

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF COMMUNITY FOREST
ASSOCIATIONS AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN UASIN GISHU
COUNTY, KENYA**

WANYONYI BRENICE NASIMIYU

ELD/B/MA-GE/512/06493

**A RESEARCH THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS
OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

APRIL 2015

ABSTRACT

In many parts of the world participatory forest management has been encouraged to allow a shift from the command- control approach that was there for a long time in forest management. Devolved governance in forest resources management has been embraced by the Kenyan Constitution where community members are expected to fully participate in decision making on environmental issues. The study was carried out in six state forest stations in Uasin Gishu County. The researcher took three months from June to August 2014 in data collection, analysis compilation of the final document. It was based on the principle that forests provide intangible and not often direct or tangible benefits to those communities who participate in their management. The study focused on four objectives; to determine community forest associations' practices that represent ecologically sustainable forest management; to establish the relationship of community forest association practices on forest management; to find out how the characteristics of community forest associations' members affect forest management; to establish challenges faced by community forest association members in the practices on forest management. The study was conducted using mixed method through a descriptive survey design and employed stratified random sampling to get representation from various stations (sub-groups) in the population. Simple random sampling was to obtain a representative of a given size in the accessible population of community forest association (CFA) members and the forest rangers where each member had an equal chance of being selected. Purposive sampling was used in handpicking station forest managers in –charge of stations. The researcher used questionnaires and interviews as the main instruments for collecting data. Completed questionnaires were coded and entered into a statistical package for social sciences (SPSS version 18).Data was summarized and presented by use of frequency tables, pie charts and bar graphs. In conclusion CFA practices played an important role in management of forests in Uasin Gishu County that contribute immensely on the quality of plantations raised. The study showed that there was significant relationship between community forest associations' practices to forest management. It was recommended that, there should be on-going monitoring of practices that will enhance internal control and involve action against irregular, unethical, uneconomic, and inefficient and ineffectiveness in CFA leadership. This could be done through organized exchange visits to best performing CFAs in other Counties. For proper forest management pertinent and reliable information should be identified captured and communicated inform and reliable time framework that will enables CFA members to carry out their responsibility.