

**CONTRIBUTION OF PRINT MEDIA IN FOREST CONSERVATION  
CASE STUDY: DAILY NATION NEWSPAPER (KENYA)**

**BY**

**MUGO WANJIRU LILIAN**

**REG No. BMC/5057/41/DF**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A  
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MASS COMMUNICATION TO KAMPALA  
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**August, 2007**

**DECLARATION**

I, **Mugo Wanjiru Lilian** hereby declare that this is my original work and that it has never been submitted to any institution for an award.

Signature.....

Date.....<sup>25<sup>m</sup></sup> Aug.....2007.....

**Mugo Wanjiru Lilian**

**BMC/5057/41/DF**

**APPROVAL**

I certify that this dissertation has been submitted by this candidate under my supervision.

Signature.....*M. Metta*.....

Date...*25<sup>th</sup> aug, 07*...

**DOREEN METTA (Ms)**

*722*  
*Metta*

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my adorable parents Mr. & Mrs. Mugo, brothers Karanja, Kibui, Njiru and my precious sister Wambui for their support and encouragement. Finally, to my roommate Joyce Ngami, Stephen Jalang'o and Anwar for their assistance, efforts and encouragement in doing this research.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank the Almighty God for the Gift of life to carry out this research and for giving me the strength and commitment through this period. A special appreciation goes to my parents Mr.& Mrs. Mugo for their financial support and prayers that pulled me through the whole journey.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of people who have helped me make this study a reality.

My appreciation goes to government departments namely; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya Forest Working Group and Kenya Forest Research Institute and the civil society for providing me with information relevant for this research. Finally, am grateful to the NGO's namely; Green Belt Movement and East African Wildlife Service and the Nation Media Group staff for providing their ideas, contacts and important information, for allowing me to use their resources and for their cooperation during the interviews.

My gratitude goes to my supervisor Ms Doreen Metta for the advice, guidance and supervision rendered while supervising my work.

Special thanks to my friends Emily, Nyambura, Nasra, Vivian Ngami, Yvonne, Anwar and Stephen for their support.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ACCED</b>	-	<b>The African Council for Communication Education</b>
<b>EAWLS</b>	-	<b>East African Wildlife Service</b>
<b>FAN</b>	-	<b>Forest Action Network</b>
<b>FAO</b>	-	<b>Food and Agriculture Programme</b>
<b>FD</b>	-	<b>Forest Department</b>
<b>GBM</b>	-	<b>Green Belt Movement</b>
<b>IUCN</b>	-	<b>International Union for Conservation of Nature</b>
<b>KEFRI</b>	-	<b>Kenya Forest Research Institute</b>
<b>KFD</b>	-	<b>Kenya Forest Department</b>
<b>KFS</b>	-	<b>Kenya Forest Society</b>
<b>KFWG</b>	-	<b>Kenya Forest Working Group</b>
<b>MoE&amp;NR</b>	-	<b>Ministry of Environment &amp; Natural Resources</b>
<b>NEMA</b>	-	<b>Natural Environment Management Authority</b>
<b>NGO</b>	-	<b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>
<b>NMG</b>	-	<b>Nation Media Group</b>
<b>UNEP</b>	-	<b>United Nations Environment Programme</b>
<b>UKDID</b>	-	<b>United Kingdom Department of International Development</b>
<b>WWF</b>	-	<b>World Wide Fund</b>

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## ABSTRACT

Nation Media Group is one of the leading media house in Kenya. This study was conducted to investigate how the print media has contributed to the conservation of forests in Kenya.

The main objective sought to determine the efficacy of print media in ensuring forest conservation. In a nutshell, the core study is based on the *Daily Nation Newspaper* because it has the highest readership as compared to other newspapers. The study also looks at the prospects and problems faced by the print media in achieving the above noble course.

The study is conducted through purposive sampling and content analysis; the data collected using questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussion. Thirty people are selected from the target population this includes; journalist from NMG, government officials, non-governmental officials and the public. The data is analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

The study establishes that print media need to cooperate with the environment stake holders. This will greatly contribute in creating awareness, education and disseminating information to the public. To add on, print media need to train their journalist on environmental issues; this will ease in their field of coverage of the projects carried out by various stakeholders in environmental conservation.

The study concludes that the print media have played a vital role in environmental conservation but more has to be done, to get the media more involved in environmental conservation.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mass media has several responsibilities to its audience; notably, education, surveillance, information and entertainment. Many people in Kenya know that forests are a crucial part of the environment and economic health of our country. The print media has been on the forefront highlighting the plundering of this vital resource over the years and creating awareness to the public of the importance of forest conservation.

Environmental reporting today deals too much with environmental problems and little solutions, the print media must therefore provide the reader with background information and information they can use to make informed choices and decisions. In essence, this points back to the quality of the message being disseminated.

The media therefore should be able to perform the above named functions to be able to mobilize the population to appreciate the seriousness of good forest management activities. The study will focus on how the *Daily Nation Newspaper* contributes in the conservation of forests in Kenya.

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

*The Daily Nation Newspaper* is an independent newspaper and the most influential newspaper in Kenya with a daily circulation of about 205,000 copies today (*Lukalo & Wanyeki: 1959*). The total readership is likely to be higher each copy is read by a large number of people. It is East Africa's largest newspaper.

Daily nation newspaper was first registered in 1959 by Micheal Curtis and Charles Hayes (*Ainslie: 1966*) both newspapermen in London and Nairobi, respectively. The spiritual leader of the Ismaili community Aga Khan purchased the Nation a year later. The paper was the first to adopt a policy of Afrianization (*Abouga & Matere: 1988*). Besides the English language the NMG also publishes a Kiswahili edition *Taifa Leo*.

The NMG publishes the *Daily Nation* and *Taifa Leo* on week days, and *Sunday Nation* and *Taifa Jumapili* including a children's magazine. On the other days of the week they carry special sections: education on Monday, business on Tuesday, society on Wednesday, real estate on Thursday, and entertainment on Friday. The nation, although targeting the Kenyan markets, is also distributed throughout the East African region. NMG also publishes the *East African*, a conservatively designed weekly newspaper focusing on economic news in East Africa.

The researcher focuses on '*The Horizon*', an article falls under real estate on Thursday. It highlights forest issues such as deforestation, land grabbing of reserved forests areas, corruption, encroachments of forests, which aims at promoting forest conservation awareness. The article further enlightens the public on issues such as the causes and impacts of the deforestation. The article also interprets for the public; the weighty and highly sensitive issues which are adequately explained for example; the Forest Bill 2005.

## **1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM**

In Kenya the media has been very instrumental in exposing environmental degradations and thus playing pivotal role in its protection. In the recent years media has been in the forefront in the fight against environmental degradation. This has been depicted by the constant coverage of environmental forums chaired by Peace Nobel Laurette 2004 winner Professor Wangari Maathai.

Notwithstanding the tremendous efforts by the media to ensure that the environment is protected, there has been a considerable failure in this noble course. The failure has been attributed to over emphasis on the coverage of political, economic and entertainment issues at the expense of critical environmental problems facing the country. Whereas, the media aims at disseminating information, their major aim is to gain profits. Hence stories which sell are more considered than any other stories. The above attitude is not only a setback in environmental conservation but also a clear indication that the media is being driven by its own selfish economic gain rather than environmental conscience. The laxity in the coverage of environmental issues has lead to wide spread of environmental

destruction. The problem becomes more complex by the fact that the society has been reacting with less openness to the challenges posed by this happening, especially where high ranking individuals in the establishment are the culprits. Further, people living in the immediate vicinity of the forests are not literate enough to benefit from the information disseminated by the media. This is due to use of technical environmental terminologies which could only be understood by the selected few.

This case study was limited to *Nation Daily Newspaper*, which is the most influential newspaper in Kenya and the efforts they have put forward to ensure environmental conservation. It's not known to what extent the *Daily Nation Newspaper* willing to champion the above discourse, hence the need for research.

### **1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of this study aims at Increasing environmental awareness through the media participation in civic education, advocacy and networking programs that will help increase awareness on the need to protect and conserve the forests.

