

Vital Transformation

Empowering Communities
By Building
Strong Institutions



Our **Vision**

We envision a world with empowered communities living a life of dignity.

Our **Mission**

Our mission is to enable communities in Kenya and neighbouring countries to be active participants in their development through capacity strengthening, grant management and advocacy.

Our **Guiding Values**

1. **Equity and Equality**

We believe that all human beings regardless of their race, religion, sex, culture and physical appearance deserve equal opportunities in life and that their human rights must be fully protected.

2. **Professionalism**

We believe in delivering value for money; optimising scarce resources for the benefit of the people of Kenya and any country we work. We do this by upholding professionalism in all our endeavours, demanding performance, and living to our code of ethics and practice.

3. **Accountability**

We are a result-oriented organization that is accountable for results at all levels. Each person is responsible for performance standards that form the basis of annual performance appraisals. We are accountable to our donors and the community we serve by ensuring prudent utilization and management of resources.

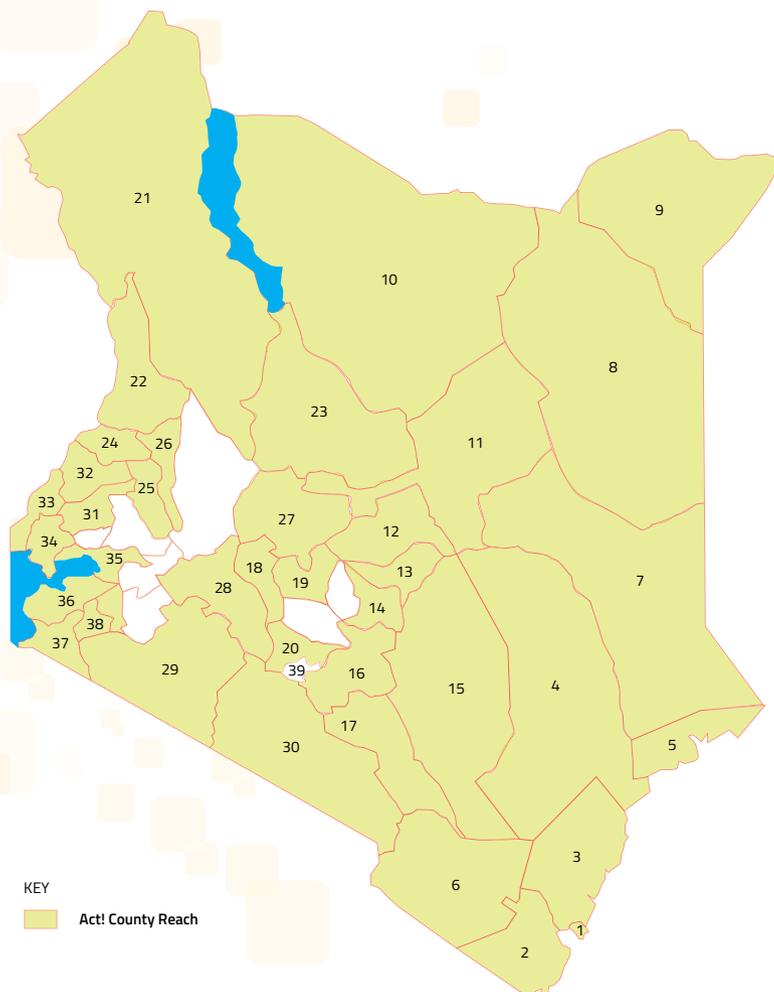
4. **Commitment**

We remain committed to the process of empowering marginalized communities. We know that change may be difficult and may take long to be realized but we persist in ensuring that we get results. Commitment is an important attribute of our staff and board members.

Who We Are

Act Change Transform (Act!) is a leading Kenyan not-for-profit, non-governmental organization involved in diverse development initiatives in Kenya. Act!'s main programme focus is in Environment and Natural Resources Management; Democracy and Human Rights; Peace Building and Conflict Transformation; and Livelihoods. Our holistic approach to development is delivered through grants management and capacity development. Established in September 2001 as Pact Kenya, and rebranded in 2011 as a fully-fledged indigenous organisation, Act! has provided forums for articulating issues and processes, shared her expertise, experiences and best practices related to capacity building and grant management.

Our Presence



For more than a decade, we have worked with grassroots organizations to make a lasting change to communities in Kenya and neighbouring countries

Acronyms

Act!	Act Change Transform
APAD	Agency for Pastoralists Development
ASAL	Arid and Semi Arid Land
CANCO	Community Action for Nature Conservation
CETRAD	Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development
CIWOCH	Centre for Indigenous Women & Children
CRM	Changieni Rasili Mali
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ENRM	Environment and Natural Resources Management
FPI	Farm Practice Initiative
GRADIF-K	Grassroots Development Initiatives Foundation - Kenya
HSHC	Help Self Help Centre
IFCs	Indigenous Food Crops
KLCT	Kenya Lands Conservation Trust
KOEE	Kenya Organization for Environmental Education
KOPEDE	Kopsiro Peace and Development Organization
NACOFA	National Alliance of Community Forest Associations
NEHCIP	Nabwabini Environmental Health Care Intervention Program
NSA	Non State Actor
PAFRI	Preserve Africa Initiative
PGDP	Pastoralist Governance and Development Project
SANA	Sustainable Aid in Africa International
SHG	Self Help Group
TILT	Tree is Life Trust
VDC	Village Development Committee
WAG	Water Action Group
WALINET	Water and Livelihoods Network
WCG	Water Consumer Group
WSP	Water Service Provider
WWF-KCO	World Wide Fund for Nature - Kenya Country Office

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Foreword

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I am pleased to share with you Act!'s Biennial Report for the year 2013/14. The period under review was a pivotal moment in Act!'s journey since it was rebranded to a fully-fledged indigenous organisation three years ago. Indeed it was a period that ushered in a strengthened Board following the review of the Board Manual. The new Board structure now includes four committees – the Finance and Audit Committee, the Programmes and New Business Development Committee, the Human Resources Committee and the Board Development Committee.

