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APPROACHES AND PRACTICES OF RESTORATION



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Theme: Conservation Restoration





FRIENDS OF CONSERVATION

KENYA NATIONAL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION SCALING UP CONFERENCE

Approaches & Practices for Restoration

Local Community benefits

Stephen Kisotu

Friends of Conservation Kenya. July 12, 2021

1. Overview

- Local communities are our principal partners and direct beneficiaries in all biodiversity conservation and landscapes restoration initiatives.
- Currently our efforts are directed in securing sustainability of the Greater Mara Ecosystem (GME) for prosperity of All-humans and wildlife.
- Landscapes restoration and scaling up initiatives are largely depended on human activities occurring in such landscapes and here in the Mara our focus is really to build capacity of local Maasai communities to as much as possible undertake and pursue economic livelihoods within the context of sustainability and compatibility to wildlife and fragility of the entire Mara ecological diversity.

2 Key issues

- i. Weak governance structures of local community leadership leading to low capacity to implement strategic and targeted actions in support of landscape restoration.
- ii. Widespread weather and human induced degradation of biological resources due to many people having now turned to cutting down trees to produce timber and charcoal for selling in order to secure food and other basic needs for their families.
- iii. Increase in poaching incidences involving elephants and pangolins
- iv. High rate of unemployment led to job loses among our youth, exposing them to poverty and vulnerability to get involve with illegal activities and drugs.
- v. Effects of covid 19 that have led to economic meltdown and taking away critical financial resources that we depend in supporting local communities and supporting our landscape restoration and conservation efforts.

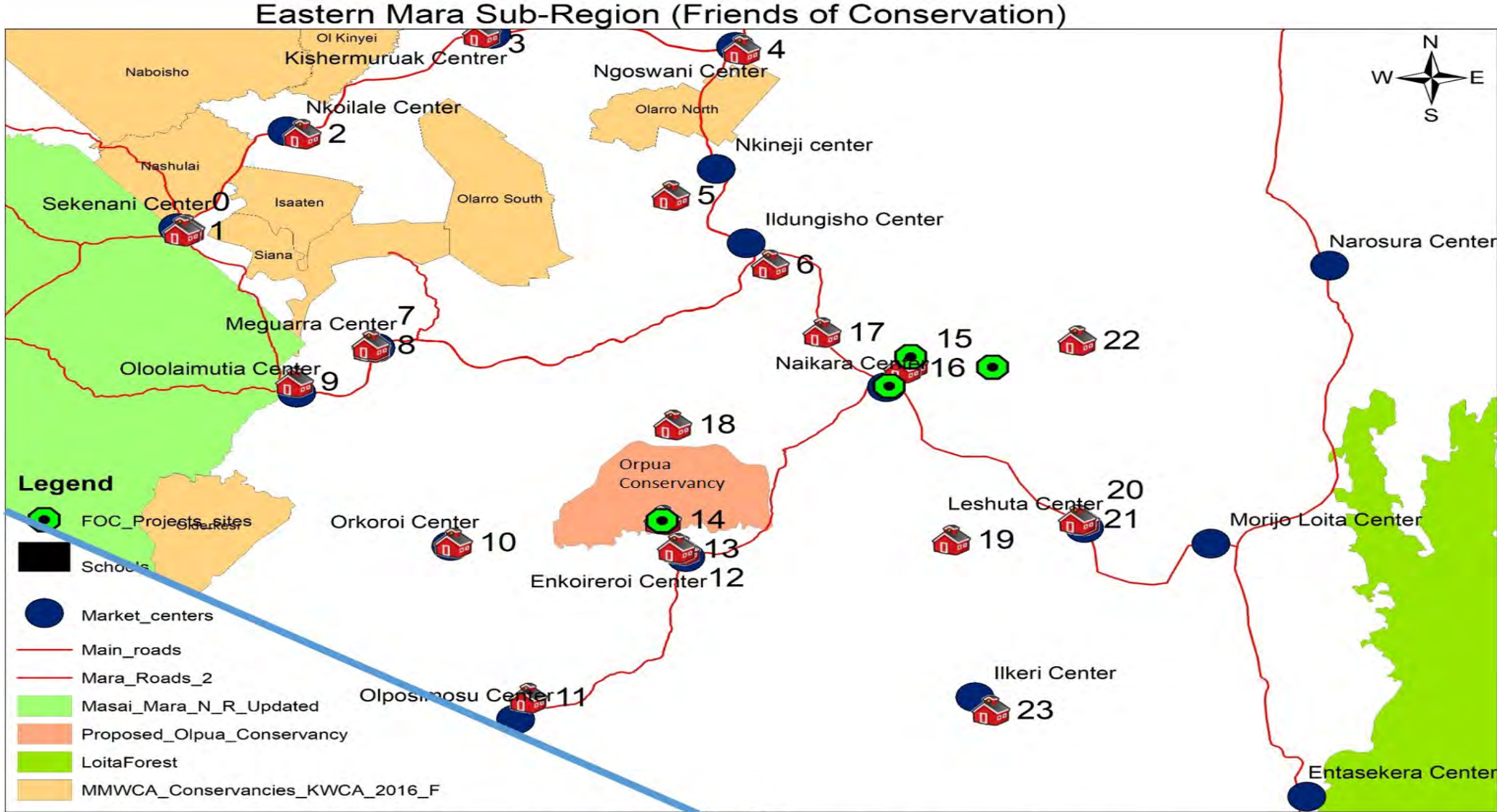
Our current efforts in support of the Mara Landscape restoration of biological resources