The study is to establish the role of media in highlighting the challenges that communities surrounding the forests face for example eviction from the forest, ban of forest activities like logging or cultivating keeping in mind that this people wholly depend on the forest for their livelihood.

To examine the integration of the various forests organizations, the government and the media in highlighting issues concerning environment conservation.

The study also aims at improving the activities that take place in the forest through the print media. By highlighting various activities taking place the public and the international scene will be able to recognize efforts put forward by individuals and organizations e.g. highlight changes that surrounding communities fact fighting to conserve forests for example Professor Wangari Maathai was awarded a Nobel peace prize for her efforts to conserve the forests word wide.

The study will be beneficial to other researchers interested in the study of the role the media plays in sensitive issues of the environment.

## 1.4 OBJECTIVES

### 1.4.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- To identify the role of the media in the forest conservation in Kenya and thereafter come up with a possible recommendation for intervention.

### 1.4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To promote partnership as a fundamental strategy of addressing the forest conservation issues between the *Daily Nation newspaper* and the forestry departments.
- To examine the contribution of the *Daily Nation newspaper* in creating awareness on forest conservation and thereafter recommend ways of improving the reporting of forest conservation articles on *Daily Nation Newspaper*.
- To highlight the importance of media coverage of environmental issues and challenges journalists face.

## 1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the contribution of the *Daily Nation Newspaper* in creating consciousness on forest conservation issues?
2. Do the communities surrounding the forest benefit from the stories published on the print media?
3. What can be done to improve the reporting of environmental stories on
4. What challenges have been experienced in the forest conservation process by the Ministry of Natural Resources that the *Daily Nation newspaper* has not been able *Daily Nation Newspaper* to cover?

5. What should the print media do to improve in performance of informing the population at large?

## **1.6 THE SCOPE**

The study was carried out in Kenya at *Daily Nation Newspaper*. The researcher chose the *Nation Daily Newspaper* in Kenya because it has the highest readership and the widest circulation. In addition it tackles the environment issues in depth.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews some of the literature relating to the study. This enables the researcher to understand the problem being researched on. The literature reviewed includes past newspapers, the internet and various environment journals from various organizations and environment books.

#### 2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF FORESTS IN KENYA

A forest is an ecological system dominated by trees and other woody vegetation. Forest communities are characterized by complex interactions between woody and herbaceous flora, fauna, soils and other physical factors (*Barnes et. Al: 1980*).

Forests have come to be seen as one of the most important components of the biosphere, and forestry has emerged as a vital field of science, applied art, and technology (*Stoddard: 1978*).

During the pre-colonial time forests were collectively managed and customarily used for their various products and services by the surrounding village communities. In Kenya, the British started classical forest management in designated forest areas in 1902 when the forest department was established. Its objective was the stop develop and manage the forest resources for protection and production of high quality timbers for industrial development. On avenue through which high quality plantation forest were established was through compensatory or farming in clear felled natural forest areas.

Compensatory forestry, entailed replacement of indigenous forest with areas with fast growing exotic trees as cypress, pine and eucalyptus for timber., plywood, pulp, poles and fuel wood. However, the system was discontinued in the mid 1970's as no more indigenous forests could be cleared.

The “*Shamba system*” of plantation established initiated in 1910 was adopted to facilitate forest department objectives and ambitious programme. However, in 1987 the “*Shamba system*” was banned. This attracted people from other areas who encroached and settled in the forest areas in larger numbers without knowing the kind of danger they were posing to the forests. The effect culminated in water catchments areas being overgrazed, cultivation of unauthorized crops, trees, poaching, illegal logging cutting down trees for firewood as a source of energy, uncontrolled excavation of building stones in the forest, etc. and forest products plundered and a general decline and degradation of the flora environment. In 1994 the ‘*Shamba system*’ was re-introduced and banned again in 2004 during which the replacement of the Forest Act was replaced by the Forest Bill in 2005. (*KEFRI library*)

## **2.2 BEGINNING OF PUBLIC CONCERN**

The public concern over forest management was roused in 1995 by a proposal to allocate parts of the coastal Arabuko Sokoke Forest, reknowned internationally for diversity of bird species, for settlement of people purported to be landless. These allocations could have opened the way for deforestation on 5,000 hectares of the forest, and were not in line with the recommendations of the Kenya forestry master plan of 1994 (*Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 1994*) and the 1996 World Conservation Union (IUCN) report to the effect that the country should not lose any more forest (*IUCN:1996*) The public perceived that such allocations would generally have benefited a few powerful individuals who would have profited from the land either by selling it or gaining political capital.

The public protest that followed these proposals resulted in the halting of the allocation of any part of Arabuko Sokoke Forest. The public recognized that deforestation in allocated parts of this forest would have a negative impact on the diversity of birds found in the forest (some of which are rare and threatened) and the ecotourism potential of the forest. Arabuko Sokoke forest is located in the area of one of most important tourist destinations in the country the coastal town of Malindi. with support from NGO’s, KFWG members collected signatures of those opposed to the proposed allocations and presented them to

the government, which then announced that the proposed alteration of the forest boundaries would not be effected.

The case of Arabuko Sokoke forest was followed by the allocation of half of the 1063 ha Karura forest (an urban forest) to private developers between 1996 and 1998 located in the capital city of Kenya, Karura forest provides a vital refuge from city life. Residents were concerned about the clearing of a forest important for water catchment functions and of great potential value for the relaxation, recreation and education of the people of Nairobi. The revelation of the threat to Karura forest, made public by the residents of adjoining forest areas, resulted in demonstrations, public prayer meetings and encounters with developers, calling for cancellation of the allocations. The demonstrations, some of which culminated in destruction of property belonging to the developers, succeeded in halting development in the area in 1999.

In the above two cases, the public discussion, combined with civil education and proactive media activities, raised people's awareness of the role of forests in the national economy and their sense of ownership of the country's natural heritage.

Finally the efforts put forward by the Peace Nobel Laureate 2004 winner, Professor Wangari Maathai, who has been in the forefront campaigning for environmental conservation and mobilizing the public, is always highlighted by the media in her various activities of planting trees through her Green Belt Movement organization.

The celebration of special environmental days like world environmental day and world tourism day which are marked by planting trees and cleaning of the parks are being done with participation the media and government and non governmental organizations.

### **2.2.1 CURRENT STATE OF FORESTS IN KENYA**

The forest conservation has become a thorny subject in the world's political arena. The forest conservation issues more so affect the common man especially in developing countries. Which Kenya is not an exception. Kenya just like most African countries has not been spared by problems of environment degradation. In the year 2005 a lone, over 2

million Kenyans faced famine as a result of persistent drought that has been going in the northern parts of the country for about 3 years now (*The Daily nation volume 11536, 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2005*).

National environmental management authority (Kenya), reports that the state of the environment in Kenya has slowly been deteriorating and proper interventions from both the public and the government are needed to remedy the situation before it gets out of control (*The Daily Nation volume 11536, 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2005*).

### **2.3 UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION**

Kenyan journalists concentrate more on political happenings, which they consider a “hot cake” hence neglecting environmental stories. Environmental stories are a hard sell (Entertainment oriented stories makes news). This has seen disasters and scandals getting more coverage than environmental stories. Environmental reporting today deals too much with environmental problems and little solutions, the media must therefore provide the reader with background information and information they can use to make informed choices and decisions. In essence, this points back to the quality of the message being disseminated. (*kiai:1999*)

This is an aspect other scholars agree to. The poor performance of media on environmental news is exacerbated by the general misconception by most media managers that any reporter can do environmental reporting ‘Most environmental reporters in the region have no training, which has contributed greatly to the poor quality of environmental stories’ said Dr. Karembu in her presentation at Kenyatta International conference center on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2005, titled “*The Art behind science stories*”. Owing to lack of training and the fallacy that anyone can do an environmental story, most environmental stories in the Kenyan media are either too technical, target no one in particular and are done just fill up space.

The dilemma and question arises when they is considerate forest conservation report yet no positive significant change in forest conservation. It is with this through that the researcher sought to explore in study.