In this new embodiment, the prime focus of the Board over the last year has been to support the review of the organisation's policies that have now been incorporated into a Policies and Procedures Manual. The Board also approved the revised Grants Manual which going forward will continuously guide our work in managing grants, and deepen our proven approach of working with others for greater impact. It is highly commendable that the Board members were personally available to the staff in various institutional strengthening exercises, particularly in conducting policy reviews and building the competencies of the staff themselves.

We are glad to note that most of the targets were achieved: The Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) programme worked to improve the lives of Kenyans in some of the poorest parts of the country, whilst harnessing natural resources in a manner that is both commercially viable and in harmony with local ecosystems. Moreover, the various initiatives that we supported in policies and legislative reforms in the sector continue to have an impact on the devolution processes in the country.

In order to enhance citizen participation and ownership of development processes, capacity development and advocacy remained central to our work during the year. Our Capacity Development approach was widely appreciated, and this is borne out by the testimonies of those new



In order to enhance citizen participation and ownership of development processes, capacity development and advocacy remained central to our work during the year

development partners who commissioned us to build capacity of other local non-state actors through our fee-for-service mechanisms. We further strengthened relationships with our current donors, and made great strides in cultivating new partnerships at the global, regional, national and county levels.

We have also been very active in our peace-building and conflict transformations initiatives, where the need to engage idle young people in meaningful development such as income generating activities is so important in preserving social stability in the country. Targeted training sessions that involved coaching and mentoring continued to be successful, and our Governance and Leadership programmes are proving to be a template that can be replicated in many different environments.

Our Livelihoods programme was instrumental in enhancing women's empowerment through the Self Help Group (SHG) approach. As a result, the Women's Federation in Mtwapa is now working in partnership with the Village Development Committee (VDC) and the office of the Member of Parliament (MP) to run community projects and develop proposals for resource mobilisation and sustainability with County level officers.



152

Partners organisations supported with grants

Amid the challenges faced in the operating environment by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), ranging from a difficult funding environment to security concerns in the country, we continued to engage with others in influencing positive change, especially in the context of devolution, which is central to the new Kenyan Constitution. In this regard, we were part of the CSO Reference Group, and participated in a number of advocacy processes aimed at expanding democratic space through influencing policy and legislation, monitoring elections, resolving conflicts, fighting corruption, as well as environmental protection and community service delivery.

Looking forward, we plan to build on our long track record, which extends right back through our years as Pact Kenya, and maintain our reputation as the organisation of choice in capacity development and grants management throughout East Africa and beyond. I hope you will be inspired by the information and experiences presented in this report to renew and reinvigorate your own commitment in helping us deliver on our programme objectives.

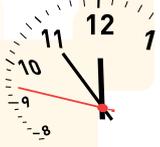
Lastly, I would like to thank our donors, partner organisations, communities, staff and my colleagues on the board for their huge commitment and support in achieving the above results. You are essential to Act!'s mission.

Chris Ngovi
Board Chair

A woman with a joyful expression is the central figure, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned blouse and a bright orange headwrap. She holds a large, woven basket filled with ripe yellow bananas. The background is a lush, green agricultural setting with banana plants and trees under a bright sky.

**Women are agents
of change, Act! is
reaching out to many**

In brief 2013/14

 <p>152</p> <p>Supported partners to implement projects within Act!'s core programme areas</p>	 <p>Ksh 1,340,767,784</p> <p>Provided as grants to Non State Actors to undertake activities on sustainable environmental conservation and utilisation, peace building, democracy and human rights and livelihoods</p>	 <p>42 Counties</p> <p>Act! partners worked in to respond to ENRM, DRH, PBCT & Livelihoods challenges in Kenya</p>	 <p>170</p> <p>Local organisations for whom Act! provided capacity development support to deliver on their programmes' objectives</p>
 <p>222 Days</p> <p>Act! committed for capacity building and institutional strengthening during the period</p>	 <p>Over 50</p> <p>Average Act! staff numbers during the reporting period. They worked with partner organisations and communities to achieve Act!'s programme objectives and meet the development aspirations of the target beneficiaries</p>	 <p>74</p> <p>Laws and policies at national and county levels influenced with Act!'s support</p>	
 <p>Over 3,634,327</p> <p>Citizens reached through ENRM targeted interventions</p>	 <p>1,020</p> <p>(412 Male; 608 Female)</p> <p>Farmers who have adopted indigenous food crops following Act! partners' interventions</p>	 <p>9,690</p> <p>Households accessing clean and adequate water through Act!'s supported initiatives</p>	 <p>410,000</p> <p>Indigenous and exotic trees planted in over 210 ha of land leading to increased forest cover in Lamu, Nyeri, Kakamega and Meru counties</p>



**Responding to
Communities Needs
through Capacity
Development**

Act! Capacity Building and Grant Making Support

For years, we have been driven by a passion to develop the capacities of local partner organisations to apply their own solutions to meeting the development goals of their target communities. Guided by our core values, we have ensured that they become self-reliant and that they are by themselves agents of positive change. We celebrate them, because their success is our success.

During the period under review and despite the changing environment, grant making, capacity development and monitoring of partner organisations to ensure compliance on agreed programme objectives remained a major focus of our work. Partner organisations delivered crucial services and influenced policy reforms within Act!'s programmatic areas; aimed at improving the lives of target communities.

As a result of our capacity building efforts on improved farming methods, Lucy Nduta, a mother of three and a member of Ziwani Women Group in Manguo, Nyandarua County is among the many targeted farmers across the country who have increased their household income. Lucy has doubled her food production and income. It is

such transformative changes instigated by our partner organisations that we draw our inspiration.

Act!'s grants support amounted to **Ksh 1,340,767,784** to **152 local organisations**. **170 partner organisations** were provided technical support to deliver results on their programme areas. The technical assistance focused on governance, statutory compliance and

Ksh 1.3 Billion

Awarded as grants to partner organizations

AT A GLANCE



152: Grassroots organizations (NGOs, FBOs and CBOs) provided with grants by Act!



