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Mau Forest: What Really Happened?

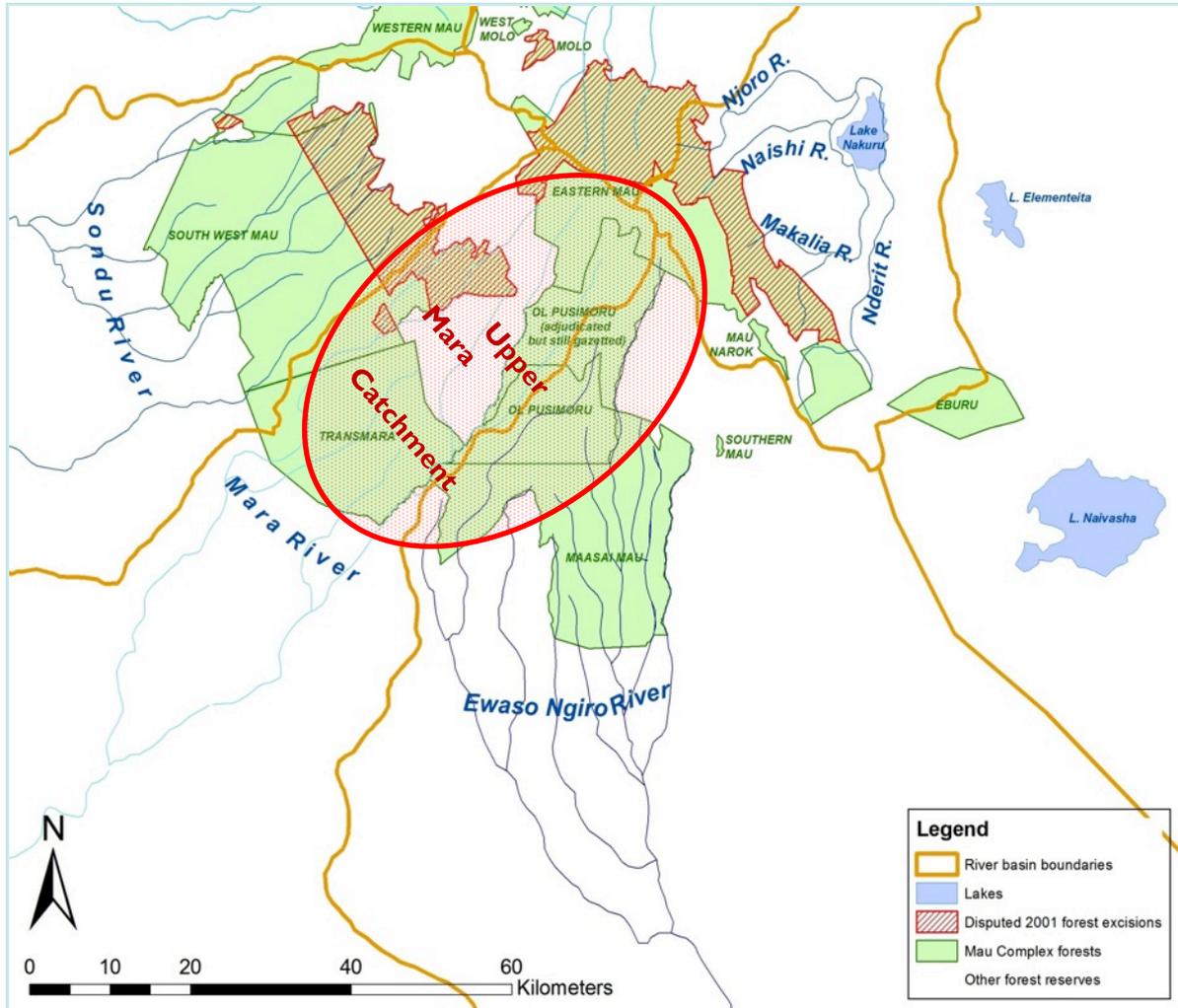
Treasure, Turf and Turmoil:
The Dirty Dynamics of Land and Natural
Resource Conflict