Evidence indicates that environmental concerns have not been given the critical attention they deserve in many developing countries. The reverse is the case in most countries in the north (*Kiai: 1999*). In Kenya for example, the concerns on environmental questions tend to be more visible in terms of policy documents with occasional rhetorical policy pronouncements it is however, wanting in policy implementation;

- i. Lack of concerns in the media and general public. Journalists for example, tend to regard environmental stories as dry and less lively as opposed to political, business, and entertainment stories.
- ii. Lack of consistency is similarly low in the media and general public. The media like the public for that matter, have so far, failed to set the environmental agenda consistently. Yet, environmental issues are issues of life and death. They are issues of sustainability of the earth and the future of human beings.
- iii. Furthermore, there is also a general feeling among many journalists that environmental stories are too technical and therefore, only of interest to international organizations such as UNEP environmental experts, professionals, academics and some international lobbyists.
- iv. Among most newspapers' main drawbacks are the high cost of hiring good journalists, the costs of distribution and the low amounts of advertising spending. Most journalists tend to negotiate their pay on an individual basis. There is a quiet disparity between journalists employed by the government and those working in the private media. Those working in private media earn far better than those of journalists in the government controlled media.
- v. Lack of training and the fallacy that anyone can do an environmental story, most environmental stories in the Kenyan media are either too technical, target no one in particular and are done just to fill up space.

- vi. One out of every other Kenyan lives on just a dollar a day. With a newspaper costing about half a dollar few can afford it. Then with 45 different languages and papers published only in English and Kiswahili, language becomes yet another hindrance.
  
- vii. The other challenge is infrastructure
  - a) The teledensity is only eight telephone lines per one thousand people (*Lukalo and Wanyeki: 1959*) although mobile phone systems are catching on fast.
  - b) The road network is equally poor. Many of Kenya's far-flung districts are inaccessible at the best of times and impossible to reach during the rainy season. It is a near impossible task to distribute newspapers throughout the country.
  - c) The postal system is another hindrance in the circulation of newspapers and magazines. Kenya does not have a home mail delivery system. This makes it difficult to develop a subscription base thus denying newspapers and magazines the opportunity to have a dependable readership and a pool of cash to draw from. The few subscribers often end up receiving their magazines long after the issue is already on the newsstands or may not receive it at all, the issue having disappeared in the postal system.

#### **2.4 ROLE OF PRINT MEDIA IN FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

Generally in Africa, the role assigned to print media, are tools for nation building and the professional journalist is perceived as an intermediary between the state and the citizens (*Okigbo: 1996*). As a result, since environmental issues need prominence they need to be made a national agenda. This has seen the need for the media to make environmental stories on top of its agenda in fulfilling the agenda-setting role of the media.

Print media has several responsibilities to its readers, notably, education, surveillance, information and entertainment (*Defleur and Melvin: 2002*). This has led to the obligation of environmental journalists to ensure that their stories are competitive and above average. Numerous scholars still agree that environmental coverage by the media remains to a big challenge (*Bleeds: 1960*).

Forest plundering is not a new issue in the Kenya scene. From the colonial period to the present day, forest have been excised without notification or due regard to the affected population. Nevertheless, the 1990's saw a trend emerge of exposing forest related issues through the media. Perhaps this is because the media is becoming aware of the importance of forests to the nation and what danger is imminent with the continued forest excision in Kenya. Unfortunately, though, most of the issues prominently featured have had little to do with human dimension of forests-forest people.

A spot check of the Daily's Newspapers in Kenya between 1990 and now, reveals articles and reports from consultants, lobbyist and reporters dealers with wider issues regarding forest dwellers. While the pertinent issues have not emerged, what can be deduced from these reports are two concerns: environmental concerns of Kenya and human rights of the forest people. However, these reports are events or crisis driven, unsustainable and hence reactionary. Above all these reports are also uncoordinated.

The media therefore, is the means by which news and information is communicated to the public. Usually considered TV, radio, online sites (the electronic media) and newspapers, magazines (print media), referred to as the press collectively. Through the media some of the worst forms of wanton destructions of the environment have been exposed and lessons can be learnt e.g the fight for sustainable environmental exploitation in Kenya. In Kenya the media has been very instrumental in exposing environmental degradations and thus playing pivotal role in its protection, but a lot still has to be done.

In Africa environmental destruction has been spreading very fast. The society has been reacting with less openness to the challenges posed by this happening, especially where high ranking individuals in the establishment are the culprits.

The media must emphasize the culture and values of science in environmental protection as the key to building a more rational and peaceful world community.

The media must deliberately support scientific and technological research aimed at solving environmental problems and development of informed policies and legal instruments through consistent dissemination of such information. In addition, the media must facilitate access to credible, independent science and technology(S&T) research information to help develop informed policies. Sound scientific knowledge is fundamental to addressing the critical issues-such as economic transformation and globalization and the sustainable use of natural resources-facing the world today.

The ultimate audience for the information is the publics. The media must humanize science and help involve lay people in science and technology through journalistic style easily understood by those not immersed in the environmental movement. It must be able to interpret environmental issues, current environmental thoughts and actions and the dynamics of the earth movement-exploring the connections between environmental and other social change/humanitarian.

The media has a role in information transfer: so much knowledge is pouring out of the millions of research projects and studies by scientists and other scholars that push the boundaries of man's knowledge to new heights almost daily and the public is not aware of the advancements because they are frequent and so specialized- difficult if not completely impossible.

The media has become increasingly aware of their responsibility not only to keep the public informed about scientific developments but also interpret implications for the public.

## **2.5 MEDIA PROFESIONALISM IN KENYA**

Kenyan journalists concentrate more on political happenings, which they consider a "hot cake" hence neglecting environmental stories.

This is an aspect other scholars agree to. The poor performance of media on environmental news is exacerbated by the general misconception by most media managers that any reporter can do environmental reporting 'Most environmental reporters in the region have no training, which has contributed greatly to the poor quality of environmental stories' said Dr. Karembu in her presentation at Kenyatta International Conference Center on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2005, titled "*The Art behind science stories.*" Owing to lack of training and the fallacy that anyone can do an environmental story, most environmental stories in the Kenyan media are either too technical, target no one in particular and are done just fill up space.

Environmental stories are a hard sell (Entertainment oriented stories makes news). This has seen disasters and scandals getting more coverage than environmental stories. Environmental reporting today deals too much with environmental problems and little solutions, the media must therefore provide the reader with background information and information they can use to make informed choices and decisions. In essence, this points back to the quality of the message being disseminated.

The dilemma and question arises when there is considerable forest conservation report yet no positive significant change in forest conservation. It is with this through that the researcher sought to explore in study.

### **2.5.1 STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM / KENYA.**

The African Council for Communication Education (ACCED) has been involved in the promotion of the effective use of communication in development projects. In 1992, the ACCED convened a biannual conference entitled '*Challenges of Communication and Environment*'. A follow-up meeting was held on Media and Sustainable Development in 1994. The local chapters of ACCED have been hard pressed to implement the resolutions passed, and one of these has been to strengthen the quality of environmental journalism. The Kenyan chapter of the ACCED has held 2 workshops on media and environment and collaborated in 1 workshop on the same topic. The project, a resource book, was the result of presentations from the workshops, and the authors incorporated comments from the participating journalists on their chapters. The approach was to educate journalists on

the concepts of environmental management with a view to demystifying the fundamental principles, which often appear to be too technical for journalists.

The urgent challenge therefore is for the journalists to take the lead in dealing with environmental questions. The starting point is for them to appreciate these concerns and take them to their readers.

This will contribute to journalist being able to raise fundamental environmental concepts, questions and concerns and provide suggestions on what can be done to enhance forests conservation in Kenya. This will be mainly as a result of training workshop conducted among journalists in Kenya, seeking to ground journalists in basic environmental concepts, while tackling technical and skills concerns. *(Kiai: 1999)*.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 INTRODUCTION**

This section gives a detailed description of the methodology that was used in the study in order to accomplish the objectives of the study.

