

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL
FOR PEACE CORPS-USAID-HOST COUNTRY COOPERATION
IN SOCIAL FORESTRY PROJECTS

KENYA

A Report Prepared

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENT/AGENCIES

The Government of Kenya is involved in a variety of development projects, many of which are assisted by international donors. Efforts in natural resources include a review of the existing forest management policies, an expansion of forest plantations, an increase in measures that support the conservation and management of native forests, and a Presidential Commission has been appointed to review soil conservation practices, afforestation work, and flood control programs.

Three Kenyan Ministries are involved in natural resource use and protection. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources(MENR) oversees the Forestry Department which is responsible for establishing nurseries, promoting reforestation, and managing government forest lands. In 1971, the MENR established the Rural Afforestation Extension Service to promote forest resource management on non-government lands.

The Ministry of Agriculture(MOA) maintains tree nurseries and promotes tree planting as a soil conservation measure. The MOA also has agricultural extension workers stationed throughout the country, who provide some degree of assistance in forestry related activities.

The Ministry of Energy(MOE) was formed in 1979 to coordinate Kenya's energy development and use. The Ministry and the U.S. Agency for International Development have established a Renewable Energy Development Project. Ten Peace Corps Volunteers will be requested to work as extension workers in the project.

The Government of Kenya, through its ministries, provides strong support to field activities. Adequate material support and trained personnel are available in sufficient quantity.

The Government currently works with over 30 private volunteer organizations in projects related to natural resources.

II. PEACE CORPS/KENYA

Peace Corps has one staff member with some natural resource management experience. Several Peace Corps Volunteers are involved in conservation projects, principally at district nurseries. Volunteers receive adequate material support from the Kenyan Government but counterparts are not available.

It appeared that some conservation volunteers could benefit from additional skill-training and increased field supervision. This assistance could be provided by a Peace Corps staff person or a fellow Peace Corps Volunteer with academic training in forestry. Assistance appeared to be necessary in the projects undertaken in marginally productive areas, where growing conditions for almost any vegetation were difficult.

Ten Peace Corps Volunteers will be requested for the Ministry of Energy/U.S. AID Renewable Energy Development Project. The Volunteers will be extension workers, promoting more fuel efficient wood burning cook stoves and establishing woodlots. There also appears to be strong potential for increased Peace Corps involvement with both the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture.

III. U.S. AGENCY FOR INT'L DEVELOPMENT/KENYA

AID/Kenya has supported a broad range of natural resource programs. Currently, two projects, the Arid and Semi-Arid Land Project and the Renewable Energy Development Project are underway. The Energy Project is funded at \$4.5 million and focuses on institution building, research and demonstration of forest management, afforestation, agroforestry, and rural renewable energy applications.

AID/Kenya has also supported the Environmental Training and Management Project which has assisted the Government of Kenya to prepare district environmental profiles.

AID enjoys a good working relationship with Peace Corps and many of the private volunteer organizations in Kenya.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... i

LIST OF ACRONYMS..... v

INTRODUCTION..... vi

ASSESSMENT..... 1

 Host Government..... 1

 Peace Corps..... 5

 US Agency for Int'l Development..... 7

REFERENCES..... 9

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AID	US Agency for International Development
AID/K	AID/Kenya
EEC	European Economic Community
GOK	Government of Kenya
MENR	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Energy
PCV	Peace Corps Volunteer
PVO	Private Volunteer Organization

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for the Forestry Sector in the Office of Program Development of Peace Corps in conjunction with the PC/AID PASA (#936-5519). This report presents a brief overview of the institutions and activities concerned with forestry and natural resource projects in Kenya. The information will assist the Peace Corps and AID Washington staff to design and implement future forestry PASA activities through a better understanding of field operations and needs. Also, it is hoped that this report will provide in-country donor agency staff and government officials with an objective perception of current environmental projects, institutional capabilities and relationships, and possible areas for expansion.

During the ten-day visit to Kenya, interviews were conducted with key personnel from Peace Corps, AID, and host country ministry institutions involved in forestry and natural resource activities. Site visits were also made to representative project areas and institutional facilities within the country.

