



Annual Report 2019

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Institute for Culture and Ecology

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WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

2019 was the fourth year of implementation of ICE strategic plan 2016-2020. ICE continued to work with local communities around target critical ecosystems in Kenya, reaching out to 4800 households directly and over 12,000 households indirectly.

In 2019, ICE started to work in new region, Coast part of Kenya, Kilifi County engaging custodians and local communities around Jibana, Rabai and Fungo Kaya Forests. The project involves harnessing indigenous knowledge for use in rehabilitation of the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests which are a vital element of Coastal and National heritage.



*Martin Mwenda Muriuki ,
Executive Director*

One of the key achievements noted across ICE target project areas, is consciousness on environmental conservation among local communities, whereby they have been initiating and driving conservation initiatives on their own or with little support. This is enhancing sustainability of initiatives and enabling ICE reach out to more communities in the target counties with limited resources. On the other hand, through networking, ICE has been able to mobilize key actors in target project counties at the county level to support community-led initiatives including tree planting, material support for installation of energy saving stoves and establishment of non-timber enterprises. Kenya Forest Service (KFS), a government agency under The State Department of Environment and Natural Resources and County agricultural officers have also continued to provide extension services to target beneficiaries and this has helped community gain confidence on initiatives. This has enhanced partnership and ownership of community initiatives throughout the year.

During the year, we noted increased interest among target beneficiaries on Adoption of agro-ecological and sustainable farming practices. This is evident by farmers' willingness on co-contribution in some initiatives promoted such as agro-forestry and non-timber enterprises. This goes a long way maximizing target results. Increased number of community members on sustainable agro-ecological agriculture practices is setting a foundation for advocacy work at county level to lobby for support on prioritization of these agricultural practices in county plans.

At institution level, the Advisory board was active in reviewing of some ICE policies to ensure ICE policies are in line with required standards and also ease implementation of ICE programmes across all target counties. Staff have also been supported to participate in various capacity development workshop to enhance their skills in delivering their mandate.

I am looking forward to year 2020 as we carry on our work of empowering rural communities in Kenya and strengthen relationship with our partners to achieve ICE Mission and Vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Muriuki'.

Martin Mwenda Muriuki,

Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

About ICE

The Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE) is a national indigenous non-governmental organization (NGO) that was started in 2006 and is registered in Kenya under the NGO Coordination Act. ICE was founded out of a visible need to promote the inherent and natural role of culture in environmental and natural resource management. In Kenya ICE accompanies communities as they rediscover the value of local knowledge and naturally endowed resources potential in the processes of livelihoods improvement and environmental conservation. This enables communities to drive their own development hence detach themselves from the poverty cycle. ICE has been working with community groups and schools in Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Embu, Murang'a Meru, Kilifi and Kiambu counties in Kenya.

Vision	Mission
Empowered communities living in healthy ecosystems	To enhance resilience of ecological systems and community livelihoods using diverse knowledge systems
Core Values;	Programmes/ thematic areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect for diversity: ICE accommodates diverse cultures as a way of promoting mutual respect and nurturing relationships• Equity: ICE believes in equal opportunities for all irrespective of gender, religion and ability.• Accountability: ICE embraces openness and responsibility in all its actions and activities• Professionalism: ICE upholds work ethics and diligence in its undertakings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Resources Management• Food, Seed Sovereignty and Community Livelihoods• Advocacy and Networking• Research, Documentation and Knowledge Management• Institutional Development

Target Beneficiaries

ICE targets small holder farmers as the direct beneficiaries of ICE work [both men and women, people with special needs (people living with disability and HIV/AIDs)], as well as youth in school and out of school.

In implementation of her programmes, ICE partners with like-minded organizations, institutions, county and national government departments and individuals at national, regional and global levels in order to gather diverse knowledge systems and achieve effective implementation of innovative culture based strategies as well as undertaking advocacy initiatives.

ICE Approaches;

In implementing of ICE programmes, the following are key approaches used;

- Capacity development
- Eco-cultural mapping and calendars
- Material support
- Learning exchanges
- Networking and partnerships

ACHIEVED RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

This report is a synthesis of outputs and outcomes from ICE work undertaken in the period January to December 2019. ICE activities focused on working towards protection of critical community ecosystems and promoting ecological sustainable agricultural practices with the target communities across seven counties in Kenya. This also involved mobilizing community groups and networks through working together to influence policies and plans at the local county governments as this is in line with ICE strategic plan 2016-2020.