This chapter also throws light to the study area which points out the subjects used and reasons for the preference of the subjects. It also includes the instruments that were used and procedures that followed during the data collection.

This chapter therefore describes in details the geographical area of the study, research design, target population, sampling strategies, data collection techniques and analysis.

#### **3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were used to authenticate the study and allow for the collection of detailed information from the respondent in the print media context.

The study also undertook a descriptive research design that was applied through the use of content analysis, interviews, focus group discussions, questionnaires, observation and fieldwork.

#### **3.2 TARGET POPULATION**

The population under study was both male and female above 18 years, this included communities surrounding Mount Kenya who mainly depend on the forest for their livelihood this population was readily available because the researcher was conversant with the area and could easily communicate with the mother tongue.

Another vital target population was MoE&NR and the NGO's affiliated to forest conservation. These organizations were in a good position of giving information concerning forests in Kenya.

Journalist from NMG, who carry out the task of disseminating information concerning forests conservation issues from the forest departments to the public.

### **3.3 SAMPLE DESIGN**

The study being a qualitative and quantitative one, purposive sampling strategy was used. This was done purposely because the researcher believed those people automatically by nature of their work had sufficient knowledge and experience on environment issues.

#### **. 3.3.1 SAMPLE SIZE**

The researcher took a sample of 30 individuals 5 individuals from the *Daily Nation Newspaper*, 15 individuals from surrounding communities of mountain Kenya and finally 10 individuals from various NGO's that deal with forest management and not forgetting the government institute.

### **3.4 DATA METHODS**

Both primary and secondary data collection instruments were used. As concerns primary data the questionnaire and interview were the main tools which were used in the research.

#### **3.4.1 DATA INSTRUMENTS**

##### **SELF- ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE**

This was used for collecting information from the selected group of people to respond through writing. These questionnaires were distributed via hand delivery and collect them at an agreed date. The questionnaire contained closed and open ended questions.

The questionnaire prepared was divided into three sections

1. The community adjacent to Mount Kenya Forest
2. The *Daily Nation Newspaper* Journalists
3. The forest organizations both ;government and NGO's

## **INTERVIEWS**

The researcher carried out a face to face interview with the government official from MoE&NR, NGO's personnel's, press personnel from NMG and members of the communities surrounding the Mount Kenya forest. This consisted of individual interviews as well as group interviews of different age sects. The researcher also gave room for probing during interviews where necessary and to clarify on understanding. Comments were recorded at the margins and transcribed consistently to improve on the final research report.

## **OBSERVATION**

This technique was applied concurrently with other techniques for instance during interviews. The procedures used in this study were personal visits.

## **FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Researcher used focus group discussions to obtain as much information as possible. This helped bring out additional information to address problems or concerns and came up with conclusions. This group of people included the members of the community adjacent to Mount Kenya forest. The researcher was able to collect data and seek clarification from respondents. These results helped improve the quality of the final results.

## **CONTENT ANALYSIS**

The researcher reviewed six newspapers from the *Daily Nation Newspaper*, these were purposively selected articles. The researcher selected articles ranging from environment, politics, economics and entertainment.

### **3.4.2 SOURCE DATA**

This information was obtained through –

- a. Primary data

This was obtained using the following methods:

- Interviews
- Questionnaires
- Fieldwork
- Observation

b. Secondary data

Secondary data was obtained from:

- Newspaper articles
- Magazines
- Journals
- Published books
- Internet

### **3.5 DATA ANALYSIS AND PROCESSING**

Data was analyzed basing on the research questions and research objectives that have been set for the study. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used. Data collected was continually transcribed and analyzed right from data collection to presentation stage.

Qualitative data was presented by the use of statistical method graphs and charts .This was aimed at making the result easy and simple to comprehend.

Quantitative data was analyzed and results presented according to research questions and interviews.

The researcher analyzed qualitative and quantitative data carefully to make sure respondent's opinion and views were not misrepresented during the writing of the final research report. This was ensured by reviewing the notes written during discussions.

Data processing involved editing, interpreting and compiling of data that originated from the research. This was necessary so as to check for errors and omissions within the provided answers in order to ensure accuracy, uniformity and completeness.

### **3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Due to competition and commercial orientation nature of print media in the country, the *Daily Nation Newspaper* was reluctant to disclose the information to this study with the fear of revealing their unique ideas and tactics.

As a researcher, I obtained an introductory letter from the institute. I was required to seek permission from the management and assure the company of confidentiality.

#### **3.6.1 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The study encountered certain limitations

- Access to information- as the nature of the study touched on sensitive issues ,the researcher experienced some difficulties in obtaining information from respondents who were hesitant to reveal information due to fear of loosing their source of livelihood. The researcher also experienced a lot of scrutiny on what sort of information I required and why.
- Bureaucracy- to get accesses to information both primary and secondary data was a problem.
- Time- tie was a limiting factor. The time available to undertake the research was limited. The researcher experienced difficulties in meeting the respondents in time and delay in getting back the responses. Many respondents frankly said that they had no time to read through and answer the questions due to their tight working schedules.
- Some of the institutions and organization charged for the use of their facilities.
- There was also lack of adequate funds to finance the entire research study and make up follow ups of non response, and provision of logistics were also limited.
- Lastly, the load shedding currently being carried out in power was a major setback in computation of the data collected and this made the report writing drag on.

## CHAPTER 4

### PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the various findings of the study questions and hypothesis from four techniques of data collection; questionnaires, interviews, observation and focus group discussion. This study was based on prospects and problems of the print media in ensuring environmental conservation. The research findings have clearly demonstrated what the print media has been able to facilitate in the forest conservation in Kenya and where print media has not been able to facilitate efficiently.

The discussion and interpretation below is premised on three crucial aspects of research undertaking. First are the objectives of the study namely; the role and importance of the print media in forest conservation, promotion of partnership between the print media and other stake holders (the government, NGO's, general public) and the challenges faced by print media in ensuring forest conservation.

Finally, the study applied qualitative and quantitative methods of research; the findings are presented in both narrative and numeric form.

#### 4.1 THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN FOREST CONSERVATION

In Kenya the public has been widely aware of the benefits of the forest conservation through the *Daily Nation Newspaper*.

The research findings have clearly demonstrated that the print media has been first in covering protest, which have been instrumental in halting private land developers on gazetted forest land. Thus one of the greatest achievements of the print media is that it has been able to reduce illegal logging on gazetted forest land. The *Daily Nation Newspaper* of 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 reported that a team of officers and researchers from Kenya Forest Working Group, Kenya Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, Forest Action Network and the UK Department of International Development- came up with a report that called for the lifting of ban on logging to guard dear imports and utilize

old trees to avoid costly importation of timber but only in selected plantations. Further, media has been the first in covering environmental projects; content analysis proves that this contribution of the print media is geared to informing the public of the positive aspect of various organizations. In content analysis of August to December 2006, study findings shows that print media reported on various projects carried out by collaboration of various environmental organizations with the aim of conserving forests. Such articles appeared frequently in the *Daily Nation Newspaper*; '24 districts to benefit from bank-funded forest project', (December 7<sup>th</sup> 2006), 'Project to promote bamboo use launched' (April 20<sup>th</sup> 2006), 'Drive to SA to save forests,' (June, 14<sup>th</sup> 2006).

According to the *Daily Nation Newspaper* journalist had the following to say;

“The inclusion of environmental issues has been very selective; this means that, not all important environmental news is usually covered. The coverage of protest and riots has been premise on the fact they are best selling stories hence attraction of more readers.”

(An interview with a Journalist)

It's through the media that the public scrutiny over management of forest resources has managed to bring positive changes in forest management. The media has empowered the public to make positive decisions in regard to environmental issues; this is through the coverage of activities of NGO's and Civil society movements.

The researcher was given access to Nation Media Group archive where newspapers are kept for future reference and not just for NMG employees but also for anyone interested in finding information from past newspapers. According to researchers findings Print media is more detailed than any other medium of communication. Another advantage of the print media is that it is a good source of reference.

