



Bolstering Resilience and Livelihoods: Strengthening Non Timber Forest Products in Baringo County - Project Brief

The project “Bolstering Resilience and Livelihoods: Strengthening Non Timber Forest Products in Baringo County” is funded by The TerraFund for AFR100” Project that is funded by a consortium of partners through the “World Resources Institute (WRI)” and “The One Tree Planted” organization for the NGOs compoent. NGARA is one of the 36 NGOs that won a grant under the second cohort to implement the above project. The project will be implemented in two wards in Baringo County; Tenges and Marigat (Fig. 1). It aims to restore the landscape in the two wards by planting 700,000 trees of different species carefully selected in consultation with the selected farmers to ensure that at least 500,000 trees survive by the end of six years through an elaborate monitoring and evaluation program. A total of 500 hectares (300 ha in Tenges and 200 ha in Marigat) will be covered. All the selected trees (majority are indigenous) are of economic importance to the farmers and will therefore contribute to improving their livelihood besides ameliorating the environment. Additionally, 1,000,000 indigenous aloe plants will be planted contributing further to improvement of livelihoods and the environment.



Figure 1: Map of Baringo County with the two wards zoomed out

The project commenced in January 2024 after signing the contract in December 2023. It will run for a period of six years until 2029. Planting of trees will be undertaken in the first two years followed by maintenance and monitoring performance for the next four years. So far the project management team has participated in the “on-boarding

workshop”, which was organized in Naivasha towards the end of January 2024 to bring together 36 beneficiary organizations under cohort 2 in Kenya (Fig. 2) to meet and get introduced to the concept of the “African Forest Landscape Initiative (AFR100) that is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration in Africa by 2030. The initiative was endorsed by the African Union in 2015 and to date 34 countries have committed to restoring 129.5 million hectares of degraded and deforested land. Kenya has committed to restoring 5.1 million hectares. The commitments announced under AFR100 also support the Bonn Challenge adopted in Germany in 2011, whose overall objective was to restore 150 million hectares by 2020, the New York Declaration on Forests that stretches the goal to 350 million hectares by 2030, and finally the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI) to promote integrated landscape management to promote adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. Building on this initiative, the government of Kenya through a Presidential directive is undertaking to plant 15 billion trees by 2032 and by so doing increase the forest cover to 30%. NGARA through the TerraFund for AFR100 project is going to contribute to this effort. Shortly after the workshop, the project profiles were uploaded on the TerraMatch Platform.



Fig. 2: Group photo for on-boarding workshop participants in Naivasha

The project management also participated in the virtual meeting on TerraFund for AFR100 Webinar on the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) framework held in March 2024 that trained participants on;

- Creating site profiles on TerraMatch to represent groups of individual restoration areas and report on tree growing progress; and
- Collecting geospatial data for each of the restoration areas through the Flority app.

This was followed by an in-person workshop for participants on TerraFund Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) that was held in Nakuru from 10-12 April 2024

(Figure 3). In the workshop participants were trained on TerraFund's Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification process where they were taught on how to submit the first project, site, nursery, and financial reports on TerraMatch and learned how to collect the first geospatial polygons of restoration areas which will be submitted by July 31, 2024. The NGARA team is indeed grateful to the TerraFund for AFR100 project team from WRI and One Tree Planted organization for the exceptional facilitation of the beneficiary organizations in being taken through various methodologies for undertaking project activities. We truly appreciate it.



Figure 3: Group photo for MRV participants in Nakuru

What about the field activities? Shortly after signing the contract the NGARA project team reviewed the relevant sections of the contract and project document and prepared a work plan to guide implementation. This was followed by creation of awareness of the project through the County Ward Administrators offices in the two wards who then informed their respective chiefs and Assistant Chiefs to inform community members about the new project. The NGARA field project team worked closely with the Ward administrators and area Chiefs/Assistant Chiefs in the selection of farmers and institutions in a participatory manner using an elaborate criteria. Socio-economic data collection tool was developed for conducting a socio- economic baseline survey of the selected farmers and institutions. The tool was administered by well trained enumerators selected from the local communities for easier of administration of the questionnaires in the local dialect and also due to their knowledge of the study areas. Prior to commencing fieldwork, all enumerators underwent comprehensive training session for a day, aimed at familiarizing them with the questionnaires they would be administering. The enumerators were

deployed to the field to commence data collection activities with occasional field visits conducted by the project team to households where enumerators were administering surveys to verify the correctness and appropriateness of the procedures. By conducting these oversight measures, the project aimed to uphold the quality and reliability of the collected data, thereby enhancing the overall efficacy and validity of the research outcomes.



Figure 4: Enumerator with a farmer and project team at Kimalel, Marigat ward

A total of 360 farmers were selected in Tenges ward and 260 farmers in Marigat ward. Additionally, 12 institutions were selected. Meanwhile, a suitable nursery was established as an extension of the KEFRI Marigat nursery that has been cited in a suitable location equipped with necessary resources such as ample space, adequate sunlight, and favorable soil conditions (Figures 5a and 5b). Several assorted tree and indigenous aloe species have been planted for planting on the selected farmers farms. Planting started in the second half of the month of April 2024 following the onset of the long rains.



Figure 5a: Tree nursery with assorted tree seedlings



Figure 5b: Aloe nursery