

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION; MECHANISMS AND  
PROCEDURES: A CASE STUDY OF SURURU CFA IN MAU ECOSYSTEM.**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN  
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## **Abstract**

This study investigated conflict resolution mechanism employed by a grass root institution co-managing a natural resource with a formal institution in Kenya based on legal provisions of Forest Act 2005, section 46 (1),46 (2). The main research question was “How effective are the conflict resolution mechanisms and procedures being employed by the Community Forest Associations in management of environmental conflict?” The study used household, key informant, focused group discussion interviews, case analysis and descriptive survey of forest adjacent communities in Sururu (forest) location within the Mau Forest Complex. More so, it relied both on primary and secondary data in which the Secondary data was obtained from examining existing literature on conflict in the Mau Forest Complex. CR SIBABIO model for conflict analysis was used as a conceptual framework. The following tools of conflict analysis were employed: the root cause analysis, the stakeholder identification analysis, the 4Rs (rights, responsibilities, returns, relationships), and the conflict timeline. The results revealed that 80% of the respondents indicated that the Forest Act 2005 provides for procedures to manage CFAs conflicts. In addition, CFAs draw a wide range of actors among them organised groups/ Community based organisations, Stakeholders committees, forest trust, and project based initiatives. It was also established that the major root cause of CFAs conflict was the dynamics of its formation hence different vested interest over the resource therein. There was evidence that conflicts go through a series of nonlinear stages and there was no viable non-litigious mechanism for resolving CFA conflicts. The most employed mechanism was mediation-arbitration which in most cases does not yield any positive results. The cases always end up in the court of law which is so coercive, expensive and results to a win-lose approach to the disadvantage of the community. The traditional, customary and societal norms of the adjacent communities are rarely employed in the mechanism. This study proposes facilitation method, which is a hybrid mediation-arbitration process for environmental conflict resolution as an enhanced ADR mechanism in the realm of the courts system for the CFAs. This would lead to a stronger CFA as well as sustainable forest management with a win-win approach.

**Keywords:** *sustainable Environment management, conflict resolution, community forest association*