Presenter: Mark Freudenberger

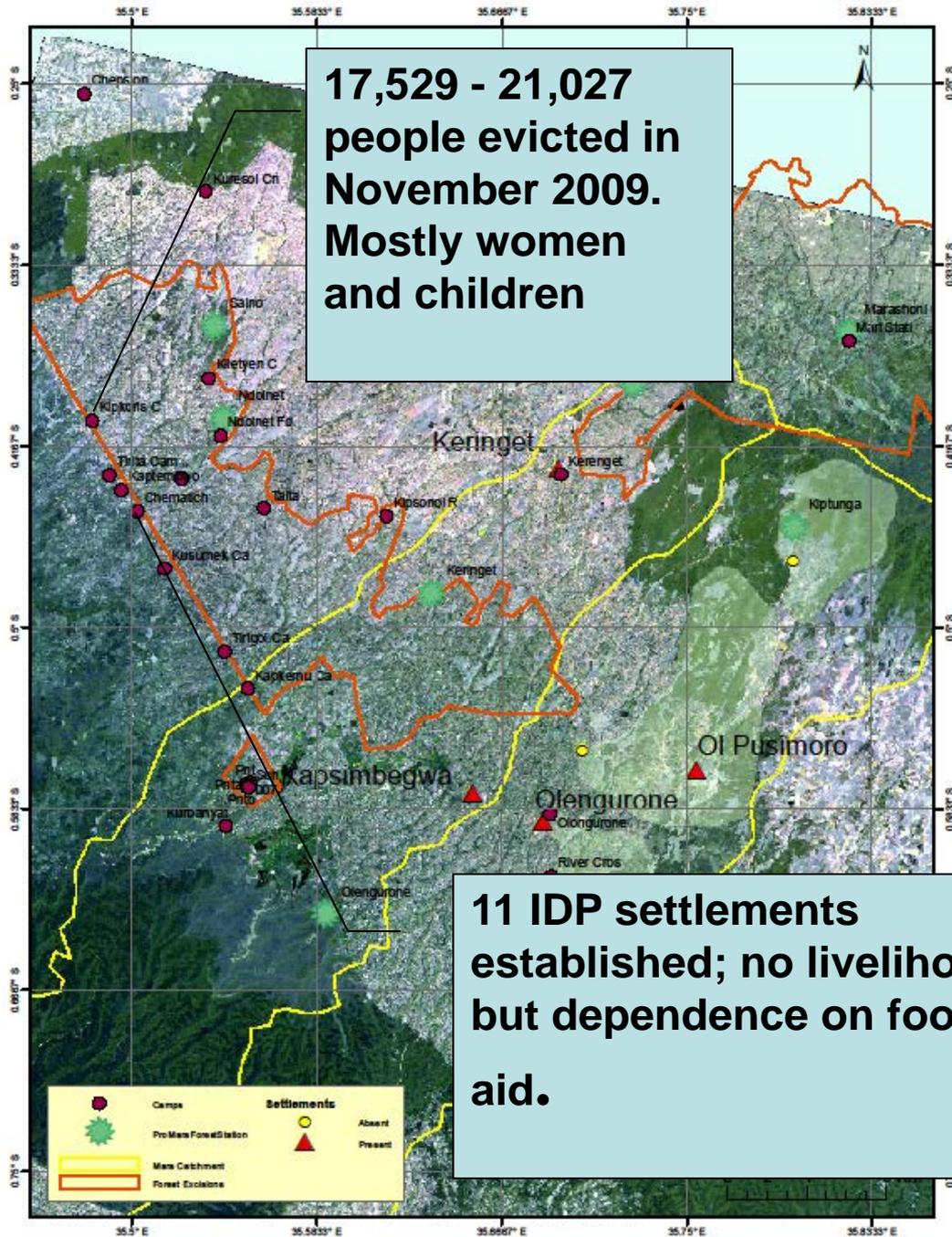
June 2011



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ProMara Program Site Map



**17,529 - 21,027
people evicted in
November 2009.
Mostly women
and children**

**11 IDP settlements
established; no livelihood
but dependence on food
aid.**





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Learning about New Realities

Summary of KAP Survey Results

Origin: 32% were born in Mau; additional 24% there for 20+ years; 7% there for less than 5 years. Of those living in ProMara focal area for less than 20 years, 77% came from other parts of Mau, for those 20 + year inhabitants, 72% of their parents come from Mau.