- The Naikarra Greening Initiatives with direct engagements with farmers, farmers groups and schools in tree planting and growing initiatives.
- Engaging leadership (traditional, administrative, and political to create awareness and lobby their direct participation in restoration efforts
- Support ranger and community scouts patrols to identify, report and connect law enforcement to eradicate illegal activities associated with resource overexploitation and poaching.
- Engage communities in events to unify participation of all stakeholders in collective resource management efforts.

Our achievements and benefits accrued to local communities from landscape restoration

- Improved grazing pasture for livestock farmers
- Improved return from agricultural farming
- Improved health of local community households
- Improved sanitation and hygiene of local homestead
- Improved local community governance
- Increased capacity of youth and women to sustainable and productive enterprises .
- Improved peaceful co-existence of local communities

Map of FOC focus area in the Mara



0 2 4 8 12 16 Kilometers

Map By: KWS Mara Research Station

Forest Restoration in Karura

Presenter: Dr. Winnie Kiiru, PhD in Biodiversity Management, Chair, Friends of Karura Forest,





FRIENDS OF KARURA
FOREST

**FOREST RESTORATION
IN KARURA**

INTRODUCTION

- In 2009 75% of forest cover was exotic plantations
- Tree planting and reforestation campaign was launched by Joint Board (FKF &KFS) in order to return the forest to its natural state
- In 2011 removal of exotic species and invasive species such as *Lantana camara* began.
- The process was time consuming, labor intensive and costly