Result 1: Conservation of 10,000 ha of forested areas and riparian ecosystem

1.1. Production of tree seedlings and tree planting

A total of 22,325 tree seedlings produced and planted during rainy seasons on critical ecosystems (Nyamweru Forest, Rabai Kayas, Kivaa Hill, Kilimbogo Forest Hill, River Kathita, Ntugi Hill, and Kiangombe Hill) across five project counties with survival rate of 85%. Tree planting has engaged other community members in the project areas and stakeholders such as Kenya Forest Service (KFS). This was achieved as a result of continuous awareness creation and partnership with relevant government bodies such as Kenya Forest Service (KFS), hence increasing confidence of community members in engaging in tree planting activities for restoration of critical ecosystems. In addition, Kenya experienced heavy rains during the two rainy seasons that motivated communities to plant more trees as this increases survival rate and also improved natural regeneration.



WThe ecosystem Conservator, Kiambu plant a tree during world environment day held in uplands Forest in June 2019



Community-led tree planting activities supported by ICE in 2019.

1.2. Development of eco-cultural maps and calendars

ICE supported development of eco-cultural mapping process in Kilifi County where three eco-maps (past, present and future) and calendars were developed for each Kaya Forest engaged. These include Kaya Rabai, Kaya Jibana and Kaya Fungo. After development of eco-cultural maps, the community developed action plans for rehabilitation of the Kaya Forests. The action plans includes; Tree planting, engaging provincial administration to address encroachment in Kaya Forest and multi-stakeholders engagement in rehabilitation of Kaya Forest.



Elders, Women and youth participating during eco-cultural mapping exercise in Kilifi County

1.3. Environmental conservation campaigns

Three environmental conservation campaigns held in Meru, Kiambu and Kilifi Counties that brought together representatives of community groups engaged in ICE projects, other community members and stakeholders. The campaigns emphasized on the need to conserve environment through adopting of sustainable land use practices. These sensitization forums have built consciousness among community members on matters of environmental conservation through helping them understand their roles in protecting critical ecosystems as well as increasing partnership between relevant government bodies and community members.

The events are evident that partnership is key in management and protection of natural resources. The stakeholders including the community assured their commitments in protection and rehabilitation of uplands forest. The activities reached out to 753 participants (422 females/ 330 males with 236 of the total being youth (18-35years and 60 pupils below 18 years).



World Environment day event held at Uplands forest, Kiambu County

1.4. Community dialogues on Conservation

Three community dialogues held in Kilifi targeting Custodians of Kaya Forests and wider community including women and youth. This enabled to increase understanding among wider community on Kayas and their importance to local communities. This also goes a long way in enhancing tolerance and providing space for effective practice of indigenous spirituality by indigenous stewards.

1.5. Experiential learning exchanges

Two experiential learning supported between conservation groups from Kaya Forests, Kilifi County and Ntugi Hill, Tharaka-Nithi County with conservation groups Kivaa Sacred Hill.

This include, learning on establishment of cultural learning centre and best conservation practices from Kivaa people who have excelled in conserving Ntugi Hill and River Kathita. As a result, Tharaka Community have started laying down structure for the cultural learning centre.



Learning exchange between elders of Kivaa sacred Hill and elders from Kaya Forests in Kilifi held at Kivaa on conservation of sacred areas and forests.

1.6. Increased collaborations with stakeholders in natural resource management.

Six stakeholders meeting held in Muranga, Kiambu, Meru, Kilifi, Embu and Tharaka-Nithi Counties. The meetings provided platforms for discussions between community representatives and officers from government departments of environment, water and agriculture. This has increased participation and support from stakeholders on practices promoted by ICE. ICE has enhanced collaboration during implementation of its project during the year with like-minded CSOs and government bodies. This has increased service and capacity to local communities in conservation as well as understanding their rights and space in conservation.

Result 2: Enhanced Seed, Food Sovereignty and Community livelihoods

2.1. Capacity development on agro-forestry

Twelve trainings held on agro-forestry (macadamia and avocado) and fodder production in Meru and Muranga. These trainings aimed at promoting diversification, enhancing food and income security while increasing tree cover at on-farm level. The trainings reached out to 388 beneficiaries (266 females and 122 males with 71 being youth).

2.2. Trainings on honey production and harvesting

In 2019, ICE rolled a project that aims at promoting non-timber enterprises targeting communities living around forest areas in Tharaka and Embu. This ensures that communities protect these ecosystems and benefit from the ecosystem service and hence motivate them to protect and enhance biodiversity of these forests.