Status of land occupied: 75% private; 18% “communal”; 7% government. 65% said family had title, of which 82% were held by the male head of household. Do women have equal land rights? 55% say no, but 47% feel they should not have equal access to land and natural resources. Of 55% indicating that women should not have equal land rights, 55% said it was taboo for women to own land

Conflict causes: 62% land, 10% water, 4% forest products, 31% political competition, 15% ethnic rivalry. Clan elders were most prominent (64%) in redressing conflict followed by provincial administration (43%), political leaders (20%), law courts (11%) and religious leaders (less than 5%). 77% feel community resource centers have value in promoting unity and 72% think inter-community dialogue forums promote peace.

ProMara Project Objectives

1. Property rights and obligations of key stakeholders in the Upper Mara River Basin strengthened, clarified and communicated.
2. Markets for commodities and services that enhance conservation and sustainable natural resource management improved.
3. Equitable management of land and forests for environmental goods and services (biodiversity, water, soil fertility, climate change mitigation and adaptation) of the Mara-Mau ecosystem fostered.

• **Phase 1: Six months** (September 2010 – February 2011): start-up activities, establishment of an operational institutional framework for Mau interventions, and carrying out a series of analyses and ground-truthing exercises.

• **Phase 2: Eighteen months** (March 2011- September 2012): apply the institutional and analytic framework developed during Phase 1

ProMara Project Components

Component 1 – Improvement of land and resource tenure

Component 2 – Restoration/protection of critical catchments, forests and biodiversity

Component 3 – Improvement of livelihoods for catchment residents

Component 4 – Mara-Mau Outreach Center

Component 1 – Improvement of land and resource tenure

- *Environmental easements, compulsory acquisition for biodiversity conservation, assessment of IDP situation, women and youth rights to land, legal education*

Component 2 – Restoration/protection of critical catchments, forests and biodiversity

- *Mau forest conservancy, strengthen Community Forest Associations, Integrated sub-catchment watershed management system, Co-management approach; Sub-catchment threats analysis, Youth and women engagement in resource management.*