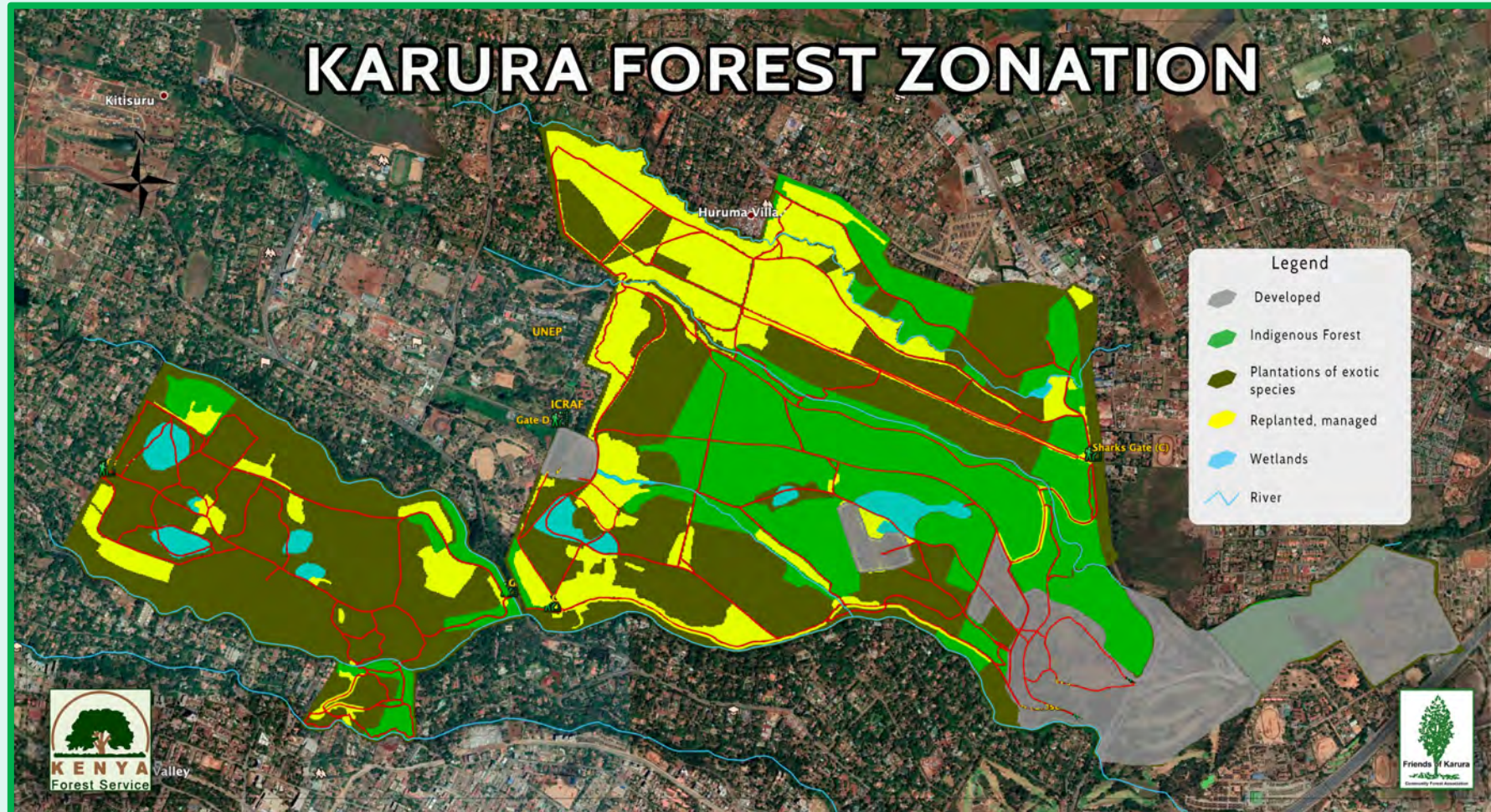
COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

- Community members were greatly involved
- Contracted work was offered to user groups from Huruma informal settlement. Most physical work was carried out by them
- Planting of trees in rainy season is also contracted to user groups
- Clearing of areas has created job opportunities to permanent and contracted community members
- Community also plays a big role in maintenance of our FKF tree nursery



Forest regeneration

- 220 hectares cleared of invasives and regenerated
- 45% of the forest now indigenous, up from 25% in 2010
- Nearly 100,000 indigenous trees planted
- Seedling from FKF indigenous nursery with over 50,000 seedlings of some 70 species of trees and shrubs
- Over 300 contracts issued mostly to women's groups



Achievements: Forest Regeneration



THANK YOU



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