Three trainings held in Embu and Tharaka-Nithi counties on bee keeping as a non-timber enterprise. Farmers listed main challenges in bee keeping which they requested for project to help them; these includes; Lack of modern hives; Lack of knowledge in bee keeping; Swarming; Honey predators; Security and Lack of harvesting kits. Farmers were advised on trees and shrubs to plant in surroundings where bee hives are these include plants with nectar and ensure there is water source nearby. This will ensure bees do not move for long distance in search of water and nectar. Farmers were also advised to avoid pesticides and chemicals in farming as these chases away and kill bees. The trainings reached out to 199 farmers (81 males/118females including 49 youth).

In Muranga and Meru, ICE supported registration of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) where each of CBO has brought together all community groups working with ICE in the County. The CBO are expected to provide coordinated efforts that will improve livelihoods of farmers on things they cannot be able to do as individuals or single group. These include joint marketing, lobbying on issues affecting them and networking and learning from each other.

Result 3: Capacity enhanced on advocacy and networking

3.1.1. Community Trained on basic advocacy and lobbying

Two trainings held that facilitated a platform for identifying issues on natural resources affecting communities, priorities on issues to lobby for and listed stakeholders to be involved in lobbying. Participants agreed to prioritize on enhancing sustainable utilization of natural resources and participatory processes in management of the resources that will promote equality among women and men as well as youth in decision making on their resources.

ICE in partnership with County government of Kiambu, department of Agriculture hosted two public participation forums. The public forums aimed sensitizing public on what is agro-ecological farming and unpacking the agro-ecology practices. This would also ensure that public is enlightened before developing of a policy so that they can contribute through sharing their opinions.

3.1.2. Support community-led advocacy initiatives

Three community-led advocacy initiatives supported to facilitate community-driven lobbying. These include supporting courtesy meetings between community representatives and duty bearers on issues related to natural resources and livelihoods.

3.2.1. Collaboration and partnership in advocacy among stakeholders enhanced

Three courtesy meetings held with County Executive Committee members and staff of County Environment and Agriculture departments in Meru, Kiambu and Muranga Counties. These aimed at strengthening partnership in implementation of ICE projects. As a result of their commitments with the respective county departments in partnering with ICE including discussions on formulating policies to promote sustainable and ecological land use practices.

Result 4: Research, documentation and knowledge management

4.1.1. Research projects undertaken and findings disseminated

A baseline survey was undertaken in Kilifi County, ICE new project area in 2019. It was in form of reconnaissance survey to do ocular observations on status of Kaya forests and also meet some of the Kaya forests custodians to get a glimpse of some of the issues affecting each Kaya Forest.

A baseline survey undertaken and findings documented to guide in implementation of a project aimed at promoting non-timber and ecological initiatives. The baseline aimed at assessing the status of agroforestry and honey enterprises so as to provide information guiding the next three years of implementation (2019-2021).

4.2.1. Production of IEC materials

Five success stories documented. One article on ICE work on Promoting indigenous seeds and agroforestry featured on BothEnds of Nerthelands publication released on July 2019 (Link- https://www.bothends.org/uploaded/files/inlineitem/Kenya_Promoting_agroforestry_and_indigenous_seed_va.pdf).

case 05

MARTIN MWENDA MURIUKI AND ELIJAH KAMAU KARUGIA, INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE AND ECOLOGY - KENYA
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Sustainable Development Goals:



FOR THE LAST DECADE, THE INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE AND ECOLOGY (ICE) HAS BEEN SPEARHEADING AGROFORESTRY AND THE RECUPERATION AND MULTIPLICATION OF INDIGENOUS SEEDS VARIETIES (MAINLY OF TRADITIONAL FOOD CROPS) IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN KENYA. BY SUPPORTING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS, THE INSTITUTE AIMS TO ENHANCE HEALTHY AGROECOSYSTEMS WHILE IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY IN THE REGION.



Two hundred T-shirts printed to raise awareness on sustainable land use practices and protection of water catchment areas and riverines across communities ICE is working with.

Result 5: Institutional Development

5.1. Capacity enhanced of ICE staff to deliver their mandate

ICE supported its staff to participate in capacity development workshops and trainings organized by other partners. These facilitated ICE staff with platform for exchange learning among other partners and enhance their skills in different areas. The capacity development has facilitated development of M&E plan for ICE and started review and updating of risk register. There has been increased networking and interaction on ICE social media pages.

VOICES FROM THE GROUND!



Women from Kivaa, presents a map of past to SSNC's Secretary General, Ms. Karin during her visit in Kenya.