Kshs 1.3 Billion: Awarded as grants to partner organizations to implement project within Act!'s core program focus



222: Capacity development days committed to partner organizations



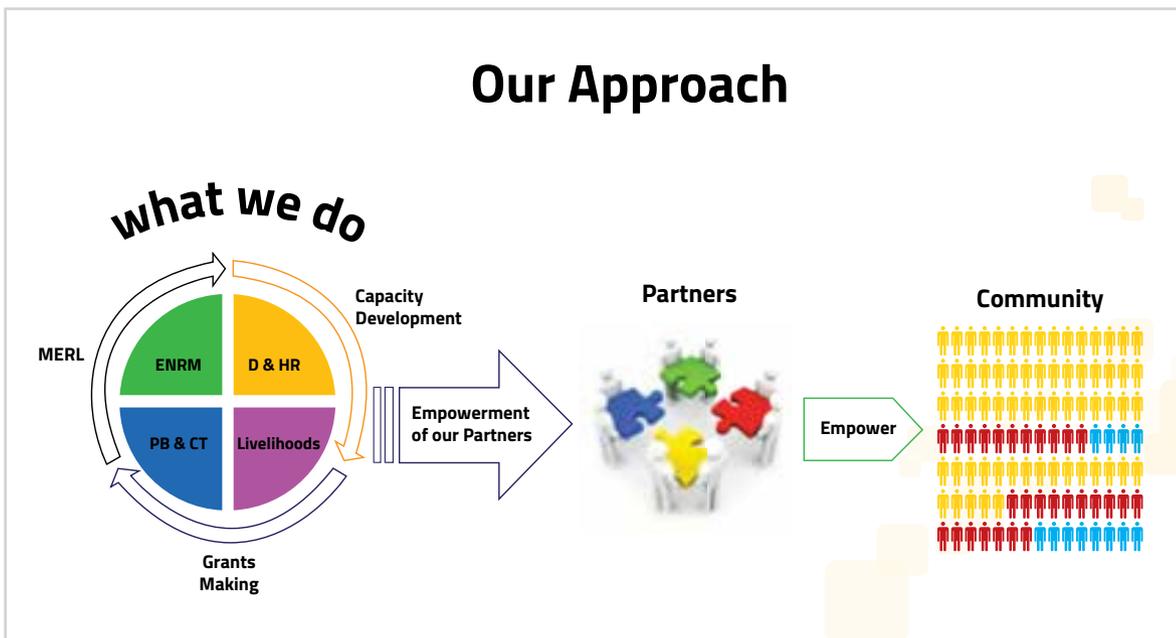
170: Local organizations Act! provided capacity development support to deliver on their programmes objectives

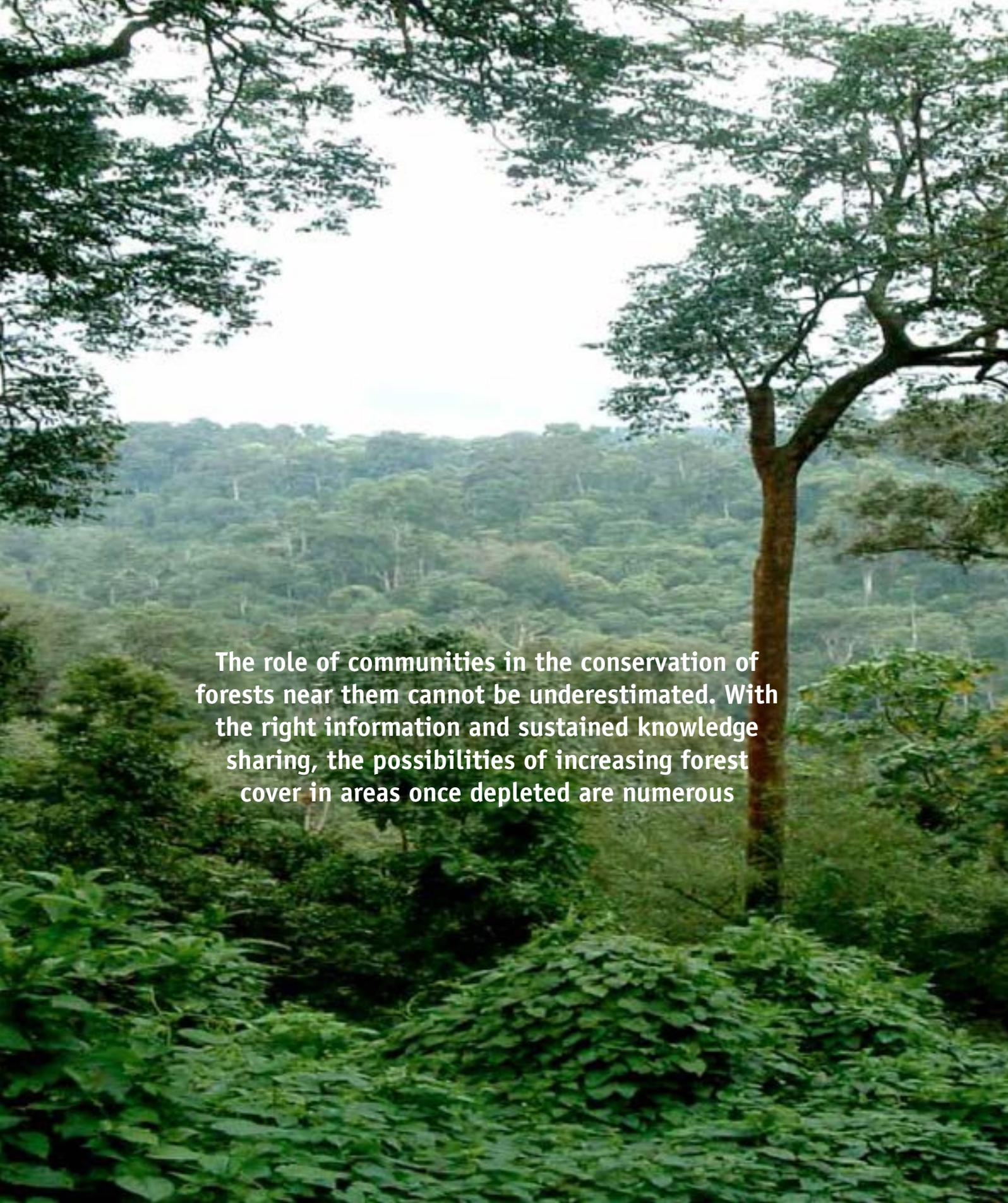


financial management. To ensure easy access to project information and tracking of partner's results against set targets, a robust online Monitoring and Evaluation system was rolled out to 49 partners, in an on-going process with remarkable results.

