IF YOU CUT THE FOREST, WE WILL DIE OF THIRST:

How community EA made a difference in Kenya

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This presentation

SHOW HOW:

 community EA made a difference in a water project in Kenya

OUTLINE

- What is community EA?
- The Kenya case:
 - project overview
 - environmental issues
 - community responses
- Lessons learned

What is community EA? the theory

- "environmentally informed" neo-populism (Hettne 1995)
 - bounded community managing local resources (territorialism)
 - self-determined humannature relationships (cultural pluralism)
 - resource use within biophysical limits (ecological sustainability)

- "community informed" EA (Pallen 1996)
 - community information
 - indigenous ecological knowledge
 - transactive planning
 - participatory processes for all stages
 - co-management
 - community-based
 - resource management

What is Community EA? the practice

- a rapid assessment guided by scoping of key potential impacts and issues,
- analysis of available documented information and observations from site visits

- consultation with and professional opinion of disciplinary experts, and
- consultation with affected communities and other stakeholders in the project area

What is Community EA? the tools

- Participatory Learning & Action (PRA/RRA)
 - processes for people to gather, analyse and use information for their own benefit
- Tools
 - resource mapping
 - transects
 - calendars



Kisayani Community Water Supply Project

- Provide 11,380 residents with clean water by a 23-km gravity fed pipeline from Umani Springs to the Kisayani area
- fifth extraction& pipeline
- Proponents:
 - WVC, CRWRC and ADA
 - Kisayani Christian Community Development Group
- US\$500,000







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Environmental setting

- Climate: semi-arid
 - mean rainfall:600 mm(bimodal)
 - meanevaporation:2000 mm
- Geology – fractured volcanic
- Topography– Chyulu Hills



- Vegetation
 - savannah
 - forest
 - Wildlife & Birds
 - elephant, rhino
 - Abbot's starling?
- Land Uses
 - agro-pastoral
 - forest reserve

Community participation

- Member of EA Team
- Community meetings (PMC)
- 2 members every site visit
- informal household interviews & focus groups (PRA)



Key Stakeholder

Umani Springs Camp

- forest-based ecotourism (\$)
- wildlife & forest protection
- flora & fauna inventories
- surveillance of in-take & pipes





Impacts on the camp

- construction:
 - noise, debris, access, & road damage
 - wildlife out-migration
 - trail & camp closure
- marketing image & business decline

Camp perceptions



Communities want to:

- take too much water
- poach wildlife
- cut the forest illegally
- retaliate for incident reporting
 - "fish kill"



Community perceptions

Camp wants to:

- control water
 - "fish kill"
- promote wildlife (pests)
- ban harvesting of forest products and control access
- co-operate with corrupt authorities



Hydrology: community misconceptions



source?

seasonal flow?



Hydrology: scientific misconceptions

Scenarios of Spring Flow and Abstractions from Umani Springs								
Source	Mean flow	Permitted abstractions (m ³ /day)			Available net flow	25% minimum net flow		
	(m^3/day)	Existing	Kisayani ⁷	Total	(m ³ /day)	(m ³ /day)		
Kisayani Project Design ¹	18,513	7,487	747	8,234	10,279 (56%)	4,628		
Chyulu Hills Study ²	14,050	7,487	747	8,234	5,816 (41%)	3,513		
Chyulu Hills Study ³	13,910	7,487	747	8,234	5,676 (41%)	3,478		
Hydrological Study ⁴	10,022	7,487	747	8,234	1,788 (18%)	2,506		
Rural Focus 1999 ⁵	10,177	7,487	747	8,234	1,943 (19%)	2,544		
Rural Focus 1999 ⁶	18,481	7,487	747	8,234	10,247 (55%)	4,620		

1 single flow reading on 15/11/00 (MENR 2001)

2 flow readings for 21 days (1984-87) (see Appendix 5)

3 mean flow of the study period (1984-1987) (see Appendix 5)

4 mean flow in note #3 adjusted against the historic record (1951-1973) (see Appendix 5)

5 mean flow for the historic record (Rural Focus Ltd. 1999)

6 single flow reading on 22/01/99 (Rural Focus Ltd. 1999)

7 water permit (#28843) issued to Kisayani Christian Community Development Project



Impact summary



Impact on:	Assessment	+/-	Comment
Threatened plant species	Significant		Proximity to large trees
Threatened large mammal and bird species	Insignificant	-	
Ecological biodiversity (forests, wetlands)	Insignificant	-	
Water quality	Significant	+	Chlorinating water supply
Hydrology	Significant		Less than 25% minimum net flow
Soil erosion	Insignificant	-	
Noise	Significant		Equipment, vehicles and workers
Land/resource use	Significant		Intensified use of forest and range
Population growth and human health	Significant	+	Reduced vector diseases
Ecotourism (forest reserve)	Significant		Business decline
Fire risk	Insignificant	-	

Community's approach to impact management

- adopt lowest spring yield data
 precautionary principle
- community & camp co-management
 - joint flow monitoring & data sharing
 - shared wildlife & forest management
- multi-stakeholder partnership
 Umani Springs Users Group

What difference did the Community EA make?

- Kisayani Christian Community
 Development Project
 - Stopped construction for EA (contract penalty)
 - Selected and sensitized construction workers
 - Provided voluntary labour for road repair (future: reservoir desilting & emergency firefighting)
 - Built bird hide and cleaned up construction areas



What difference did the Community EA make?



- Kisayani Christian Community Development Project
 - Convened Umani Springs Users Group (water & forestry departments, camp, District, water projects, KWS)
 - prepare guidelines for Umani Springs use
 - implement water conservation & rationing scheme
- Agreed to pay camp a fee for monitoring flow and cleaning screens (water sales)
- If you cut the forest, we will die of thirst!

Lessons learned from Community EA

- contributed to the sustainability of a local resource-based project
 - conflicting scientific data led to informed choice
 - corrected traditional knowledge increased environmental understanding
- reconciled differing community & stakeholder perceptions and needs
 - led to a partnership approach to impact management
- empowered communities politically to manage their local environment
- motivated by faith-based stewardship



Community EA of Water Project

Why an EA?

- Kenya's Environmental Management & Coordination Act
- Water permit (issued to community)
- Project Design (supply sustainability)
- Demonstrate stewardship

- 1. Who is the partner? What is the project?
- 2. Do you need to do an environmental assessment?
- 3. What is the environment like in the community?
- 4. What parts of the environment are most valued?
- 5. How might the project impact the valued parts of the environment?
- 6. How will you change the project to avoid negative impacts and promote positive impacts?
- 7. What decision will you make about the project?
- 8. How will you monitor the project's impact(s) on the environment?