#### **4.2 PARTNERSHIP OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS (MoE&NR, NGO's, and General Public)**

While carrying out an interview with Elizabeth Wambui from Kenya Forest Working Group, she said that KFWG is an organization that brings together all parties concerned

with forest management and conservation including the MoE&NR, NGO's and citizen in regular dialogues. She further added that;

“Despite the considerable efforts by the media to ensure forest conservation, there is need for partnership and collaboration between the media and other stake holders.” (Interview with Elizabeth Wambui from KFWG)

According to an interview conducted with a journalist from Nation Media Group showed that there is poor coordination between the media and the above mentioned organizations. He added that journalists often had difficulties in trying to get relevant environmental information from the government; this is because of bureaucracy and government fallacy of confidentiality.

In deed as stated above, the researcher found out that, on the other hand the NGO's that deal with environment management and the governments are very skeptical when it comes to media. This is because journalists politicize the issues and exaggerates. The coverage of information without getting facts does not ager well with the relevant authorities.

Speaking to Mr. Martin Kariuki who works for Green Belt Movement, said that although print media is vital in sensitizing the population on environment and the significance of the natural resources available, the media has not taken advantage of the freedom of expression. He stated that,

“There is a big gap between the media and the NGO's. This is felt mainly because the media have given a blackout to environmental issues, co-issues affecting the environment and concentrates more on political issues. There are a few journalists reporting on environment like Dougi Kimani who mainly writes the horizon on the *Daily Nation Newspaper*. Others credited for their good efforts are Joe Ageo and Catherine Wambua.”  
(Interview with Martin Kariuki GBM)

He further stated that journalists report environmental issues like a ‘hit and run’, that is they don't keep a follow up of their coverage they only report when a problem crops up.

“Journalists don’t follow up facts because they are not newsy news and hence they have to exaggerate and politicize issues.” (Interview with Martin Kariuki GBM)

Another interview conducted at Kenya Forest Working Group by the researcher indicated that the print media has been cooperating with the environment stake holders although there is much more that needs to be done to address the grave issues of environment conservation. According to KFWG staff the media is very sympathetic to issues for instance when squatters are being evacuated from the forests, the media portrays the Government and the other organizations advocating for the evacuation as the ‘bad guys’. It is for this reason that the media should deliberately attempt to inform and educate the communities and the public at large than just disseminating information.

The public is not also willing to give information to the media because they believe media triggers clashes. From the focus group discussion the researcher found out that the media have given a blackout to the communities adjacent to the forest. In addition, the community adjacent to Mount Kenya forest has the fallacy that the forest belongs to the government and they have no right over these resources. Although they depend on the forest for their livelihood they feel they have the right to control their resources. The media being a steppingstone where the community can air their grievances is skeptical because they are known to politicize issues and exaggerating. It is for this reason that the community feels left out in environmental issues by both the media and the government yet they are the very people affected by decisions made by the government.

An interview with an officer at the MoE&NR showed that there is a big gap between the media and the government. Reasons being that the media reports on negative issues which interferes with government decisions. According to the interviewee the media does not follow up facts, another problem is that the population especially the communities adjacent to the forest have a fallacy of viewing forests as a government property. He added that the media can be involved in other activities like environmental campaigns, creating awareness, sponsoring and publicity.

#### 4.2.1 SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR JOURNALIST

A senior journalist from Nation Media Group stated that their sources of information on environmental issues are, the public, the government and the NGO's and environmentalists. For example, UN press release, 1st January 2006, (*international year of deserts and desertification launched.*)

According to the interviews conducted from journalists' show that the government is very reluctant as compared to the NGO's allied to environment issues, because most of the influential people in government do not want to be exposed in public for grabbing forest land. Further, the journalist said that, the public on the other hand is skeptical about journalists although some members of the public admitted that they hardly write articles unless when there are crisis and there is need to raise voice. The media admitted that their most reliable source was the NGO's that are affiliated to environmental conservation; this is because these organizations are independent.

While carrying interviews with the journalists, shows that their main source of news is NGO's allied to environment management, followed by the government and lastly the public. In addition the researcher reviewed six newspapers in the month of September 2006, which indicates that most of the articles are from NGO's affiliated to environment.

**The table below shows the main sources of environmental information for media.**

**TABLE I: Various sources of environmental information for journalists.**

Source of information	Percentage
Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources	30%
Non-governmental organizations	60%
General public	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

### 4.3 CHALLENGES FACED BY JOURNALISTS

The researcher identified the following challenges and obstacles affecting journalists with reference to the interviews conducted with journalists from NMG. These challenges included; professionalism on environmental issues, economic, political, hostility.

One of the Major problems facing the media is hiring journalists who are well informed on environmental issues. Further, there are challenges of specialized training in specific areas which calls for journalists to train and attend workshops on environmental issues for them to understand and know how to handle environmental concerns when called upon. (kiai:1999).

In addition to the above, an interview carried out by the researcher from the focus group discussion, shows that the print media is only for the elite considering that the communities adjacent to forests are not literate. In addition, the people surrounding the forests cannot afford newspapers. The few elites claim that print media is not reliable because it covers less environmental issues as compared to other issues like politics.

The researcher reviewing the questionnaires distributed to the targeted population showed that majority of the population consider print media as non-credible source of information on environment and few people consider print media as a credible source of information on environmental stories.

Content analysis of 2006 proves that a few people (25%) consider the media as source of credible information with regard to environmental issues. However the majority (75%) believe print media is not reliable because it covers less environmental issues and more of political, entertainment, business issues.

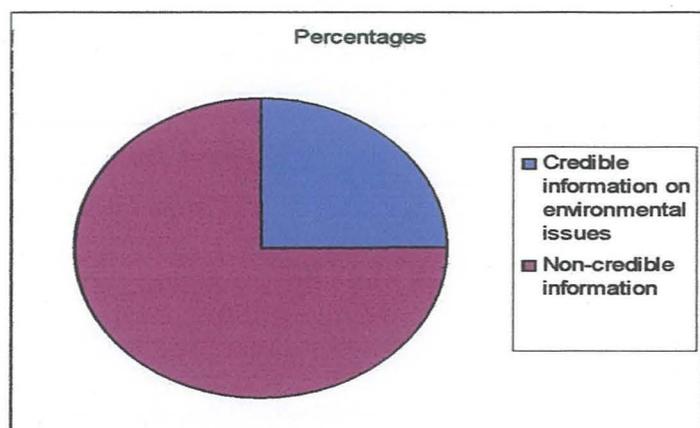
**Table II: Public perception on print media**

<b>People perception on print media</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Credible information on environmental issues	<b>25%</b>
Non-credible information	<b>75%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

This can be presented on the pie chart as follows

**Figure 1: public perception**



An officer from Kenya Forest Research Institute, was quoted as follows,

“The media has been reluctant to cover other environmental issues like, environmental forums, debate, talk shows and other environmental discussion.” (Interview with an officer from KEFRI)

According to a senior journalist from *Daily Nation Newspaper*, had the following to say

“Environmental issues are not as best selling compared to politics, entertainment, sports and economic issues.” (An interview with a journalist from NMG)

In the content analysis, the researcher reviewed six newspapers from *Daily Nation Newspapers*, in which most of the articles contained issues ranging from politics which is given a lot attention followed by economics, entertainment and lastly, environment is given the less attention.

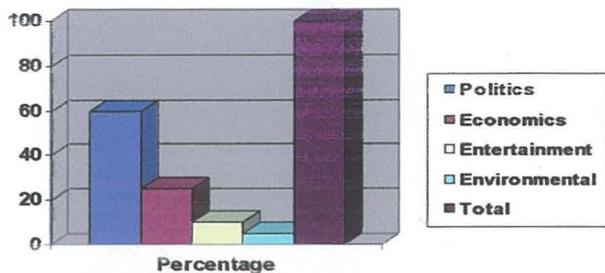
**Table III: Media coverage**

Media coverage	Percentage
Politics	60%
Economics	25%
Entertainment	10%
Environmental	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

It is represented in the graph as follows.

Figure II: Media coverage (graph)



According to the content analysis , the researcher reviewed six newspapers and found out that most articles from the *Daily Nation Newspaper* between 2006-2007, indicate the leading stories concerning forests are mainly with regard to excisions and various forms of degradation ranging from; evacuations, fires, mining, corruption, illegal activities, degradation.

