

Environment for Development-Kenya Research Day - 3rd March, 2016.



The EfD center in Kenya (EfD-Kenya) in collaboration with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis – (KIPPRA) held its Research day on the 3rd March, 2016, at the Nairobi Safari Club, Nairobi. The objectives of the workshop were: a) to share to share and receive feedback on proposed research activities and ongoing work on various environmental issues in Kenya; and, b) to discuss priority areas of research for the 2016-2020 strategic plan period. The participants of the workshop represented various groups from academia, Non-Governmental Organizations, parastatals, private and public sectors such as: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company, Water Services Providers Association, Water Services Regulatory Board, Africa Wildlife Foundation, Kenyatta University, Moi University and University of Nairobi.

The one-day event was organized as follows:

- Morning session: Opening and Introductions
- Mid-morning session: Presentation and Discussion of the ongoing EfD-Kenya Research
- Afternoon session: Presentation and discussion of Ph.D. Concept Notes

Morning session

The morning session began with opening remarks from the Executive Chairman of EfD-Kenya, Prof. Kimuyu, who officially welcomed all the participants to the workshop. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Gunnar Kohlin, EfD Director. Dr. Kohlin emphasized on the roles and expectations of the EfD centers around the world viz. Central America, Chile, China, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, and RFF which are built on four pillars of Research-Policy Interaction, Academic training, Institutional Development and Applied Research. Additionally, in his presentation, Dr. Kohlin explained the need for sustainable ecosystem services and sustainable energy transition initiatives in order to achieve a sustainable clean and secure environment. The EfD Research Director, Dr. Yonas Alem, followed with a presentation on EfD research trends and achievements over the year, reporting on the progress of research in all the EfD centers. In his report, he demonstrated the areas of research and number of EfD publications, stressing that EfD Kenya has, in the recent years, concentrated on Agriculture, Water, Energy, Forestry and Climate Change. Dr. Alem further explained the EfD process in selecting research proposals for funding as well as the key features of a successful proposal. He further clarified to the participants that proposal funding is confined within the EfD centers and their stakeholders, but not open to all people.

Thereafter, the Coordinator of EfD-Kenya, Prof. Jane Mariara presented the research and policy priorities for the 2016-2020 strategic plan period, focusing on environmental themes related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prof. Mariara further elaborated EfD-Kenya's themes and sub-themes for the five year Strategic Plan as follows:

1. Energy: focusing on shifts in Kenya's energy balance; Energy transition and poverty in Kenya and Institutional reforms in Kenya's energy sector.
2. Climate Change and Agriculture: focusing on management of Agricultural Production Risk in a Changing Climate in Semi-Arid Regions; Assessing Returns from Different

Climate Change Resilient Agricultural Technology Choices; and Mapping Climate Change Vulnerability and Resilience in Kenya.

3. Forestry: extending previous works on Forest reforms in Kenya.
4. Water security: extending ongoing research to among others; Water and Sanitation in Informal Settlements; Water under Devolution; Water Security under Climate Change.
5. Extractive Industry: possibility of analyzing Regional Dutch disease; and open access and optimal management Lake Victoria.
6. Industrialization and urbanization: focusing on problems meaning from rapid industrialization and urbanization as well as related policy.

The morning session closed with the key note address from the Kenya Country Coordinator for United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Mr. Henry Ndede, commenting on the relevance of the proposed EfD-Kenya research priorities to SDGs. Mr. Ndede highlighted that EfD- Kenya's research focus on the SDGs is highly relevant. He further explained the role of UNEP (Science of Environmental Research) and further explained the seven key programmes supported by UNEP which include: Climate Change, Ecosystem Management, Resource Efficiency, Chemical and Waste Management, Disasters and Conflicts, Environmental Governance, and Environment under Review. Mr. Ndede mentioned the Switch Africa Green programme which is funded by the European Union (EU), whose objective is to shift from Business as Usual (BAU) to a more Sustainable Green Economy and encouraged the researchers to participate in this programme. He also informed the participants about the existence of Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) which provides a summit for leaders from governments, businesses, institutional investors and international organizations willing to take leadership and promote transition to a green economy. Mr. Ndede further explained the commitment of the United Nation Environment Assembly (UNEA), which comprises of 192 countries, towards achieving a life of dignity for all through its mission of 'Healthy Environment, Healthy people'. In addition, he highlighted some environmental issues or gaps which need more research such as: a) Energy (cost of shifting from conventional energy to clean energy, value of clean energy on the poorer households such as use of solar energy); b) Climate Change (increased pollution in the sea water, mapping of hyacinth in the lakes and Valuation of natural capital); and c) Chemicals and Waste Management (inadequate data on chemicals and waste). Mr. Ndede summed his speech by

saying that there should be a nexus between research and policy interventions and urged EfD-Kenya to share all the centre's reports with the policy makers. The morning session was closed by Dr. Kohlin's remarks who highlighted the need for EfD-Kenya to coordinate with UNEP to address the environmental research gaps.