The content of the report represents the authors' viewpoint resulting from the interviews, site visits, and review of documents. The authors wish to express their appreciation to all who contributed time and energy to making the visit complete. It is hoped that the results represent a balanced and objective analysis of a complex series of activities.

I. HOST COUNTRY COMMITMENT/EXPERIENCE

A. Host Country Priorities in Development

The Government of Kenya (GOK) has focused its efforts on improving health care, upgrading the educational system and improving the general welfare of rural populations. Many international donors work in Kenya, providing assistance in the aforementioned areas. The current level of international assistance appears to be close to the maximum that the GOK can administer effectively.

The current Five-Year Plan of Kenya calls for a comprehensive review of forest management policies, an expansion of forest plantations, and an increase in both research and implementation measures that address the conservation and management of existing non-plantation forest resources.

At the present time, fees are charged for access to government forests. This system has been ineffective and improved policy enforcement will be necessary to protect adequately the forest resources from indiscriminant cutting.

Between 1975-1979, forest plantations were expanded by more than 20,000 hectares and will be further increased by an additional 10,000 hectares to a total of 173,000 hectares by 1983. The Government of Kenya is holding discussions with the World Bank concerning a 150 million dollar afforestation project to further expand the forest resource base.

A Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Afforestation has recently been appointed to review soil conservation practices, afforestation, and flood control programs. Also, the Commission will examine the legal basis for natural resource use and conservation activities in Kenya. The Commission

is expected to make recommendations for changes in the current system of conservation laws and to assist in the demarcation and management of soil catchment areas.

B. Government Supported Efforts in Natural Resources

There are three ministries involved in natural resource use and protection.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) oversees the Kenya Forest Department. The Department is responsible for establishing nurseries, promoting reforestation and managing government forest lands which consist of natural stands and industrial plantations.

In 1971, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources established the Rural Afforestation Extension Service. A major responsibility of the Service was to work in forestry related activities that were performed on non-government forest land (approximately 30% of all forest lands in Kenya). This was one of the GOK's first steps toward improving the productivity of natural forests and working with individual wood land owners. However, due to the poor stocking and quality of native stands, industrial plantations are still far more productive and the MENR allocates over half of its budget for plantations.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is also involved in forestry related work. The MOA maintains forest nurseries and promotes tree planting as a soil conservation practice. The MOA tree nurseries often concentrates on producing fruit trees that can be more easily integrated into a farmer's normal land use pattern. The Soil Conservation Division of the MOA often operates tree nurseries in the more marginally productive areas of Kenya.

The Ministry of Agriculture also has agricultural extension workers stationed throughout the country who provide some assistance in forestry related activities.

In 1979, the Ministry of Energy (MOE) was formed to coordinate Kenya's energy development and use. The MOE is examining various options for renewable energy resources. Working with USAID, The MOE has established a Renewable Energy Development Project. One component of the project includes establishing six fuelwood/agro-forestry extension centers. Each center will be located in a different climatic zone in order to conduct research that is appropriate to the social needs and climatic and topographic characteristics of the region. The centers will establish seed banks of appropriate species and distribute the seeds to other nurseries and individual land owners in the region. Additionally, the centers will disseminate information on agro-forestry techniques and improved fuelwood use.

The MOE is also promoting the use of more efficient cookstoves and charcoal kilns. Because the MOE is relatively new and energy issues often cut across the responsibilities of other government ministries, the efforts of the MOE will evolve slowly and require a great deal of coordination with other Kenyan Ministries and international donors as well.

Both the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture provide strong support to their field efforts. In all operations visited by the assessment team, material support and trained personnel were available in sufficient quantity. The staff at the nurseries seemed particularly well qualified.

Environmental education has been promoted by the GOK through a soil conservaton week. Speeches and wide-scale press coverage are used to raise public awareness. Increased extension work, conducted through either the Ministry of Agriculture or the Rural Afforestation Extension Service, would further promote public concern about wise natural resource use and protection.

Neither the MENR or MOA is actively establishing forest or range preserves. Also, woodcutting laws are not being enforced. As population pressures increase, resulting in greater demand for fuelwood and other wood products, a greater effort to efficiently manage the existing natural resources in a manner that incorporates local needs will be necessary.

