
EfD-Kenya Research and Policy Workshop – 20th November 2015

Introduction

Environment for Development Kenya (EfD-Kenya), housed at the School of Economics (SoE), University of Nairobi (UoN) in collaboration with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis – (KIPPRA) held the EfD-Kenya Research and Policy workshop on November 20th, 2015 at the Nairobi Safari Club Hotel. The main objective of the research and policy workshop was to share ongoing research by EfD-Kenya and KIPPRA teams as well as engage stakeholders in discussion of future policy research options. The workshop attracted participants from various institutions more specifically from academia, Non-Governmental Organizations, parastatals, private and public sectors.

Welcome Remarks: Prof. Peter Kimuyu, Executive Chairman EfD-Kenya

The workshop began with introductory remarks by Prof. Kimuyu, the EfD-Kenya Executive Committee Chairman. Prof. Kimuyu welcomed the participants and emphasized the role of EfD-Kenya in carrying out research that informs policy in collaboration with public and private sectors, with the aim of ensuring environmental sustainability, development and poverty reduction.



Prof. Kimuyu welcoming participants at the EfD-Kenya Research and Policy Workshop

A brief on EfD Initiative and Activities: Prof. Jane Mariara, Coordinator EfD-Kenya

Prof. Jane Mariara, the Coordinator of EfD-Kenya made a brief presentation on the EfD Initiative and activities. She briefed the participants on the role and mandate of EfD, the EfD centers around the world and EfD-Kenya's ongoing projects. She noted that Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative is a capacity building program in environmental economics focusing on research, policy interaction, and academic programs whose main objective is to support poverty alleviation and sustainable development by building environmental economics capacity in policy making processes.



Prof. Mariara addressing the participants at the EfD-Kenya Research and Policy Workshop

Prof. Mariara highlighted the issue of resource constraints and the need to train environmental economists to be part of the EfD-Kenya research pool. Prof. Mariara gave an overview of how long it takes to train an environmental economist up to the PhD level and thus the importance of investing in capacity building. She emphasized the importance of research collaboration with all stakeholders. She closed her remarks by noting that EfD-Kenya carries out research on environmental issues and formulates policy proposals for consumption by policy makers but the decision to implement such research findings was purely a prerogative of the institutions receiving the policies. She however noted that KIPPRA, the policy wing of EfD-Kenya is charged with ensuring that research translates into policy.

Opening of the Workshop: Mr. Henry Ndede - Coordinator, UNEP Kenya Country Programme

A key note address to participants was delivered by Mr. Henry Ndede, Coordinator for UNEP – Kenya Country Programme. Mr. Ndede took the participants through contemporary environment for development issues. In his address, Mr. Ndede gave a detailed exposition of the transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained to participants how environmental development is key to achieving overall sustainable development. He pointed out UNEP's role in promoting environmental sustainability.



Mr. Henry Ndede delivering his key note address during the workshop.

He noted that UNEP supports assessments of environmental conditions and trends including building the capacity of its many partners to generate the information necessary for sound environmental decision making to support sustainable development. He took the participants through the role and challenges of SDGs. Furthermore, he addressed the subject of green economy underscoring its adoption and importance to development. In his closing remarks, Mr. Ndede pointed out the need to not only invest in research on environmental development but to also implement the findings of such research work. He abhorred the practice of invaluable research work gathering dust on shelves.

Benefit Access and the Status of Forest Health under Joint Forest Management Regime in Kenya: Dr. Maurice Ogada, International Livestock Research Institute.

Dr. Ogada presenting the paper (co-authored with Dr. Guthiga) noted that the study contributed to imparting knowledge on local community perspectives on the implementation of forest reforms in Kenya, in particular and the developing countries in general. The study used primary data collected from a sample of 642 households spread across 5 forests in different regions of the country as follows; Coastal region (Arabuko Sokoke Forest), Central region (Mt. Kenya Forest), Rift Valley region (Mau forest), Western region (Kakamega Forest) and Nyanza region (Kodera Forest).

The study built on existing literature and borrowed heavily on community perspectives in understanding dynamics of management of the common resources. An ordered probit was applied to analyse the factors that shape perceptions on benefit access and forest health. The study found that perceptions of these two aspects are shaped by: participation in community forest governance, household wealth, trust levels, previous access to forest benefits, management agency of the neighbouring forest, education and age, and forest area (location). The study uses the findings to draw policy implications that could inform the next phase of forest reforms in Kenya, which is already underway.

