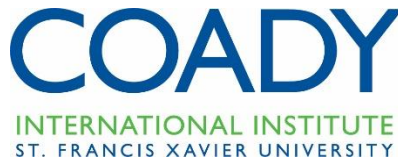




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WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Year 2020 was the fifth and last year of implementation of ICE strategic plan 2016-2020.

At the beginning, the year was promising to see how ICE work has continued to impact livelihoods of local communities in realization of set targets over five year strategic plan. The year demands to be documented but aches to be forgotten, this is because of challenges encountered at the global and regional level on emergence of Covid-19 pandemic and locust invasion in some parts of African countries including Kenya. These two disasters affected directly ICE work. However, they were also wake up call for all actors including developmental organizations to build healthy ecosystems that will enable revive food systems for healthy people and environment to stand such pandemics.



Martin Mwenda Muriuki
Executive Director

In the year with double disaster, ICE reviewed its plan on strategies to reach to its beneficiaries and was able to reach to over 1250 households directly and over 6,000 people indirectly.

During the year, ICE strengthened her advocacy work by bringing diverse actors together and lobby on prioritization of policies and plans on sustainable agricultural and environmental conservation practices. Further, ICE supported Uplands Community Forest Association develop a five year management plan document, which gives community power to be engaged in management of forest and resources; and, supported Kiambu County department of agriculture develop an agroecology draft policy. The policy once passed by the County assembly will increase support of agro-ecological practices and goes a long way in increasing budget allocation from government on agro-ecological farming. This is great for ICE work as unsustainable agriculture practices have negative effects on environment.

I am looking forward to year 2021 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 brown 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

Empowered communities living in healthy ecosystems

Mission

To enhance resilience of ecological systems and community livelihoods using diverse knowledge systems

Core Values;

- 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.

Programmes/ thematic areas

- 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.

Programmes Implementation:

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 2020. 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 was 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 twenty four thousand, three hundred and twenty five (24,325) tree seedlings produced and planted during March-April and Oct-Nov rains on critical ecosystems (Uplands Forest, Rabai Kaya Forests, Kivaa Hill, Ntugi Hill, and Kiangombe Hill) across five counties with survival rate of 88%. ICE achieved this with collaboration of community conservation groups and networks, stakeholders such as Kenya Forest Service (KFS) among others.

In addition, one thousand, seven hundred and eighty five (1785) agroforestry trees (avocado and Macadamia) were planted on farm by communities adjacent to critical ecosystem.



Magistrate Olwade Evelyne from Limuru Law Court, Kiambu County planting a tree during corporate social responsibility tree planting event that involved stakeholders' including religious leaders, Court staff, Kiama Kia Ma elders and local community held at uplands Forest in Oct 2020



Local community participating in tree planting exercise in Uplands forest during one of Community-led tree planting activities supported by ICE in 2020

1.2. Awareness raised on environmental Conservation

ICE supported three awareness campaigns on environmental conservation. The events brought together community members, CSOs, and government departments and agencies. ICE also engaged media during these events to reach out to more people. Two events were featured on prime time news bulleting of one of Kenya main media television station. (Links; <https://youtu.be/5HIYkvZ5Cq0> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5wsfyzs1ew&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0J7Qac8IcnKaoDZoUhsBS5GHvFwHGqI8ZyyA9MWalgYQgLnk1qYCuY390>)

To sensitize communities on need to sustain the efforts on rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, ICE held a walking workshop around Kivaa sacred Hill, in Machakos County. This would go a

long way in increasing recognition of use of indigenous and traditional knowledge in conservation as well as supporting elders spearheading in conservation of the hill over the years. ICE engaged media and highlight of the event was featured on prime news bulleting in one of main stream media.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-Bi45zeFtk>

These awareness campaigns and events reached directly to over twenty thousand (20,000) people through participation and through ICE social media after posting clips of the media links.

Four banners were designed, printed and shared with community groups with messages on environmental conservation for use during community events in Kilifi County among the three target Kayas engaged by ICE.



Mr. Joseph Kioko, Akamba custom member showing medicinal wild fruits reappearing at Kivaa Sacred Hill during walking workshop in 2020

1.3. Capacity enhancement of community conservation groups

Two capacity development workshops held for communities in Kilifi County living around Kaya Forests. The workshops targeted women and youth together with elders to increase participation of women and youth in conserving and managing Kaya forests.

Additional two trainings were held targeting Uplands community Forest Association (CFA) and Mbathi Water Resource Users Association (WRUA; and, aimed at sensitizing communities on their roles in management of critical ecosystems and policies in place to protect communities on their roles on conserving natural resources.

ICE supported Uplands CFA develop a five years management plan. The document was presented to KFS for review and finalization as required by the law. Link of Plan developed: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N7DBvJXT4KBTWYGKRd6sAg6Hz5orUnmi/view?usp=sharing>

The plan will guide the CFA in implementation of their work and give them powers as per the law to participate in management of uplands forest.