The Beijer Institute in Nairobi provides forestry training for Kenyan foresters and an arboretum has been established to supply seeds.

C. Host Country Experience with Private Volunteer Organizations and Other Donors

Over 30 private volunteer organizations(PVOs) are working in natural resource projects in in Kenya. Many are focusing their efforts on developing tree nurseries, establishing village woodlots, and promoting improved cook-stove designs.

International donars involved in natural resource efforts in Kenya are the World Bank, the EEC, the United Kingdom, and several United Nations organizations to name just a few.

II. PEACE CORPS/KENYA INTEREST/EXPERIENCE

A. Resources

Phil Jones, Associate Peace Corps Director for Agriculture, has college level training in horticulture and some natural resource management experience gained through previous employment with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Many organizations in Nairobi have technical information about natural resources that is available to Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs).

B. Current Efforts in Forestry/Natural Resources

There are several PCVs working in conservation. Their primary function is to act as liaison between the District Forester and the nursery workers at the tree nurseries. The PCVs do not have counterparts and Peace Corps/K has found it is often difficult to locate counterparts because of the large number of donor assisted projects underway in Kenya. A second reason for lack of counterparts is that many skilled Kenyans qualify for scholarships or training abroad which are sponsored by international donors. The PCVs receive adequate material support from the Kenyan Ministries but cannot always obtain transport when needed. The PCVs working in the nurseries will not be replaced due to economic constraints and failure to recruit qualified volunteers.

The assessment team observed a real need for increased supervision of skill-trained forestry PCVs by an experienced forester. It appeared that skill-trained forestry volunteers often mis-judged situations (such as not taking into account the aspect of the planting site) that were outside the scope of the skill-training that they had received. A more clearly defined task analysis of PCV assignments prior to skill training could relieve this situation to a large degree. Also, periodic visits to skill

trained forestry volunteers by a fellow PCV with a degree in forestry could also help.

Two PCVs are working in horticulture projects and are scheduled to finish their PC service in 1982. No plans exist to replace them.

Several PCVs have begun small-scale reforestation efforts through their own initiative. There are several other future possible actions. The Ministry of Energy and USAID Renewable Energy Development Project will request 10 PCVs to work as extension workers, primarily establishing woodlots and promoting more fuel-efficient wood burning stoves. The MOE will request GOK contributions for PCV subsistence expenses. There also appears to be strong potential for increased PCV involvement in both the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture. Specific activities have not been discussed.

C. Peace Corps/Kenya Relations with USAID and Other Donors

Peace Corps/Kenya enjoys a cordial relationship with all agencies operating in Kenya. There is a great deal of opportunity for well planned cooperative effort. Individual volunteers have often tapped resources from other programs and agencies.

III. USAID/KENYA INTEREST/EXPERIENCE

A. Current Efforts in Forestry/Natural Resources

AID/Kenya(AID/K) has been involved in a variety of development efforts with the GOK. At the present time, two projects specifically address natural resource use and protection. The Arid and Semi-Arid Land Project is a broad based effort focusing on natural resource problems in marginally productive agricultural regions. The second project is the Renewable Energy Development Project. In 1980, the GOK and AID/K signed a \$4.8 million grant project agreement. The agreement includes institution building, applied research and demonstration components in the areas of forest management, afforestation, agro-forestry, and rural renewable energy applications. These efforts will be carried out by a strengthened cadre of extension workers, 10 of whom will be Peace Corps Volunteers.

AID/K has also supported the Environmental Training and Management Project which has enabled the GOK to prepare district environmental profiles which can be used as baseline data to monitor future natural resource management actions.

B. AID/Kenya Relations with Peace Corps/Kenya and Other Donors

AID/K and PC/K appear to have a very good relationship. Several AID/K officials voiced strong support for increased collaboration with Peace Corps. Chuck Costello, the Assistant Director of AID/K, is a former Peace Corps Volunteer and was an Peace Corps staff person in South America. He has a good understanding of both parties development policies and procedures

which should facilitate future joint efforts. AID/K has enjoyed a long history of working with many of the private volunteer organizations and non-government agencies that are active in Kenya.

REFERENCES

1. U.S. AID, "Kenya Country Development Strategy Statement, FY'83", prepared January 1981.