In their presentation, they said that, since introduction of the eco-mapping process more women have been involved in conservation and protection of Kivaa Sacred Hill than before. The map of future guiding them in actions to rehabilitate the hill and reclaim the lost glory.



Francis Kamau is the member of Kagaa Amani self-help group, from Lari Sub-county, Kiambu County. The group is a beneficiary of ICE work. In addition to tea farming, Mr. Kamau has focused on planting indigenous vegetables such as amaranths' and comfrey. He says has gained knowledge on organic farming and applies the skills as he grows his vegetables and other food crops using compost manure which has minimized farm cost.



Mrs. Damaris Muthoni Nyoike of Gukena group in Murang'a shows her harvest which she has stored for over an year and not infected by any pest using Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bag. She is happy that now they don't have to use pesticides to store their cereals.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

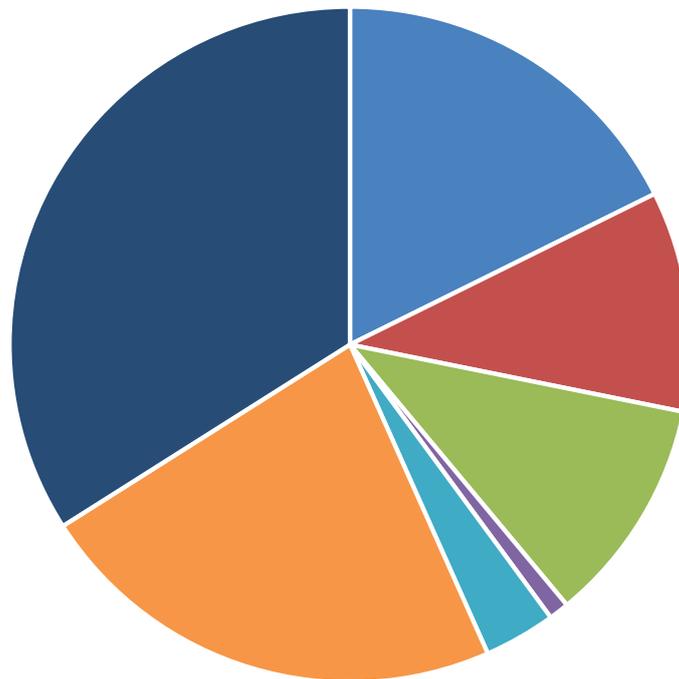
Challenges

- Having formalized partnership between development organizations such as ICE and private sector is critical, however requires a lot of time and investments to have mutual accountability.
- High demand of initiatives from wider community in ICE target project areas. However, the limited resources do not allow inclusion of many community groups. To counter this, ICE is encouraging the direct beneficiaries to reach out to their neighbors and share new knowledge and skills gained. ICE is also negotiating with potential funding partners to support in upscaling its initiatives to reach out to wider community members.

Lessons learnt and recommendations

- Stakeholders' engagement is critical in implementing a community project, this has led to support of initiatives from the National and County government departments such as agriculture and Kenya Forest Service as well as linking the officers and the local community members. ICE will continue to strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the project areas which is in line with her thematic Programme 3 under the 2016-2020 strategic plan.

2019 Financial report



- Objective 1: To strengthen community groups to spearhead conservation of degraded ecosystems
- Objective 2: To support households to raise control of their food production systems
- Objective 3: To increase the participations of groups in influencing decisions and policies that affect their economic, social and cultural (ECOSOC) rights
- Objective 4: To strengthen ICE governance and staff capacity and to raise ICE resources to enhance effectiveness and sustainability
- Objective 5: Institutional Development
- Project Administration & Monitoring
- Office Administration

APPRECIATION

We thank our donors and partners for supporting us in transforming many lives in 2019. This work is contributing to our 5 years' goal under 2016-2020 strategic plan and also contributions to sustainable development goals. The support and enthusiasm have helped in fulfilling ICE mission of supporting livelihood of communities in Kenya to sustainably improve their quality of life. Together, we continue to touch and positively impact the lives of these communities. ICE appreciates the support of National and County governments of Meru, Machakos, Embu, Muranga, Tharaka-Nithi and Kilifi for providing an enabling environment to operate in.

Special Thanks to the community members who implemented the projects and ensured that maximum results were achieved.

ICE PARTNERS

- African Biodiversity Network (ABN)
- Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA)
- Biovision Foundation
- Coady International Institute
- Compass Africa
- Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Kenya (PELUM-K)
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- UNDP - Small Grant Programme /Global Environment Facility (SGP/GEF)

Thank You! Asante Sana!



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