Today, Act! technical project staff are tracking activities of partners from their office desks resulting in increased efficiency and effectiveness.

Our Approach



A photograph of a dense, lush green forest. In the foreground, there are large, vibrant green leaves, possibly from a fern or similar plant. A single, tall tree with a thick, brown trunk stands prominently on the right side of the frame. The background is filled with a vast expanse of green trees, creating a sense of depth and a rich, natural environment. The sky is a pale, overcast white, providing a soft light to the scene.

The role of communities in the conservation of forests near them cannot be underestimated. With the right information and sustained knowledge sharing, the possibilities of increasing forest cover in areas once depleted are numerous

Responding to **Environment** and **Natural Resources Management** in Kenya



Conservation of the environment and natural resources is a core element of Act!'s work in Kenya. Act! worked with **102 partners**, reaching out to more than **3.6 million people** across the country with a view to creating awareness and advocating for policies both at national and county level.

Our goal is to ensure communities are actively involved in the management of the environment and natural resources for the future





Thematic Overview

Water Interventions

Lack of access to clean and adequate water is a major issue for millions of Kenyans. More than half of the country's population does not have access to safe drinking water, and the proportion is higher among the poor in rural and informal settlements. Act! and her partners in the water sector have worked to ensure community participation in the management of scarce water resources. If this issue is not addressed urgently, it will lead to various ills in the sector such as inflated pricing, poor water infrastructure or drying of key water catchment areas.

During the year, Act! supported 12 local partners and 11 water networks in 16 counties to advocate for adoption of Bills and policies aimed at regulating water tariffs and improved water quality services from Water Service Providers (WSPs). In Kisumu County, such efforts have resulted in reduced water prices and increased water distribution network, especially in poorly serviced peri-urban areas. There was also enhanced implementation of the Water Act 2002. Three draft Water Bills were developed: the Water and Sand Harvesting Bill in Kajiado

AT A GLANCE



12: Grassroots organizations provided with grants during the period



11: Water networks supported to advocate for development and adoption of Water Bills and policies



9,690: Households accessing clean and adequate water through Act!'s support

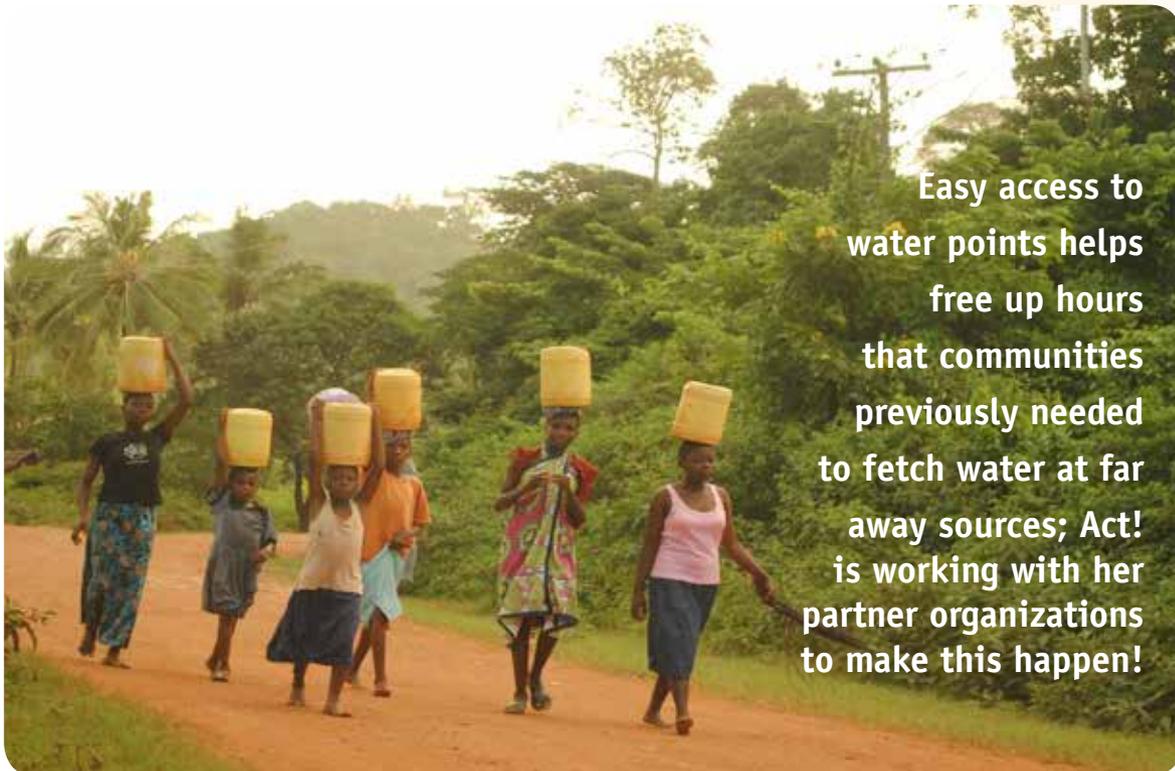
County, the Water Bill in Kisumu County and the Sand Harvesting Bill in Makueni County. In addition, capacities of Water Action Groups (WAGs), Water Consumer Groups (WCGs) and Water Service Providers (WSPs) were strengthened to respond effectively to water related complaints in the affected counties. For example, working with our partner organisation WALINET in Nairobi County, cases such as industrial waste deposits into Nairobi River, Kang'emi sewer spillage and household water overbilling arising from wrong meter readings in South B Estate were resolved.