An interview with an environmentalists from GBM, said that media has given a blind eye to environmental forums and talk shows. He added that the media concentrates much on protests and evictions, with an assumption that they are best selling stories.

**The table below shows the environmental coverage by the media.**

**Table IV: environmental coverage**

Environmental coverage	Percentage
Protest news	50%
Evictions	40%
Environmental forums/workshop	5%
Talk shows/debate	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Primary data

Economically, media have borne much of economic hardships through economic blockades imposed by the government like any other enterprise; the media requires money for investment as well as to meet all other overhead costs. One of the major sources of revenue is advertisements. The researcher found out that the media also makes

sales out of 'hot news' which increases the sales. According to the findings on the research environmental issues are not as selling news as political issues.

While carrying out an interview with a journalist from NMG indicated that the level of intimidation by government official was evident in the sense that the government has always been edgy about certain issues published in the *Daily Nation Newspaper* concerning environmental issues, especially where influential people have been reported for grabbing forest land. According to the findings this is vivid; journalists are roughed up by police and security guards in their line of duty. A good example is when the Standard Offices were raided by masked gang of people.

The journalist also disclosed the issue of hostility from the government and the communities adjacent to the forest especially when there is eviction. Journalists end up losing their equipments in the process of running for their dear lives. A reporter from NMG disclosed that journalists are stereotyped as a profession of nosy people worst still journalists are viewed as snoopers and hence shun from collecting information from various sources.

Research findings prove that the media bill, which has been passed by the parliament, poses serious threats to both the media houses and the journalist. The media bill requires journalists to disclose their sources of information. The following articles were common on the *Daily Nation Newspaper*; (8<sup>th</sup> August 2007) 'gagging the media,' 'Reject bill, diplomats urge Kibaki' by *Nation Reporter*, 'UK court upholds media freedom,' by *Nation Reporter*, 'A balance between responsibility and accountability' by *Arno Kopeck Nation Daily Newspaper*. The bill gives the government an upper hand of controlling the media where they can confiscate any information which is about to be published and also block publication of certain news.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a number of findings in chapter four. Those findings have been summarized and concluded. Various recommendations have been included.

#### 5.1 SUMMARY

From the study it was realized that the *Daily Nation Newspapers* is of paramount importance in the conservation of forests. This study has established the fact that Print media is important and serves the purpose of educating and informing its audiences. It needs to pay much attention to grave issues concerning the environment.

Further, the researcher noted that environmental reporting has not been consistent and the media needs to provide clear information to enable people understand environmental issues and make informed decisions about them by keeping a follow up of environment issues.

The research also highlighted the relationship between the media and environment stakeholders. Although the stakeholders are important as sources of news for the media cooperation between them should be recommended.

Evidently, the biggest challenge for environmentalists remains mobilization of populations to appreciate the seriousness of good forest management practices the print media is amongst the mediums being looked upon to help with the mobilization. Hence articles concerning the environment should be considered very important since they arouse the concern of everyone to play part in conserving the environment. Its through the media Prof.Wangari Maathai efforts were recognized and since then she has still continued to emphasize on environment conservation.

All in all, the print media has great power to promote and create awareness of forest conservation.

## **5.2 GENERAL RECOMMENDATION**

The main recommendation of the study is that forest matters should be addressed with magnitude. The Media can be relied on in dissemination of information, if the information is issue based and the purpose is of engendering public debate. It was noted that such information requires follow up especially dialogue, which this case has not generated.

### **5.2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

As much as the Daily Nation Newspaper publishes articles on environment conservation it should create a balance in political, economic, social and environmental issues. This is highly recommended because from the study it's the role of the media to make sure that people are informed and through information, the population becomes informed.

In addition, there is great need for the partnership between the media and environmental stakeholders. It's through partnership that the media will be able to get reliable, effective and educative information, which will help in environmental conservation. This column should be aimed at raising awareness on primary environmental care so as to enhance knowledge, attitude and values to support sustainable grassroots, socio-economic and ecological welfare. In addition this, Newspapers should have a daily column covering environmental issues. This will ensure that the journalist keep a follow-up of the current happenings about forests. The media, the government, NGO's and the environmentalist's in collaboration should create a column where the public can address the public. Through this the civil society will be able to contribute by asking questions or writing articles.

The study findings show that journalists are not well trained to handle environment concerns therefore, the media should train its personnel on environmental issues. Through this the general –public will be able to comprehend and appreciate what is being put across concerning the environment. Further the media should cover sensitization campaigns aimed at educating the public on environmental conservation. The print media should also ensure that they employ journalists who are conversant with environment knowledge. Journalists need training in order to cover environmental stories well since

most of only covered the political angles of these stories leaving important details concerning the common man. Moreover, Journalists should learn to appreciate and communicate the complexities of conservation of forest should be one of our core activities. Hence, journalist should not ignore forest issues and instead they should make an effort of giving facts, be persistence, and keep a follow-up of the various activities and issues taking place.

Most of the print media apart from informing the public they are also profit oriented, and for this reason media owners and practitioners should give support to forest management by educating the public on the impacts through sponsorship and campaigns. For example a good example was the sponsorship of nation media group in the Abardare forest. This was mainly to conserve the forest and the conflict between the wild animals and the communities adjacent to the forest.

The communities surrounding the forest should also be involved in looking for ways of conserving the forest by use of local circulation of newspapers that accommodate them by use of dialect that they understand. This will ensure that they participate by airing or addressing their views, which also call for them being involved in decision making. This could also open channels of job opportunities for journalist who can write in vernacular language to accommodate the various communities surrounding the many forests we have in Kenya.

There is need for further research on the contribution of print media in environmental conservation. The research should be conducted further on areas not extensively covered due to lack of resources and expertise. In addition, further research will help in ensuring that the media is greatly involved in forest conservation.

### **5.3 CONCLUSIONS**

The media must continue to gather and disseminate accurate information on sustainable environmental use. It has a vital role to play and talking about the threat is extremely important if there has to be reduction in the destructions.

The media-readable, visual and audible should describe truth so as to become effective, impressive and capable of facilitating the required changes and help in growing new customs and conducts better for the environment.

Organizations such as NGO and government departments involved in forestry need to collaborate with media by involving journalists in their research activities right from the conception, planning to the execution stages. They should include the role of media in their budgets.

Communities adjacent to the forest should also be involved in forest conservation. Hence the media and the organizations should come up with a strategy of disseminating information to the forest people for instance by writing articles in their vernacular language. This will also give an employment opportunity to people from these communities who can be able to write in the language.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Hallo my name is **Lillian Wanjiru Mugo**, a student at Kampala International University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication. Am currently taking research study in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication.

I am therefore conducting a research to find out, **the contribution of print media in Forest Conservation, my case study is *Daily Nation Newspaper***. Kindly, be part of this endeavor by honestly and accurately filling in this questionnaire. All information will be held in confidence. Thank you for your time. (Please tick (✓) the appropriate answer

1.) What is your age?

1.  18-24                      2.  25-30                      3.  31-40

2.) What is your gender? 1.  Male                      2.  Female

3.) Do you read the *Daily Nation Newspaper*?

1.  Yes                      2.  No

4.) How often do you read it?

1.  Very Often                      2. ( ) Often                      3. ( ) Not Often

5.) Does your perception of '*the horizon*' article published on Thursday affect how you view the environment?

1.  Yes                      2.  No

6.) Which of the following are your ideal source of environmental information for it to be credible

1.  Radio    2.  Print media    3.  Internet    4.  Television

7.) The following are the some of an environmental story attributes. Please rank them on scale of 1-9(1 being the highest), in order of the most attractive attribute or capturing nature of an environmental story that holds your attention in an environmental story.

1.  Currency of issue
2.  Clarity of message
3.  Use of graphics/pictures in the story
4.  Association of a story to prominent person(s)
5.  Use of charts, graphs to simplify issue
6.  Time of publication
7.  Frequency of publication
8.  How close the story is to your needs (Proximity)
9.  Unusualness
10.  Conflict involved

Besides each of the statements presented above, state whether you Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D) or Strongly Disagree (SD) with the following statements.