1.4: Strengthened Community Ecological Governance (CEGs) systems

ICE supported dialogues with six Traditional institution of Governance (TIGs) to strengthen CEG in Natural Resource Management (NRM). These include; Thome wa Mukamba in Machakos County, Kianda kia Tharaka in Tharaka-Nithi County, Kiama kia ma in Kiambu County, and Kaya Fungo, Kaya Rabai and kaya Jibana in Kilifi County.

1.5: Indigenous tree species promoted for planting and utilization

ICE supported exchange learning between Uplands CFA and custodian of indigenous knowledge (IK) on promotion of indigenous tree species in Kiambu County. As a results communities adjacent to uplands forest have started promoting through planting and protecting indigenous tree species. Most of these trees also provide communities with herbs. The indigenous tree species promoted include; Bamboo (Murangi), Podo, Africn olive (Muiri), African snow ball (Mukeu), and Croton (Mukinduri). Over five thousand (5,000) of these indigenous tree species were planted during the year.

Result 2: Enhanced Seed, Food Sovereignty and Community livelihoods

2.1. Increased diversification of farm produce

Held twelve trainings on livelihoods diversification. These include fodder production and small livestock keeping such as poultry, goat and rabbit. The types of fodder encouraged including; for grasses; Brachiaria, napier, Boma Rhodes, maize stovers and legumes included; Leucaena, Calliandra, Lucerne, Desmodium, Vetch, sweet potato vines. These trainings reached to 538 farmers with 71% of them being women. From monitoring activities held, it showed that over 60% of farmers reached have started to diversify their livelihoods with atleast more that 3 livelihood options from their farms.



Madam Jerusha Muthoni (Left) and Mrs. Ruth Kirimi (Right) proudly displaying their income generating initiatives they are engaging in to diversify livelihoods in Meru County



Mrs. Faith Nkonge of Muingene group in Meru at her fodder plot at her farm where she is growing fodder crops after capacity development and material support on fodder seedlings

2.2. Capacity enhancement on sustainable agro-ecological farming practices

Four exchange learning supported for farmers to learn best agroecological practices in some established model farms and institutions across four target counties (Meru, Muranga, Embu and Kiambu).

ICE supported one community group in Kiambu to establish of a model agro-ecological farm where demonstration will be undertaken and experiments. This was achieved with contribution of community group who gave some space and have been volunteering to work on the farm.

Monthly follow ups conducted per target group by field contact persons supporting farmers in consultation with project and programme officers of ICE on replication of sustainable agroecological practices. During the year, 680 farmers were reached and their capacity enhanced on agroecological practices. Monitoring exercises and farm visits reports shows that there have been increase of farm yields after application of practices promoted. Farmers are also happy that they have control of what they are producing and having healthy foods for their families and community.

2.3: Capacity enhanced on post-harvest management

A training held on making of bio-fertilisers and biopesticides for 20 extension officers and lead farmers. In addition, 200 copies of fliers with information on making bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides printed and shared with lead farmers and trainers of trainers to facilitate reaching of farmers on agro-ecological farming practices.

2.4: Households linked to markets for their produce

Two trainings held targeting 10 community groups on VSLAs. This involved record keeping, building a culture of saving and management of loans. The VSLA are enabling groups upscale initiatives and purchase equipment to ease their farm activities from savings.

In addition, a training was held that built capacity of farmers on value addition of their farm produce. These aimed at enabling farmers reap more from farming activities.

During the year, ICE continues strengthening established community based organizations (CBOs) across ICE target counties through sensitizing them on need for group marketing over individual farmer marketing.

From capacity enhancement, farmers have been able to undertake market surveys from their local markets which is helping them reduce exploitation by middle business persons.



Training of community group on VSLAs saving and loan management principles at Murang'a County in 2020. The VSLAs initiative is helping to supplement other income generating initiatives the farmers are undertaking in Meru, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and Murang'a Counties

2.5: Water Harvesting Technologies and Techniques promoted

Held a training on water harvesting – practical on construction of earth pan. The group has been supported to construct water pan and supported with liner. The earthpan is benefitting 100 households with water.

Result 3: Capacity enhanced on advocacy and networking

3.1. Community Trained on basic advocacy and lobbying

Three capacity building workshops held in Kiambu, Meru and Muranga Counties targeting community groups and networks to enhance their capacity on basic lobbying. This helped them identify issues for lobbying with their leaders related to natural resources and food production. The community were also facilitated to participate and make contributions during public forums on different county plans proposed by their local governments.

