

**Picture Report from
the final seminar of the project:
Strengthening Smallholder Forest Producers Associations in Kenya
where
A National Committee of Farm Forest Smallholder Producers Associations
was formed**



A special event took place this week when Farm Forestry Associations gathered to form a National Committee in Nairobi.

A clear message from last year's seminar was the need to form a National Level platform of Smallholder Forest Producers in Kenya.

Farm forestry which is the legal term in Kenya for trees planted by smallholders on their own farmland, gathered at this event six associations with interests in farm forestry.

First Committee Chairperson Boaz Kiboi, WETPA

They had a broad geographic distribution, Kieni (Central), Meru (Eastern), South Coast (Coast), Molo (Rift Valley), Kisii (Nyanza) and Western Province, but quite uneven stage of institutional development.

The event was very timely as the Kenya Forest Act from 2005 and the still draft Forest Policy, that recognize Farm Forestry is under revision, due to the new constitution, and to be completed before next year's presidential election.

The First day was an "in house" session just between the gathered association's representatives.

The Second day invited guest from Kenya Forest Service HQ and FINIDA Finnish Embassy participated in a dialogue on Kenyan Forest Policy.

This project to support development of local smallholder associations and the establishment of a National Platform was inspired by the Growing Forest Partnership and developed by International Family Forest Alliance, FAO nfp facility, Agricord and financed by SIDA and executed by Federation of Swedish Family Forest Alliance, Swedish Cooperative Center and Norra Family Forest Association (Northern Sweden)



Gathered Farm Forestry Association's representatives and Kenya Forest Service rep. at Lenana House Conference, Lavington, Nairobi 15-16 of May 2012



First day sessions consisted of presentations from each association for an exchange of experiences between associations.

Further, a common view on the achievements as well as challenges with the present forest policy was formulated.

At the end of day one, the form and way forward for the Committee was developed.

Second day consisted of a dialogue on Kenya Forest Policy and the importance to be active in the ongoing process to review of the current Forest Act.



Kenya Forest Service George Oluga



Zipporah Gaceri, MEFEAP speak up in front of authorities and donors

The Second day was concluded by the **Launching** of the **National Committee of Farm Forest Smallholder Producers Associations** with the following agreed terms:

Status:

- Independent, civil society, cooperation between Farm Forest Producers Associations
- Open participation for associations willing to contribute for Farm Forest Producers
- Core group of six founder associations

Objectives:

- Facilitate exchange of experience between Farm Forest Producers Associations
- Provide for a voice on Kenyan Forest Policy from Farm Forestry perspective

Management:

A steering group consisting one representative from the core group associations, to divide duties within themselves, with the objective to update member associations and to remind relevant parties on its existence and needs

The Endorsed Declaration from this initial meeting of

The NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF FARM FOREST SMALLHOLDER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATIONS:

A National Committee of Farm Forest Producers Associations is a supportive tool for engagement of local tree growers, their associations and to provide for a participatory voice on forest policy

Civil society participation to defend the rights of local Farm Forestry practitioners is a natural element in forest policy development

A National Committee will provide a partner for implementation and better understanding of the reality and wishes of farm forestry in Kenya to other parties working with or that have an interest thereof.



The first elected Steering Group members: Boaz Kiboi, Chairperson – WETPA, Zipporah Matumbi, Treasurer – MEFECA, Meru, Clive Maragia, Member - Kisii Tree Planters, Joseph Kibugi, Coordinator – SCOFOA, South Coast, Charles Nyanjui, Secretary – Kieni CFA, Njoroge Nderitu, Member – COFECFA, Molo,



Steering group dividing duties facilitated by George Onyango

Lennart Ackzel and Svarte Swartling with the first Steering Group

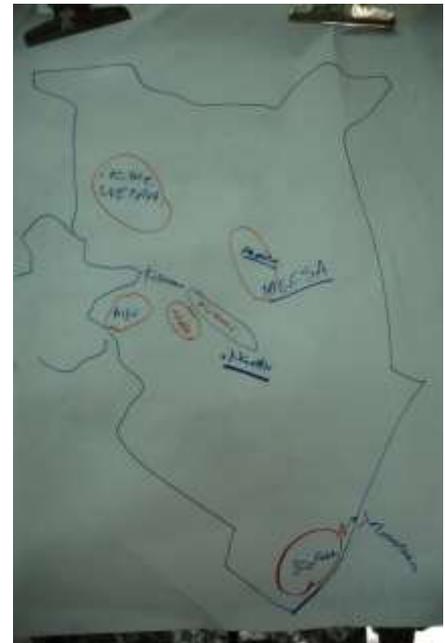


Dr Dominic Walumbengo





Julius Kamau Finnish Embassy



Geographic distribution of participants



Henrik Brundin SCC Regional Office and Julius Kamau Finnish Embassy



Distribution of IFFA's new brochure

By Lennart Ackzell



From individual grower to National Committee



From Local Association to IFFA and The Right Holders Group / Growing Forest Partnership