Comments from discussant: Mr. Joshua Laichena – KIPPRA

Mr. Joshua Laichena made several useful comments for improving the paper. First, he asked for a clarification of how the forest health was conceptualized in the paper presented by Dr. Ogada. He also noted that the presentation did not report results of analysis on joint management and benefit access as indicated by the title. He also sought to know if there was a difference in participation in various localities and if so, how benefits were perceived by the rich and the poor households. He noted that by using 47 households as the sample size, it was clear that such numbers of households are not representative sample and consequently the degree of freedom is limited. An important issue pointed out by the presentation was that the public sector was the main driver for forest management. It was noted that climate change has both positive and negative impacts which should have been analyzed further.

Forecasts of Mortality and Economic Losses from Poor Water and Sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Mr. David Fuente, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Mr. David Fuente started with a brief of the ongoing EfD-Kenya urban water project, sharing the key highlights and relating to the increasing block tariffs and the relationship between income and water use in urban Kenya. He underscored the fact that the project is spawning further research and strengthening collaboration between participating organizations. Fuente's presentation of the day dwelt on forecasts of mortality and economic losses from poor water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa. The paper used secondary and country level data to forecast from 1990 - 2050 WASH related mortality rates and to estimate economic losses related to poor health and the monetary value of time people spend in collecting water. The report pointed out that Kenya is in the moderate mortality zone and simulation shows that WASH mortality rates will be eliminated by 2050. The only issue that arose was an inquiry if there is a shift from ensuring availability and sustainability of water as espoused in the MDGs to ensure viable management and sustainability of water.



Mr. David Fuente (right) prepares to present his paper during the workshop.

Influence of Agro-Climatic Factors on Farm Productive Efficiency in Kenya: Dr. Richard Mulwa, EfD-Kenya.

Dr. Mulwa's paper on the 'Influence of Agro-Climatic factors on farm productive efficiency in Kenya' was basically geared towards answering the perception on 'How efficient are agricultural households in Kenya in a changing climate setting?'. The research adopted both parametric and non-parametric analysis.

Comments from discussant: Dr. Diana Muchai, Kenyatta University

Dr. Diana Muchai while discussing the paper noted that indeed it was well written and informative. However, she pointed out some issues such as the paper not having adequate country information, the sections being poorly labeled, lack of factual figures to quantify some statements and more importantly that the methodology talked of technical efficiency and constant returns to scale yet the results concentrated on overall efficiency, constant returns to scale and variable reruns to scale. Dr. Muchai wanted to know whether efficiency was from farmer's perspective or from sales perspective. Above all, she wanted to know if irrigation was not significant in the model, and if yes, then whether this was an indication of issues with the model.

Linking Climate Variability to Climate Financing in Agricultural Production in Kenya: Mr. John Nyangena - KIPPRA.

This paper examined the economic impact of climate variability and its linkage to climate finance in agriculture in Kenya. The results of the study revealed that higher temperatures during summer had negative effect on farm yields while higher winter temperatures had positive effects on farm revenues. Increased precipitation especially during short rains had the impact of increasing net crop revenue. The results further show that there is a non-linear relationship between temperature and crop revenue on one hand and between precipitation and crop revenue on the other. The study further showed that poverty index, house hold size, livestock index and the average years of education of the household members influence the farm revenues negatively. Total cropped area, population density and irrigation use are positively correlated to farm performance. Mr. Nyangena further noted that the current international climate flow is highly disaggregated with high possibility of overlap. He added that lack of a comprehensive system to monitor flows makes it near impossible to establish the actual climate resources available.

Comments from discussant: Dr. Richard Mulwa, EFD-Kenya

The discussant pointed out that the title was not linked to either the study or the results. On the Ricardian model, there was a suggestion that it should include all the farm values (including land values) and the need to discuss what is meant by summer and winter in the context of Kenya. The use of panel data instead of cross-sectional data since climate change is measured over time was suggested. Finally, it was suggested that there was need for the paper to show how the results of the study compare with the International Climate Change Action.