Responding to periodic water shortages in the ASAL areas, particularly in Makueni and Elgeyo Marakwet, water harvesting and storage techniques have been enhanced. Five sand dams were constructed to collect runoff water and drained into water tanks for use during dry spells, benefiting 303 households.

To ensure sustainability of the dams, communities in the respective counties in turn planted bamboo trees for gulley rehabilitation.

9,690

Households accessing clean and adequate water through Act!'s support



Easy access to water points helps free up hours that communities previously needed to fetch water at far away sources; Act! is working with her partner organizations to make this happen!



**Time to address
Climate Change is
NOW!**

Climate Change Interventions

In response and working through partner organisations under the Changieni Rasili Mali (CRM) Facility, we are helping communities in Kenya to adopt new and innovative ways to address the ever-growing effects of climate change. We are working with them to find new ways of increasing their incomes by embracing adaptable productive farming methods, and preparing better for the effects of long term climate change variability in the country. We are supporting our partner organisations to influence both National and County level policies in this respect.

During the period, Act! supported 37 (grassroots and national) partner organisations to advocate for increased forest cover, use of energy efficient technologies to reduce on carbon emissions and adoption of better agricultural methods for increased food production aimed at climate

change adaptation and mitigation. In Lamu, Nyeri, Kakamega and Meru counties, a total of 410,000 indigenous and exotic trees were planted in over 210 hectares of land resulting to 9,022,200 kg of carbon sequestered.



“A significant knowledge gap about the potential of improved energy saving stoves existed among the locals here, but, our advocacy efforts on adoption of this technology is increasingly gaining popularity among households due to reduced wood load”

**Tree Is Life Trust Executive Director,
Thomas Gichuru**



Tree is Life Trust Program Officers loading energy cooking stoves liners ready for dispatch to communities in Nyandarua County

Similarly, 2,797 energy saving stoves were installed through our partner organisations Tree is Life Trust (TILT) and Help Self Help Centre (HSHC) subsequently reducing approximately 6,985 tonnes of carbon in the atmosphere. These efforts have seen local communities in the targeted areas begin to embrace the new technologies hence saving on wood fuel.

Activities aimed at creating awareness on conservation agriculture that requires minimum tillage and incorporation of crop residues were also carried in targeted regions with substantial results.

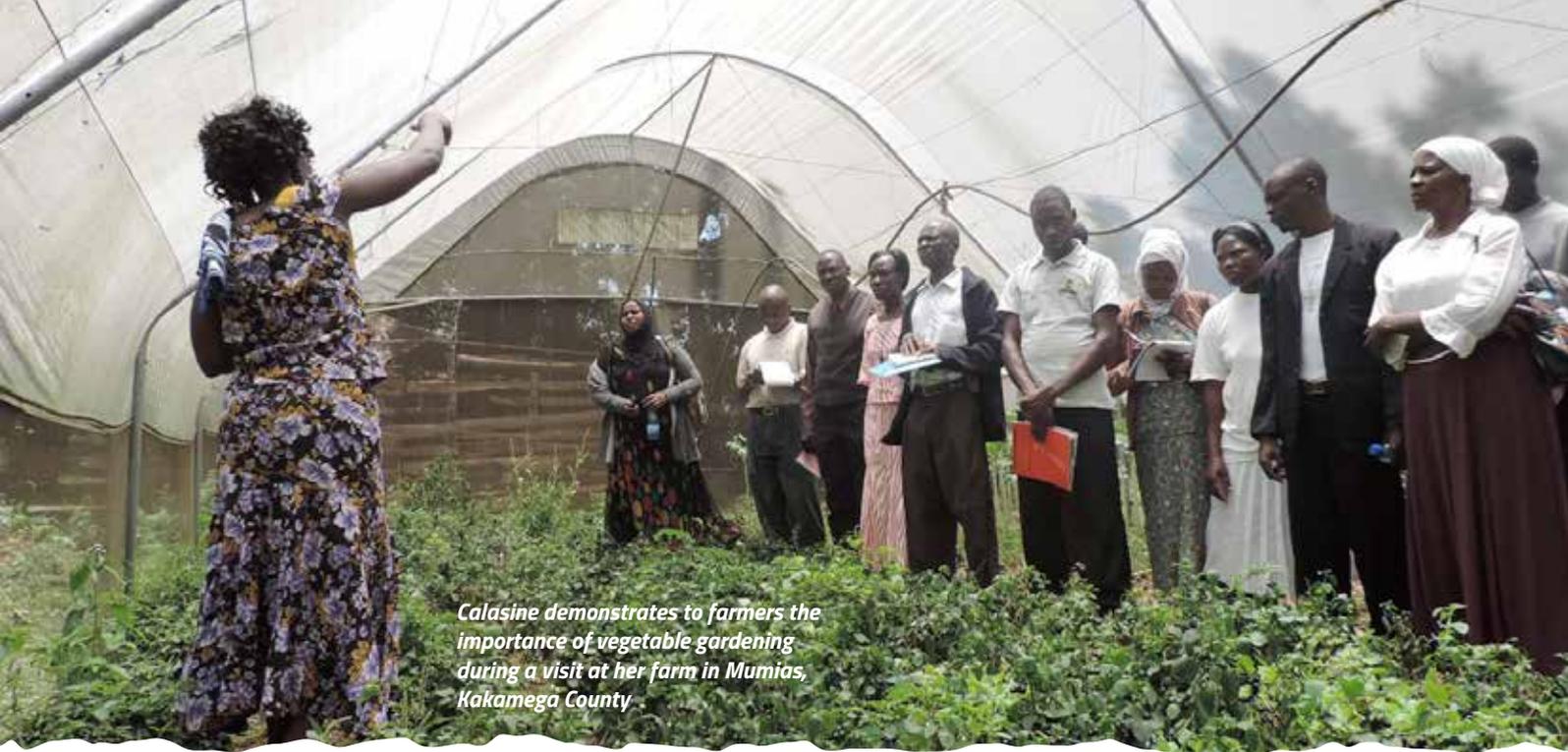
About 88 % of Kenya's rural population relies on wood fuel for household cooking and heating. To reduce dependency on wood fuel, Act! and its partner organisations are empowering communities to reap the benefits of using improved energy-saving stoves to reduce carbon emissions and the destruction of forests

410,000

Indigenous and exotic trees planted in Act! supported regions in Kenya

A woman with a black headband and a blue floral patterned shirt is standing in a cornfield. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is filled with tall green corn plants under a clear blue sky.