1.)    2.)    3.)    4.)    5.)  
SA   A    N    D    SD

8.) I easily understand 'environmental stories'?    —    —    —    —    —

9.) I think the *Daily Nation Newspaper* tackles current environmental issues effectively  
 —    —    —    —    —

10.) I unconsciously read on environmental issues than other current issues  
 —    —    —    —    —

11.) '*The horizon*' is the most convincing environmental journal on *Daily Nation Newspaper*.  
 —    —    —    —    —

.....Thanks for your time and help.....

**APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE DAILY NATION  
NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST**

1. How did you get into Environmental journalism?
2. When was *'The Horizon'* established?
3. What is the newspaper's target audience when it comes to environmental issues?
4. Since the *Daily Nation Newspaper* articles are published in English, this implies that the illiterate who are the majority are most likely to benefit less from the print media or not benefit at all?
5. What are the major challenges of carrying out an environmental story?
6. How do you get feedback or responses from the public?
7. In your view, is there enough participation from the readers/the public at large?
8. Can you point one or two stories that were successful in creating change among your readers?
9. How do you get your environmental stories published besides other competitive stories from e.g. politics?
10. How would you rate environmental awareness among Kenyans? Good, fair, or excellent? If good or fair what are you doing to enhance environmental awareness among your readers?
11. Every station and the print media are trying to come up with environmental stories. What do you do to maintain your environmental stories ratings highest? Do you think *'The Horizon'* is effective in its goals?
12. What, in your view, makes a good environmental story?

.....**Thanks for your time and help**.....

**APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE FOREST DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS**

1. Do you think *'The Daily Nation Newspaper'* plays any role in informing, educating, and persuading the public on environmental issues?
2. Is environmental covering, reporting, follow-ups, enforcement and compliance an expensive venture? If yes, do you think lack of enough money can contribute to poor environmental coverage?
3. Suggest ways of improving packaging and reporting.
4. What's your take on the current reporting of environmental (forest) stories?

.....**Thanks for your time and help**.....

#### APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH BUDGET

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	Stationery	<b>35,000</b>
2	Typing services	<b>16,000</b>
3	Photocopy services	<b>9,000</b>
4	Internet services	<b>12,000</b>
5	Airtime	<b>45,000</b>
6	Transport	<b>35,000</b>
7	Field Accustomisation costs	<b>42,500</b>
8	miscellaneous	<b>30,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>308,500</b>

## APPENDIX V: TIME FRAMEWORK

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Output</b>
Proposal writing	December 2006- January 2007	Identification of the project topic
Field Accustomisation	February 2007-March 2007	Initial information collection
Developing research instruments	March 2007	Developing of instruments
Data collection	April 2007	Coding, entering of data
Data analysis	May 2007-june 2007	Analysis and interpretation
Preparation of report	July 2007-august 2007	Submission of dissertation

Daily Nation - Friday, September 15, 2006

/ NATIONAL /

Public outcry over the Government's recent move to hive off a large section of a 7,000-acre Ngong forest which, together with Karura forest, is the "lung" of Nairobi

# Where power men are more lethal than power saws

By JOHN MBARIA

**R**ecent games in the ministry of Lands seem to suggest that the Kibaki administration, like its predecessors, is ready to give out the country's remaining forests to score political points.

The government is in the process of carving off a section of the 7,000-acre Ngong forest which, together with Karura forest, is the "lung" of Nairobi. It all goes according to plans for the ministry, about 1,300 hectares about 250m out of the forest that is known as state Maasai Mau forest will be carved out.

The only drawing widespread criticism over, however, the Government's decision is made by contrary to the law, it is against the well being of the country's environment and the economy, and might create conflicts of jurisdiction with the relevant local authorities.

For instance, alarmed by the government's action, Nairobi County councilors met this week and resolved to retain the boundaries of the Maasai Mau as laid down delineated by the District Commissioner, set up by former President Daniel Moi in 1984.

"We also resolved to convert the forest into the Maasai Mau National Reserve," said Nairobi County Council vice chairperson Agnet Pareyo. She said the councilors would hold a full council meeting to ratify the resolution.

County Council Pareyo said this action by the council should not create conflict with the central government. "The forest is a trust land which, by law, is placed in the hands of the Nairobi County Council."

Observations on the pending the recent action by councillors to draw up new forest boundaries that radically deviate from the plan made by the District Commissioner an abuse of office. "It should be investigated by the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission," said the coordinator of the Kenya Forestry Working Group, Michael Gathanga. Led by the current Lands permanent secretary, Pombo Mwangi (who was then the director of surveys before being appointed PS immediately after last year's referendum on the Constitution), government surveys started delineating the boundaries, although the forest was under the local council's jurisdiction.

Sources at the ministry of Lands say the action is illegal as it was not preceded by an environmental impact assessment (EIA) as required by the 1992 Environmental Management and Coordination Act. Had the Government carried out the EIA, the relevant issues together, but moreover, if from the boundary delineation would have affected the survival of the forest, it is very likely would have been addressed. Also, those opposed to the action would have had a chance to air their views. Maasai Mau forest is located 12 kilo-



**LAID TO WASTE:** An officer assesses the damage done to a protected forest near Nairobi. Falling trees irreparably damages rainfall patterns by denying the air a veritable source of water normally absorbed through evapo-transpiration. Inset, former Lands minister Amos Kimunya, who ruled out any compromise on squatters.



meters from Nairobi town and covers 48,276 hectares. As a part of the 48,276-hectare Mau Forest Complex, the forest constitutes the upper catchment of the Ngong Nyiro, a river that flows into Lake Naivasha. But like is the biggest breeding ground for millions of butterflies inhabiting many Rift Valley lakes.

It is also from the forest that the Mara River, which crosses the Maasai Mau National Reserve on its way to Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, finds some of its headwaters.

Both are world famous parks with an admirable biological diversity - hundreds of bird species, mammal-like biopics, yellow-backed dikcok, giant forest hog, greater galago, giant tortoises and cape buffalo. They also have a huge number of plant species.

Ewaso Nyiro and Mara rivers are intricately linked to the well-being of the vast pastoralist economy that spans many districts in Kenya and Tanzania.

The action against the country's forests may have to do with the pre-2002 election politics. Since the Government was beaten during last year's referendum, it seems to have waned a big and growing threat from the opposition. Hence it has seemingly abandoned its hard-line stance against land grabbing and destruction of forests. Recent actions point to a contradictory policy on maintenance of the country's natural resources.

In mid last year, the Government deployed a powerful force of personnel from the Kenya Service Unit (KSU) regular and irregular police, forest guards and security essential forces to kick out people who had settled in a number of forests.

At the height of the operation - driving which DHSF settlers were ejected from Maasai Mau - the then Lands

Minister, Mr Amos Kimunya, ruled out any compromise. He said claims that some settlers had "ownership papers" did not legitimise their occupation. "A forest is a forest and we are dead serious that it has to remain so."

But signs that such resolve had disappeared emerged during the Referendum campaigns when the Government started to promise goodies to different groups of people in exchange for voting "Yes" to the proposed Constitution.

**B**esides handing back the Amboseli National Park to Ogiek and county council, the Government promises Kajiado residents a slice of Hengon forest, while top officials say some of those evicted from the Maasai Mau could be taken back.

The Government had determined by its old scene. Kenya politicians who allegedly sold Maasai Mau forest for 11.5 million shillings to the late President Mwai Kibaki.

These are reported in the second instalment of the book.

and members from the Rift Valley province. At the height of the scandal, councilors used to demand as much as Sh200 to write a note recommending people for illegal allocations.

When the Government kicked out those who had bought the land, they started demanding back the money from the squatters. This resulted in a lot of tension in the area.

New temporary residents seem to have come in some areas. It started supporting the Kibaki administration. What seems to be escaping the limelight

is the environmental disaster that has started on the Maasai Mau forest and the streams flowing into the Karuri Nyiro river.