Wrap Up and Closing: Prof. Jane Mariara

The support given by stakeholders present at the workshop was applauded. Several representatives of stakeholder institutions took the floor and informed the participants of their engagement with EFD-Kenya. They included: Eng. Njaggah (Water Service Regulatory Board); Innocent Maloba (Worldwide Fund for Nature); Ken Owoucha (Athi Water Services Board); Keffa Orina (Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company) and Ms. Eddah Wambui (Water Service Providers Associations – WASPA)

There was a suggestion from Nairobi Water & Sewage Company that papers to be presented at the research and policy workshop should be circulated in advance to aid in pre-workshop preparations. It was also proposed that the School of Economics can work with PhD (specializing in environmental studies) students in writing their research and to focus on issues and problems in some of the institutions and entities that can be of relevance for policy in such institutions.

Responding to a critique that EFD should ensure that research translates into policy, Engineer Njaggah pointed out how EFD-Kenya research on water tariffs had informed policy in that some of the key findings had led to a change in the water tariffs which is now being implemented by the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC). The research by EFD-Kenya had found out that increasing block tariff that was in place and implemented by the NCWSC did not effectively target subsidies to low-income households. Estimates from the research suggested that indeed non-poor household received over 80 percent of the subsidies. The study had recommended a friendlier tariff for low income households purchasing water from kiosks. This had just been gazetted and took effect from November 2nd 2015.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Ndede (UNEP) indicated that he was pleased to note that economists can talk about the environment and that environment and economics cuts across all sectors. He emphasized that it is important for research or policy documentations to be pushed forward to authorities for further discussions and implementation as opposed to gathering dust on the shelves. He reiterated that it's equally important for researchers to look at wild life and other environmental issues so that they analyze the discounted cost of resource utilization. Finally, Mr. Ndede informed and invited the participants to attend a workshop in January 2016 that is being organised by UNEP so that they can contribute to discussions around economic value of ecosystem and biodiversity.

The EfD-Kenya Coordinator closed the session by highlighting key points from each of the presentations. She thanked the stakeholders for their support thus far, presenters and discussants for their contributions, participants for active participation and for engaging with EfD-Kenya during the Research and Policy workshop.



Participants during the EfD –Kenya Research and Policy workshop held on 20th November 2015. EfD–Kenya’s Coordinator, Prof. Jane Mariara (seated 4th from right), Prof. Peter Kimuyu (seated 3rd from left) and next to him is Dr. Richard Mulwa, Senior Research Fellow.

The EfD-Kenya Coordinator gave a resounding applause to all the stakeholders present and urged them to remain focused on articulating environmental issues that are key to sustainable development especially in the context of SDGs. She further opined that environment for development and sustainable development cannot be separated and that gender issues and poverty are currently looked at concomitantly and are key priority issues for Sida. She further urged participants to collaborate with EfD-Kenya in proposal development on topical areas, noting that the next call for proposals will be in March 2015.

Vote of Thanks: Dr. Richard Mulwa

Last but not least, Dr. Mulwa gave a vote of thanks to all the participants and welcomed their contribution towards environmental research for development reiterating the need to invest in

research that will positively inform policy and eventually have greater impact on the livelihoods of the people.



A section of stakeholders listening to the presentations during the workshop

Appendix I – List of Participating Organisations and their websites

- Africa Wildlife Foundation (www.awf.org)
- Athi Water Services Board (www.awsboard.go.ke)
- Daystar University (www.daystar.ac.ke)
- Environment for Development Kenya (www.efdinitiative.org/Kenya)
- International Livestock Research Institute (www.ilri.org)
- Kenya Institution of Public Policy and Research and Analysis (www.kippra.org)
- Kenyatta University (www.ku.ac.ke)
- Maseno University (www.maseno.ac.ke)
- Moi University (www.mu.ac.ke)
- Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company Limited (www.nairobiwater.co.ke)
- School of Economics (www.economics.uonbi.ac.ke)
- United Nations Environment Programme (www.unep.org)
- University of Nairobi (www.uonbi.ac.ke)
- University of North Carolina (www.northcarolina.edu)
- Water Services Providers Association (www.waspakenya.co.ke)
- Water Services Regulatory Board (www.awsboard.go.ke)
- World Wildlife Fund Kenya (www.wwf.org)