Approximately 80 per cent of rural Kenyans rely on agriculture for their livelihood. Innovative methods are thus needed to reach as many people as possible with the right information to enable them address their development needs and ensure food security in Kenya.



Calasine demonstrates to farmers the importance of vegetable gardening during a visit at her farm in Mumias, Kakamega County

Agriculture Interventions

Agriculture remains the backbone of Kenya's economy, but the majority of the farmers living in rural areas continue to rely on outdated farming methods and equipment which, together with poor seed varieties, result in low productivity, fueling the cycle of hunger and poverty.

In line with the programme goal of ensuring active participation in the governance, management and sustainable utilisation of the country's natural resources, Act! and its partners have provided smallholder farmer groups, pastoralists and forest-dependent communities with innovative techniques to address food security, increasing the market-value chain for improved livelihoods.

AT A GLANCE



15: Act! supported partners under the Agriculture Thematic Area



16: Network members constituting 1,020 farmers (412 male, 608 female) embracing indigenous knowledge within the ASAL regions to mitigate climate change impacts



Kshs 91 Million: Allocated under County Budget allocations in three counties as a result of Act! advocacy efforts on adoption of water and indigenous food crops for improved food security



Calasine Makokha in her farm

In Western Kenya, 40-year-old Calasine Makokha, is a good example of farmers who have adapted to new methods in response to the effects of climate change. Her involvement with Act's partner, the Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOOE) has taught her new techniques such as vegetable gardening for the market and household use, whilst helping her plan for the future. *"Through KOOE, I have learned many things," she says. "In the past, I used to grow everything. Now, I know the choice of the crops to grow, when to grow them and how to mulch in order to retain soil moisture."*

Act's capacity-building efforts through her partners, resulted in 4,835 households from poor and marginalised communities practicing agriculture increased their incomes by earning approximately Ksh 79,567,801 as revenue from poultry-keeping, dairy farming, vegetable, fruits and indigenous food crops such as cassava and millet. Similarly, advocacy efforts geared towards adoption and marketing of indigenous food crops resulted in a 50% tax waiver on keg beer manufactured from cassava, millet and sorghum.



"I no longer worry about what my children will eat for breakfast. I just need to extract one tuber from the cassava plant and we are set for the day"

**David Mwalio, a local farmer,
Makueni County**

Nurturing our Ecosystems





Members of Kaya Council of Elders during a meeting on conservation of the kaya forests in Kilifi County. Act! is working with WWF-KCO to build their capacity to better advocate for laws to protect the sacred forests from destruction and grabbing.

Environment Interventions

Act!'s strategy for sustainable environmental management recognises the urgency of acting now if the country's future is to be secured. In line with Kenya's Constitution and Vision 2030 development strategy, Act! and her partner organisations are supporting the country's efforts towards achieving and even surpassing the internationally accepted threshold of at least 10 % forest cover, up from the current 6.9 %.

While this may seem to be a tall order, working with local communities in the targeted areas, Act! partner organisations initiated a number of activities aimed at reducing unsustainable environmental practices such indiscriminate cutting down of trees for charcoal, firewood or timber, destruction of water catchment areas and conservation of kayas (cultural heritage forests) in the coastal region of Kenya.

In the same period, Act! supported the development of 15 Forest Management Plans and 11 Forest Management Agreements. These have been used by community groups and Non State Actors (NSAs) to lobby County Governments for

AT A GLANCE



21: number of Act! supported partners under Environment thematic area.



35: Counties with decentralized environment management policies and practices following Act! supported partners' intervention.



6: National and County policies supported through Act!'s partner organizations



410,000: indigenous and exotic trees planted in over 210 ha of land resulting to increased forest cover in Lamu, Nyeri, Kakamega and Meru counties

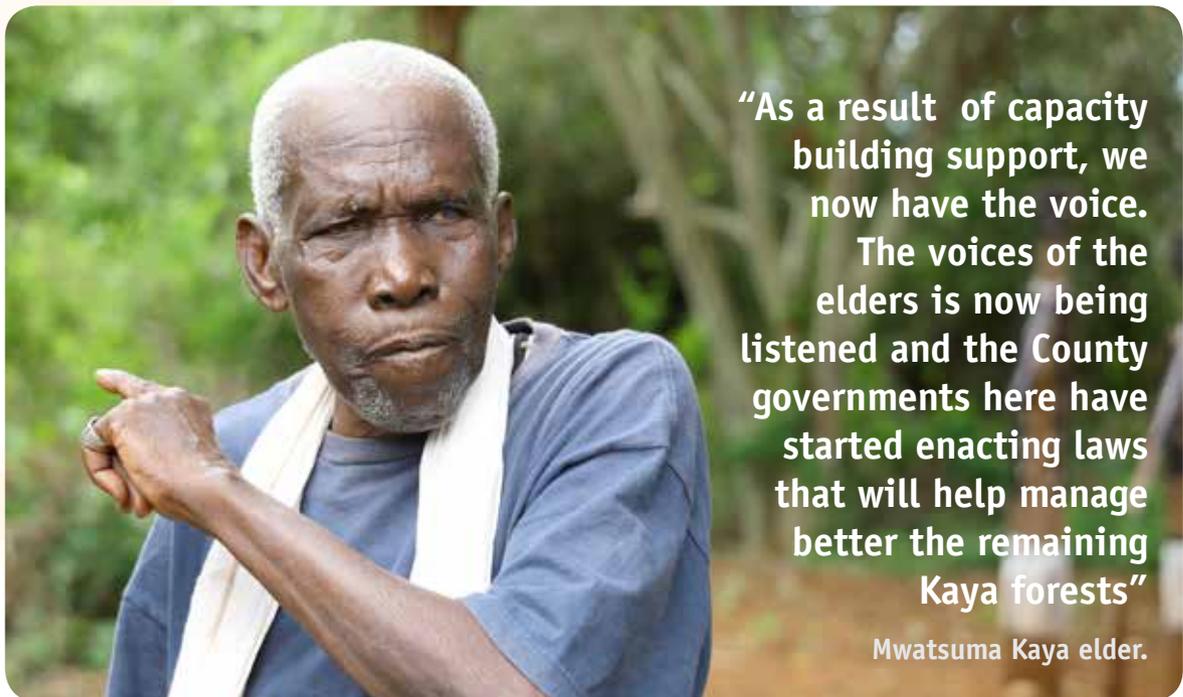
budget allocation to support their implementation. They have also been used as instruments to enable co-management of natural resources between Government departments and communities. For instance, in Lamu, Nyeri, Kakamega and Meru counties, 410,000 indigenous and exotic trees were planted in over 210 hectares of land, resulting in increased forest cover.

