

Preparing ground for a publicly funded ecosystem restoration programme



An assessment was undertaken in Nyando and Yala River basins to identify the sources of sediments as well as link these areas to land use change.

A gully caused by erosion in the Nyando plains.

Agricultural and industrial activities are polluting Lake Victoria with vast amounts of soil and chemicals. Since fishing is a major business in the lake region, interventions that mitigate soil erosion and pollution in river basins are necessary to secure the future of the fishing industry and the livelihoods of millions of people.

The PRESA (Pro-poor Rewards for Environmental Services in Africa) project is focusing on the Nyando and Yala river basins whose catchments are the cause of the problems mentioned above. Using

reward or transfer schemes for environmental services, PRESA partners intend to connect groups that depend on the lake with groups whose activities influence the lake's health.

Activities

The PRESA project has provided scientific evidence to support decision making at the lake basin level. An assessment was undertaken in Nyando and Yala River basins to identify the sources of sediments as well as link these areas to land use change and sediment yield.

Environmental hotspots were identified, and will be the focus for government and stakeholder decisions on investments in ecosystem restoration

Ecosystem degradation in Lake Victoria basin has been shown to have a relationship with the hotspots of famine.

PRESA is currently building the case for a publicly funded reward for environmental services scheme for ecosystem restoration. This is based on the quick appraisal of rewards for environmental service mechanisms.

Publicly-funded payments and



The Nyando River as it flows past Ahero town on its way to Lake Victoria. (Photo \ PRESA)

markets for improved watershed management or ecosystem restoration would mean that farmers will potentially be rewarded if providing a service and therefore would get an alternative income stream.

Preliminary discussions on the establishment of a consortium were started with the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Lake Victoria Institute for Research and Development (VIRED), Maseno University, Moi University, World Neighbours, government agencies, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, parliamentarians

and community based organizations. The purpose of the consortium is to collaborate with like-minded institutions to make the case for a publicly funded reward for environmental services scheme.

Opportunities

The review of rewards for environmental service initiatives has provided lessons and experiences that can inform the design and implementation of reward schemes.

PRESA – Pro-poor Rewards for Environmental Services in Africa is working at sites in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Guinea to facilitate fair and effective agreements between stewards and beneficiaries of environmental services. Voluntary, conditional and negotiated agreements can reward poor farmers for good land use practices, while ensuring a clean and sustainable supply of environmental services for local and global communities.

This programme is implemented by the World Agroforestry Centre, with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the European Commission and the Government of Finland. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the funders.

Partners

- Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Stakeholders

- Communities at the lower and upper Nyando and Yala Basins
- Local authorities
- Water Resources Management Authority
- Provincial Administration
- Kenya Forestry Service
- National Agricultural Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP)

Contact:

World Agroforestry Centre, United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30677-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 7224000, Fax: +254 20 7224001
Email: presa@cgiar.org – <http://presa.worldagroforestry.org>



World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



IFAD
Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

