



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

Good governance in forest sector programmes – Kenya case

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Governance as a challenge in development co-operation

- Governance issues are at the very core of the society - often heavily connected to the political sphere;
- Kenya is an example of a society where governance touches the core of the political sphere;
- Governance reforms are slow in Kenya and "the general governance approach" has not proven to be very effective (e.g. political dialogue, GJLOS programme);
- There is a vast amount of information available on the status of governance in Kenya to be used at the general and sector level (e.g. EU governance profile, APRM, worldwide governance indicators, CPIA etc).



Entry points to better governance in Kenya

- Challenging political will - When general governance environment is complex, one can try to improve governance by supporting sector governance approach;
- The objective of the forest governance assessment in Kenya was to operationalize good governance and to provide concrete guidance in implementing meaningful governance reforms through the MMMB programme;
- Implementing team need to have a clear understanding of the governance situation in the country;
- Need to identify "the islands of reform" under the Programme.



Forest governance assessment in Kenya

- Kenya case - the first sector governance assessment in the history of Finnish development co-operation;
- Recognizing political sensitivities (drafting process, contributors, challenges in implementing the recommendations etc.);
- Information flow (MFA/Embassy, Kenyan authorities and programme team) – problems in addressing governance issues at the sector level need to be conveyed to MFA;
- The first forest governance assessment in Kenya was drafted by the previous Permanent Secretary of the President Moi – it proved to be impossible for MFA to accept the composition of the team and the product;
- Indufor was invited to assess the forest governance in Kenya – A MODEL FOR FUTURE WORK



Operationalizing forest governance assessment

Challenges:

- 1) Different discourse on governance between MFA officials and “foresters” / MFA and programme team;
- 2) Incorporation of the recommendations to the operational activities (e.g. work plan and budget) – stand-by situation in Kenya;
- 3) Forest governance assessment needs to facilitate governance reforms under the MMMB programme but it should benefit also the sector wide work on forestry;
- 3) Recognizing the underlying causes of what is causing the delay in incorporating the recommendations into the annual work plan and budget (lack of interest in the Kenyan side / the programme team / MFA or lack of capacity);
- 4) Monitoring progress – how to organize monitoring (constant, annual) and if there is no improvement what are the next steps to be taken.



Lessons learnt

- Clear political guidance - borderline for Finnish development co-operation with its partners in Kenya (e.g. constant repetition of political messages e.g. logging ban, paramilitary training etc);
- Realistic expectations and the use of benchmarks. The assessment touches fairly sensitive areas of forest governance – How realistic is to expect that Kenya will be ready to implement recommendations in the area of logging ban, composition of KFS board etc;
- Implementing team needs to have a governance expert;
- Difficult co-operation between MFA/Embassy, Kenyan authorities and implementing team.



The way forward

- **New development policy paper** – governance as an obligatory requirement - more assessments to come;
- 1. theme "Democracy and accountable society", 2. theme "Environment and Natural Resources";
- Transparency as the key concept in development policy;
- Guidelines needed how to go through governance assessment process – there might be more difficult countries coming under assessment.

DISCUSSION:

- At what stage one should make the sector assessment – How useful are they in planning operational activities?
- How can MFA help the implementing teams to incorporate governance into sector operations?
- How to build the capacity of MFA and implementing teams and organize effective monitoring on forest governance?