3.2: Collaboration and partnership in advocacy among stakeholders enhanced

ICE facilitated establishment of two multi-stakeholders networks; one the County agroecology network and the second one county Ecosystem based civil society environmental advocacy network. Meetings were supported to facilitate discussions and exchange for the two networks. As a result, the Kiambu agroecology multi-stakeholders platform acted as a vehicle for ICE and Kiambu County government to formulate an agroecology policy. Once approved, the policy will ensure that Kiambu County government support and allocate budget to promote agroecology practices.

During the policy development, ICE also organized and held lobby forums with policy makers to lobby for support of sustainable land use practices and agroecology in the target counties. This

has led to initiating of development of related policies in Kiambu, Meru and Muranga. This will go along way increasing adoption of practices promoted by ICE.



Representatives of Agriculture department, County Assembly-Kiambu County, The Ministry of Trade, Investments, Industrialization and Co-operative Development, national government, CSOs and farmers during Kiambu agroecology multi-stakeholders forum held in 2020

Result 4: Research, documentation and knowledge management

4.1: Project findings and updates shared through ICE social media platforms

ICE has utilised its social media platforms to share information and updates on projects. This has gone a way increasing interactions on ICE social media platforms which is building confidence of ICE work among stakeholders.

ICE also held two media talk show in local radio stations to sensitize wider communities on environmental conservation and sustainable agricultural practices.

4.2: Production of IEC materials

During the year, 400 information fliers were developed, printed and shared with target communities of making of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides. These aimed at building capacity of farmers with knowledge to practice sustainable agricultural practices that are not a threat to environment.

ICE 2019 annual report that highlighted key achievements, challenges and lessons learnt was also printed and shared with stakeholders and partners. Link <https://www.icekenya.org/reports/>
Documented a success stories during 2020 world Environment Day that was published by GEF/SGP Kenya. The article is on ICE website dubbed "ICE Story - 2020 World Environment Day" from this link <https://www.icekenya.org/newsletters/>

Result 5: Institutional Development

5.1: Capacity of ICE advisory board enhanced

Two board meetings held that facilitated platform for the board to review progress of the organization towards realization of strategic direction.

5.2: Capacity of ICE staff to deliver on ICE mandate enhanced

During the year, Two ICE staff (programme and project officer) have been supported to participate in agro-ecological training workshop and capacity building on Natural Resource Management.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Challenges

- ✚ Emergence of Covid-19 affected implementation of ICE work according to year work plan. This is because ICE secretariat is located in Nairobi County and in year 2020 from March to July, there was restriction of movement to and fro Nairobi metropolitan. The lockdown affected implementation of ICE work and some few activities were not held, while some were held but targeted number of participants/beneficiaries was not reached. This led to postponement of such activities to 2021 with authorization of respective funding partners.

To counter some of these challenges and achieve at least ICE objectives, the management reviewed the plan on undertaking activities to realize set results while following the guidelines to curb spread of Covid-19 and minimize risking local communities to the virus. Some of interventions include;

- Having a whatsapp group for ICE staff and representatives of groups working with ICE for continuous update
- Engaging field contact persons and facilitating continuous capacity enhancement for them to support communities in replication of initiatives ICE promotes.
- Strengthening collaboration with line government departments and agencies to engage the extension officers on the ground to reach to ICE target beneficiaries.
- Encouraging peer to peer learning among community groups on best practices.

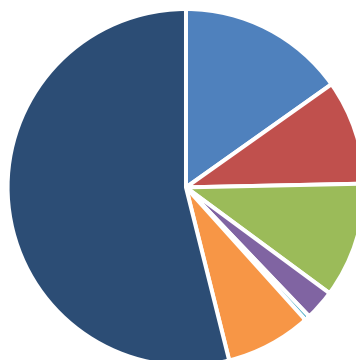
- ✚ High demand of upscaling and out scaling initiatives from wider community in ICE target project areas and others. However, the available resources do not allow inclusion of many community groups. To remedy this, ICE is mapping new and negotiating with potential funding partners to support in upscaling and out scaling her initiatives to reach out to wider community members. ICE is also encouraging the direct beneficiaries to share new knowledge and skills gained to their neighbors.

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 Kenya Forest Service and Agriculture, Water, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources as well as linking the officers and the local community members. ICE is committed to strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the project areas which is in line with her thematic Programme 4 under the 2022-2026 strategic plan.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2020 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 participation 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 raise ICE resources to enhance effectiveness and sustainability
- Objective 5: Institutional Development
- Project Administration & Monitoring
- Office Administration

APPRECIATION

Sincere appreciation to our funding partners and all other partners for supporting us in transforming many lives in 2020. 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, Kiambu, Tharaka-Nithi and Kilifi for providing an enabling environment to operate in.



Special Thanks registered to the community members who participated in implementation of all ICE projects and ensured achievement of maximum results.

ICE Partners

- ❖ African Biodiversity Network (ABN)
- ❖ Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA)
- ❖ Biovision Foundation
- ❖ Both Ends
- ❖ 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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