Christian Lambrecht of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), who visited the forest during the occupation, says the operation had all the hallmarks of an invasion.

In an interview early last year, Lambrecht said, "In hundreds of paper cases filed, thousands of kilos followed strikes into the air while numerous forest guards fled away from the forest. It all looked like a ground invasion."

Affected are not merely the country's forests but also the forest's ecological services that millions of Kenyans and Tanzanians depend on for survival. Destruction of forests irreparably damages rainfall patterns.

Once trees are cleared, rain in the air is reduced a great deal, and evapo-transpiration is reduced. And so moisture in the air which normally would have been

*Kenyans occupying areas that once had dense forests complain that the rains have either disappeared or fall amidst violent storms*

the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria and other inland reservoirs, not only forms the rain but also provides the moisture for the clouds.

It is no wonder that some of the most affected areas are the ones that used to be the most fertile. The rains have either disappeared or fall amidst violent storms that normally wash away the topsoil and destroy the trees and crops.

# Alarm bells as State plans to open forest land for settlers

By FRANCIS THOYA

**E**nvironmental groups are up in arms over a proposal to open part of the Ngong Hills Forest to settle 400 families.

They have demanded that the plan be shelved because it threatens the forest and many lives that depend on it.

The provincial administration had proposed that part of the 7,092-acre forest at the foot of the Ngong Hills be opened up to settle the families, which claim they have been occupying the land since the early 1920s.

But even as the environmentalists urged the government not to carry out the planned settlement, it emerged that people from as far as Kajado Town have been invading the forest in recent weeks, as local politicians stepped up pressure for the families to be given the land.

The newcomers from Ngong, Kierran, Kona, Bardi, Kibuu and Malasi, have put up fences and built houses on the forest land.

The settlement plan comes after a promise by President Kenyatta last Christmas that homeless families would be resettled.

The promise was made during a visit to State House, Nairobi, by a delegation of Maasai elders, led by Kajado North MP George Saitoti.

Speaking by telephone, the Kajado district commissioner, Mr. Rashid Mohammed, confirmed that there was a proposal to settle the 400 families on part of the Ngong Hills Forest.

However, he said, the settlement would only be done after assessment of the environment is completed.

"No one will be settled on the forest land until an Environmental Impact Assessment is done. We have to establish that the human settlement will not impact on the forest," said the DC.

He warned that the Government would not allow squatters on the land.

The Kajado district forest officer, Mr. Samuel Mukochi, said the Government had given in to pressure to settle the families on part of the forest because there was nowhere else they could go.

Two weeks ago, in the company of the district security committee, officers demolished two houses on the land, he said, adding that efforts to evict the 400 families that settled on the forest had been unsuccessful "due to lack of resources".

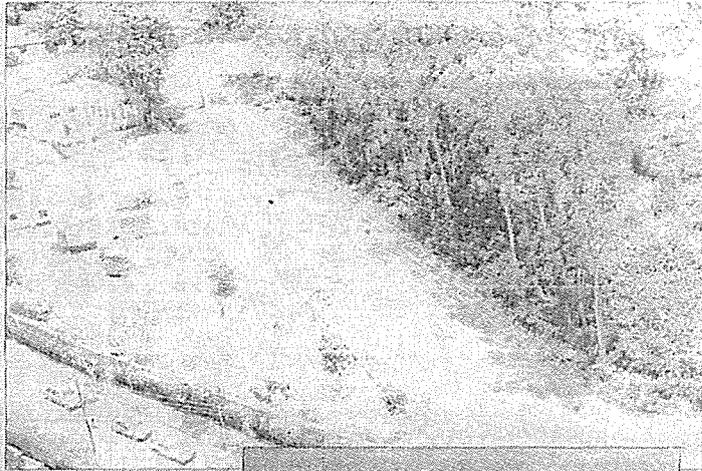
"We have previously issued eviction notices to the 400 families but we have been unable to remove them since that will require a lot of resources, security personnel and so on," said Mr. Mukochi.

The forest, located in Kajado District, was gazetted as a forest in April 24, 1965, by the minister for Environment and Natural Resources at the time, Mr. Paul Nya, now deceased.

The forest is home to several indigenous tree species, some with medicinal value. It is also one of the sources of the Piroi Ash, which provides silica for silica resistant of Nairobi, Kisumu and other parts of Eastern Province.

The Administration for the Ngong Hills Forest and parts of the forest, which covers 400 acres, is the Ngong Hills Forest.

The forest is part of its country's 17 per cent of land under forest cover which falls way short of the



**Aerial views of Karura forest, which sits astride the border of Nairobi and Kiambu districts, in these past photos. The forest is gradually being cleared to make way for homes and offices. The same fate is likely to befall Ngong Hills Forest, with the planned settlement of 400 families.**

recommended forest cover of 10 per cent of the country's total land.

Before part of the forest is handed over to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, more first de-gazette it.

But that will not happen, if the Kenya Forest Working Group can help it.

The organization was opposed to the plan because it would adversely affect availability of water in many parts of the country, said the programme coordinator, Mr. Michael Gachanja.

Ngong Hills Forest was a catchment area for River Athi and several streams and human settlements at the foot of the hills would still the forest, he said.

Already, the river is reported to have recorded a decline in water volume, he warned.

Further, the plan is contrary to the Government's campaign to protect and safeguard forests.

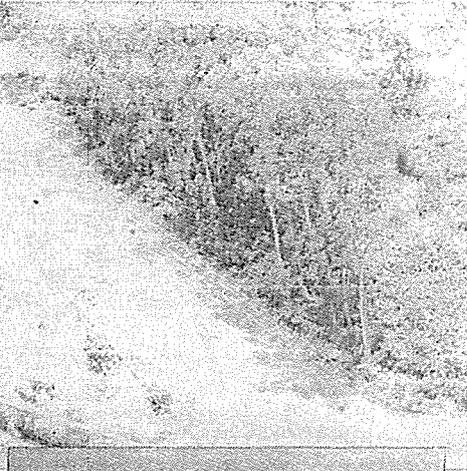
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Three, said it, from around area and

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The minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Mwiti Dizon, recently said at the dedication of the Ngong Hills Forest through letters, that the Government will not allow any settlement on the forest land, and will not allow any settlement on the forest land, and will not allow any settlement on the forest land.

In the early 1960s, the forest had a total area of 400 acres, but has since been reduced to 100 acres. The minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Mwiti Dizon, recently said at the dedication of the Ngong Hills Forest through letters, that the Government will not allow any settlement on the forest land, and will not allow any settlement on the forest land, and will not allow any settlement on the forest land.



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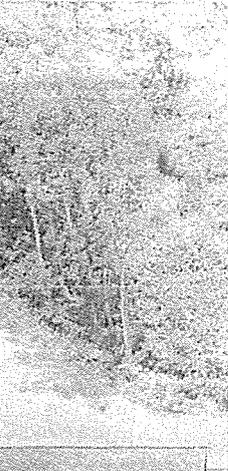
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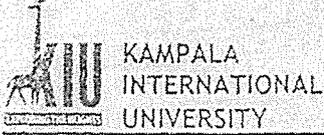
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## Squatters already building houses and putting up fences

... (This section is a continuation of the main article text, which has been partially covered by the previous blocks. It discusses the actions of squatters and the government's response.)

## APPENDIX VIII: Research Approval letter



KAMPALA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

Ggaba Road, Kansanga \* PO BOX 20000 Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 (0) 41 - 265 813 \* Fax: +256 (0) 41 - 501 974  
E-mail: admin@kiu.ac.ug \* Website: <http://www.kiu.ac.ug>

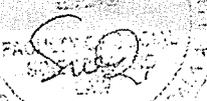
### FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

To: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to introduce to you Mr/Miss MUGO ANANJARA ALIEN who is a bonafide student of Kampala International University. He/She is working on a research project for a dissertation, which is a partial requirement for the award of a degree. I hereby request you, in the name of the University, to accord him/her all the necessary assistance he/she may require for this work.

I have the pleasure of thanking you in advance for your cooperation!

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Sidonia Angom  
Associate Dean