At national level and working with our partners, Act! advocated for the formulation of: *the Forest Conservation and Management Bill 2014*; *the National*

Environment Policy 2013; *the National Wetlands Conservation and Management Policy 2013* and *the Environment Management Coordination Bill 2014*. Similarly, Act! support to county governments saw a number of policies and bills developed and submitted for adoption. These are: the Environment Natural Resources Management Bill in Taita Taveta County; the County Forest Conservation and Management Bill in Tharaka Nithi, Kwale, Kilifi, Samburu, Marsabit, Meru, Laikipia, Nyeri and Nyandarua Counties and County Charcoal Policies in Tharaka Nithi and Kitui County.

410,000

Indigenous and exotic trees planted in Act! supported regions in Kenya



“As a result of capacity building support, we now have the voice. The voices of the elders is now being listened and the County governments here have started enacting laws that will help manage better the remaining Kaya forests”

Mwatsuma Kaya elder.



**Protecting our
Soils for the
Future**



Land Interventions

Public and private land are both important national resources, which, if well managed, can improve livelihoods and food security for the country's population. Nonetheless, this is only possible through prudent and sustained land use management. For years, Act! has worked with other non-state actors, Government agencies and communities to address what has been an emotive issue in Kenya, particularly the management of public land, which is often faced with myriad malpractices that include illegal acquisition (grabbing) and irregular allocations.

In 2013/14, Act! supported nine local organisations working in the regions most affected by these malpractices to enhance community participation in land management and legislation processes, whilst increasing knowledge of their rights to land.

In Lari Sub -County, through GROOTS Kenya, the community was supported to map out public land and successfully lobby for the allocation of resources by Kiambu County Government to reclaim grabbed public land for the community.

With the support of Act!, NCKK developed the Mara Ecosystem Land Use Plan in Narok, Bomet and Nakuru Counties. The draft plan won support from more than 137 (110 males and 27 females) community opinion leaders and county government officials. It is anticipated that the Plan will be incorporated into County development frameworks, including the Spatial Development Plans.

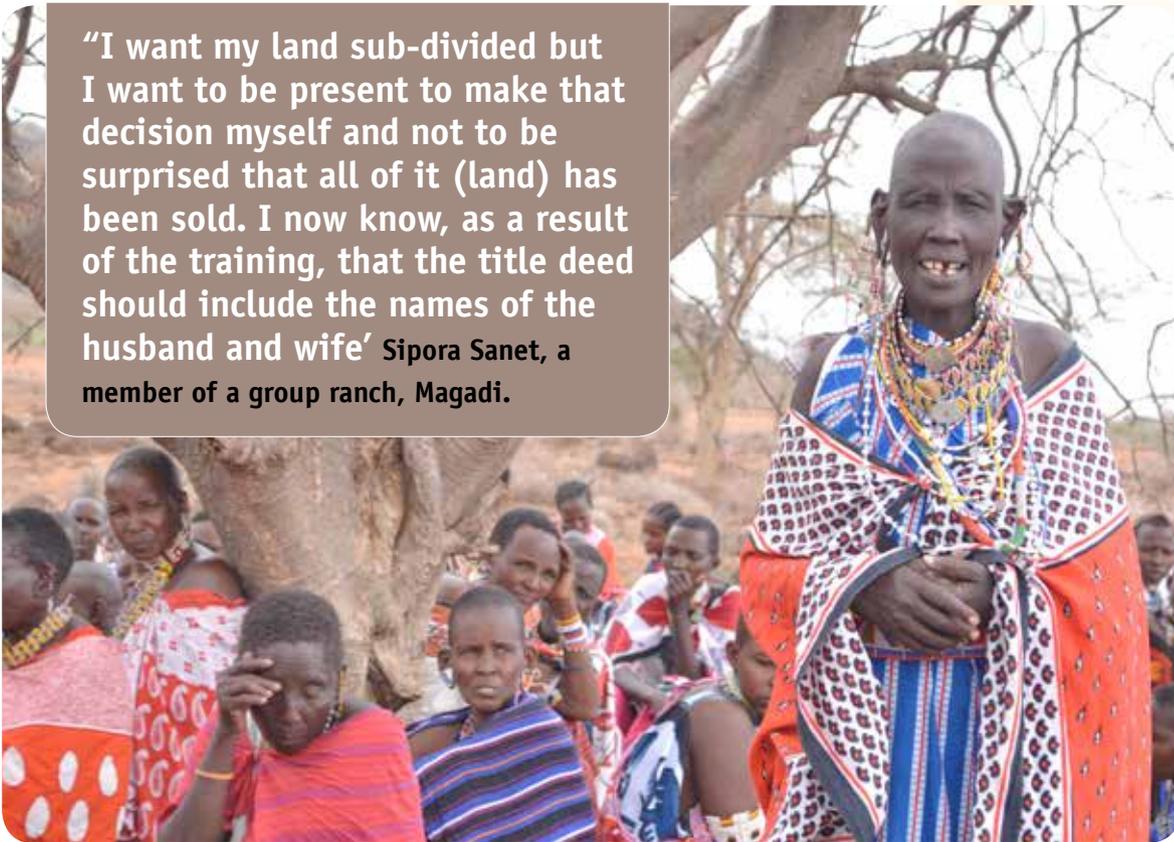
In Kakamega County, the 939 members of the Nabwabini Environmental Health Care Intervention Programme (NEHCIP), adopted climate-smart

farming practices such as double digging, use of composite manure and value addition, resulting in more than 30 farmers reducing use of chemical fertilizers in their farms. As a result, 170 out of the 939 farmers realized increased their incomes, earning on average Ksh 540 per week. Sixty farmers were also linked with local financial institutions for agricultural financing, out of whom 35 have opened savings accounts with financial lending institutions in the area.

