

Name: Robert K. Koech

Registration No: C50/63057/2011

Research Title: Effects of Forest Resource Use Conflicts on Conservation Efforts. A Case Study of Sururu Forest in Mau Forest Complex

Abstract

Forest resource use conflicts have intensified in many parts of the world and this demands sustainable conservation approaches that have support of all stakeholders and should result in meaningful conservation of the forest resources. Sururu forest, one of the blocks within the Mau Forest Complex, is a case in point. Forest resource conflict within the forest has resulted to destructive activities within the forest including illegal logging of indigenous trees, charcoal production, and encroachment for cultivation among anti-conservation activities. Nonetheless, there have been concerted efforts from the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders to conserve the forest and thus the numerous conservation initiatives at the forest. Nonetheless, the sustainability of these efforts in the long term restoration of the forest is a question that this study seeks to answer.

This study therefore is designed to examine how forest resource use in Sururu forest affects the conservation efforts. To achieve the goal of the study, the following specific objectives were formulated; identify the main stakeholders involved in the conservation; examine the various conservation efforts; establish the effects of the forest resource conflicts on the conservation efforts and recommend measures that would enhance conservation efforts within the forest. The study shall use both qualitative and quantitative data. Qualitative data largely comprises data that cannot be subjected to statistical tests including laws, policies, community's opinions, activities and way through which there activities have been implemented. Quantitative data on the other hand are the data collected which is capable of being subjected to statistical analysis.

Purposive sampling method has been used to select Sururu as a study sites within the Mau complex. The selection of these areas is based on human habitation and proximity to some of the conservation programmes. A sample of Eighty (40) households shall be randomly selected from each research study sites making a total sample of 80 households.

It is expected that the results of the study shall be used to encourage conservation initiatives, not only within the Mau Forest Complex, but also in other protected forests, provide significant information that can guide similar/other studies in the related fields, provide useful information to policy makers for formulating appropriate policies and programmes to enhance conservation efforts as well as increase local community awareness and participation on the importance of promoting conservation efforts within the complex.

Key Words: Conservation, Forest Resource Conflicts, Stakeholders, Qualitative and Quantitative.