving all relevant stakeholders and leveraging local knowledge. By building institutional capacity, ensuring environmental and social safeguards, and focusing on sustainable practices, Turkana can develop resilient communities capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change. The detailed insights and action plans derived from this workshop will be instrumental in developing a robust GCF proposal for Kenya, especially in Turkana County. Integrating successful interventions, addressing barriers faced by smallholder farmers and pastoralists, considering gender and youth aspects, and ensuring no environmental and social harm will significantly strengthen the proposal and ensure its relevance and effectiveness



Pedro Chilambe, Research Team Leader, Climate Action, Alliance Bioversity and CIAT, p.chilambe@cgiar.org

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