Mid Morning

The mid morning, chaired by Dr. Yonas Alem, was allocated for presentation and discussion of ongoing EfD-Kenya and KIPPRA Research. Two research papers were presented.

1. Non-Market Valuation Using Travel Cost Method: An Application to International Visitors in Maasai Mara National Reserve by Richard Mulwa, Jane Mariara and Wilfred Nyangena from University of Nairobi and EfD-Kenya.
2. Effects of Co-management of Common Forests on On-Farm Tree Planting: Evidence from Selected Sites in Kenya by John Nyangena, Paul Guthiga and Wilfred Nyangena, from KIPPRA, ILRI and University of Nairobi and EfD-Kenya.

The presentation of each of these papers was followed by a discussion session. In the first paper by Dr. Mulwa, it was noted that the governance of the national parks in Kenya is very vital mainly in terms of the revenue generated for sustainability of the ecosystem. In the paper by Mr. John Nyangena, worth noting was that the researchers should consult with the stakeholders from Kenya Forest Service in order to validate the study. The mid morning session was concluded by Dr. Yonas Alem and Prof. Kimuyu who appreciated the active participation in discussing the papers.

Afternoon

The afternoon session chaired by Dr. Richard Mulwa and four students from the School of Economics, University of Nairobi presented their PhD. Concept Notes:

1. Water Supply Sources and Outage: Diagnosis of Welfare Implications among Urban Population in Kenya by Victor Mose.
2. The Economic Aspects of Water Governance in Kenya by Daniel Mugo.

3. Welfare Impact of Smallholder Avocado Contract Farming and Women Empowerment in Agriculture: The case of Kenya by Edna Johnny.
4. Essays on Electricity Demand, Generation Efficiency and Costs in Kenya's Power Sector by Grace Njeru.

The presentation of each of these concept notes was followed by discussion and the students were provided with insights on: identifying the research problems or gaps, reviewing relevant literature, identifying the scope of the studies, appropriate methodologies, dearth of knowledge in the existing policies and other recommendations. The paper by Mr. Victor Mose addressed urban water scarcity. It was noted that Mr. Daniel Mugo's paper on water governance was important in terms of addition to literature on similar studies being done in two EfD centers (Ethiopia and South Africa). Ms Edna Johnny's study was important in the review of value chain analysis especially the horticulture sector in Kenya. Ms. Grace Njeru's study was contextualizing the direction Kenya should take in shifting to more sustainable energy.

The afternoon session successfully came to a close with remarks from Gunnar who thanked all participants and emphasized on several issues including: organizing more seminars or workshops, cooperation among the researchers at University of Nairobi, KIPPRA and all the relevant stakeholders, more collaborative programs from other partners to expand the EfD network and finally use of the video conferencing to enhance communication with other EfD centers.

Workshop Closure

The workshop was closed with a vote of thanks from Prof. Kimuyu who thanked the participants for a very engaging workshop and stressed the need for continued collaboration in environment and development research and policy.

Appendix I – List of Participating Institutions

- Environment for Development (Efd) Initiative (www.efdinitiative.org)
- Environment for Development Kenya (www.efdinitiative.org/Kenya)
- Kenya Institution of Public Policy and Research and Analysis (www.kippra.org)
- Kenyatta University (www.ku.ac.ke)
- Kenya Forest Service (www.kenyaforestservice.org)
- Kenya Forest Working Group (www.kenyaforests.org)
- Kenya Forestry Research Institute (www.kefri.org)
- Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company Limited (www.nairobiwater.co.ke)
- School of Economics (www.economics.uonbi.ac.ke)
- Strathmore University (www.strathmore.edu)
- United Nations Development Programme (www.undp.org)
- United Nations Environment Programme (www.unep.org)
- University of Gothenburg (www.gu.se)
- University of Nairobi (www.uonbi.ac.ke)
- Water Services Providers Association (www.waspakenya.co.ke)
- Water Services Regulatory Board (www.wasreb.go.ke)

Images from the workshop