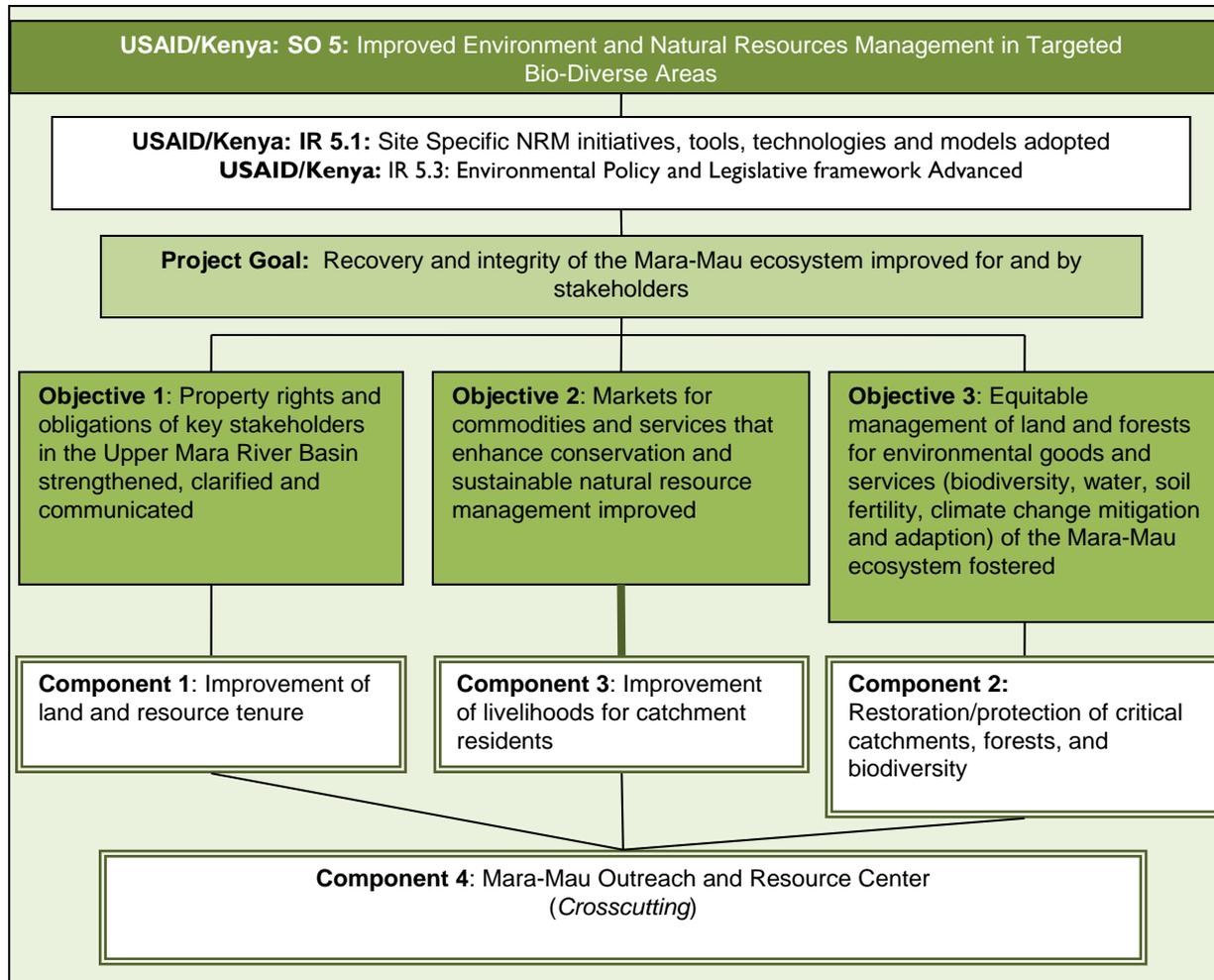
Component 3 – Improvement of livelihoods for catchment residents

- *Agribusiness to link the Mara-Mau with service providers to improve sustainable productivity and income generation; Conservation/ecoagriculture; explore options for Payment for Ecosystem Services; Women's income generation activities*

Component 4 – Mara-Mau Outreach Center



ProMara Results Framework





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Mau Outreach and Resource Center Olengurone Town

- Encourage community access to documents and internet information related to the Mau Forest Complex
- Meeting place for local program partners for training or facilitated dialogue
- Base for team members working in the selected sub-catchments
- Focus for PIE activities that will also support subsidiary information locales in Mara-Mau

Sub-Catchment Planning Priorities?



Co-Management: How?





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Landscape Hydrological Dynamics: Identifying Myths and Realities



New Challenges

Institutions: Uncertainties about how the Interim Coordinating Secretariat (ICS) program will be implemented

Stances on GDP's: ICS insisted that all inhabitants will be removed from the 2001 excisions as their titles are either illegal or irregular. ICS is backtracking from this (though no public statements to this effect) and now thinking of compensation/easements as solutions in ecologically sensitive areas – and leaving people in less sensitive areas.

National Elections: ICS admits in private nothing substantial will happen until after the next national elections (December 2012 most likely).

Settlements: Government has allocated KES 4.2 billion for resettlement of IDPs, including the Mau evictees

Emerging Lessons

Payment for Ecosystem Services: The prospects for water-based or forest carbon PES in the Mau-Mara ecosystem are limited in the short-term due to low local institutional capacity, and a uncertainty in national policy and coordination (particularly for forest carbon).

Strengthening Community Based Organizations: Helping to reconstitute and empower CBOs to communicate and negotiate with national and other local institutions offers the best prospects for short-term measurable gains that will facilitate future engagement in PES.

Conservation Easements: Land title holders (75% of land occupiers) very interested, but at a time of legislative reform, will the legal framework change? How would land use planning priorities occur?