Through the Centre for Indigenous Women & Children (CIWOCH), efforts aimed at securing community land among pastoralist communities in Kajiado County resulted in the reclaiming of land in four group ranches in Magadi sub-county and the inclusion of women and youth in group ranch registries, as well as improved land management systems involving the revision and formulation of Group Ranch Constitutions.

9 Local organizations supported to enhance community participation on land management and legislation processes

“I want my land sub-divided but I want to be present to make that decision myself and not to be surprised that all of it (land) has been sold. I now know, as a result of the training, that the title deed should include the names of the husband and wife’ Sipora Sanet, a member of a group ranch, Magadi.



Act's support to the Kenya Lands Conservation Trust (KLCT) saw conservation platforms such as the Masai Mara, and Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancy Association participate in the formulation of Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013. 24 out of the 25 recommendations (99%) in the Act were adopted, including the recognition of wildlife associations.

In Samburu County, Pastoralist Governance and Development Project (PGDP) worked with the

county government to facilitate the formation of five community conservation areas: Baragoi, Nyiro, Ndoto, Ltungai-Malaso and Nkoteyia-Kirisia. Two of them, Karamudang and Lonjoorin have been incorporated into the newly established conservation areas. Five Group Ranch and Conservancy Committees developed by-laws focused on ENRM, while seven Group Ranches and Conservancy Committees have developed Grazing Management Plans.

Enhancing citizen participation in governance





Advocating for **Democratic Space** and **Human Rights**

Act! recognises the need for an empowered citizenry that takes an active role in its own development. Applying a rights-based approach, we have enhanced the capacity of duty bearers to meet their obligations, and of ordinary people and make appropriate demands on civic office holders.

For a decade now, Act! has worked towards building the capacities of communities and those of civic office holders in order to ensure accountability in the management of public resources. Such targeted capacity support has resulted in increased citizen participation in governance processes, both at national and devolved units of governance. Efforts of partners such as Christian Partners Development Agency (CPDA), Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education (CHRCE) and Institute for Civic Education and Development Africa (ICEDA) resulted in increased public participation in the budget making process and the development of county public participation legislation in Kenya.

11,300

Citizens trained on devolved system of governance hence increased public participation in constitutional governance functions

In addition, community-supported dialogue meetings in the informal settlements in Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa paid off with a reduction in

cases of ethnic violence and, greater cohesiveness among the different ethnic groups during the 2013 general elections.

Low participation of citizens in decision-making, especially on policy matters, is still a challenge in Kenya. Working through partner organisations, Act! is committed to ensuring that governments put in place proper mechanisms for citizens' involvement in all matters relating to governance

Notable achievements under this theme include:

- Through her partner organisations, Act! has influenced the formulation of 13 policies and legislations on Devolution, Land, Police/Security Sector, election, women's empowerment
- 11,300 citizens were trained on devolved system of governance, resulting in increased public participation in constitutional governance functions such as county budget formulation



Water for Peace: U/AID Kenya office of Democracy, Rights and Governance Mr. John Smith-Sreen and H.E Deputy Governor Bungoma County Hillary Chongwony during the commissioning of Chepyuk community water project in Mt. Elgon region



VOT
DEFA
KAT
PEA



Restoring **Peace** through **Conflict Transformation**

Act! interventions aimed at peace-building and conflict transformation have produced immeasurable change and successes in the targeted, conflict-prone regions in Kenya. During the period, Act! through her partner organisations facilitated twelve County Peace and Conflict Forums with affected communities in Bomet, Kakamega, Kericho, Kisumu, Mandera, Marsabit, Meru, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Taita Taveta and Wajir counties. This led to a lower incidence of ethnic tension and violence in the run up to the 2013 general elections.

33 peace initiatives conducted by Act!'s partners in the affected counties successfully enhanced people's determination to vote, despite incidents of intimidation on the eve of the 2013 general election. In Kwale County, for instance, an uncharacteristically high voter turn out – indeed the highest in the region's history - was witnessed despite threats and reports of likely attacks by local extremist groups such as the Mombasa Republican Council.

In the Mount Elgon region, the completion of Act!-supported water projects aimed to reconcile warring clans, resulting in reduced incidences of clan and ethnic related conflicts. More than 9,023 households are benefitting directly from the project leading to increased community cohesion and improved livelihoods.

33

Peace initiatives conducted resulting to peaceful voting process in conflict torn regions



**Our food, our
Livelihoods**



Securing **Livelihoods** for the **Poor** and **Marginalized Communities**

Women, youth and people with disabilities have been cited as the most marginalised groups in the current global dispensation. A critical path to improved livelihoods among these groups is a strong economy capable of creating jobs, a fair and accountable government and accessible start-up capital, which they can use to initiate activities that improve the quality of life.

Anchored on the Self Help Group (SGH) approach, Act! is working towards forming and strengthening a 'people's' institution, whose members are the very poor in the community, by giving them a voice and ensuring they participate effectively in decisions that affect them. In Kilifi County, Act! facilitated the formation and capacity strengthening of a Women's Federation, comprising 2,717 members.

With strengthened capacity, the Federation was able to secure funding support amounting to Kshs 3.5 Million (USD 41,667) from the Kilifi Community Development Fund to set up a resource centre, which the women use to share knowledge on entrepreneurship and discuss pertinent development issues in the area.

534

Fisher folk who have embraced seaweed farming for improved livelihood

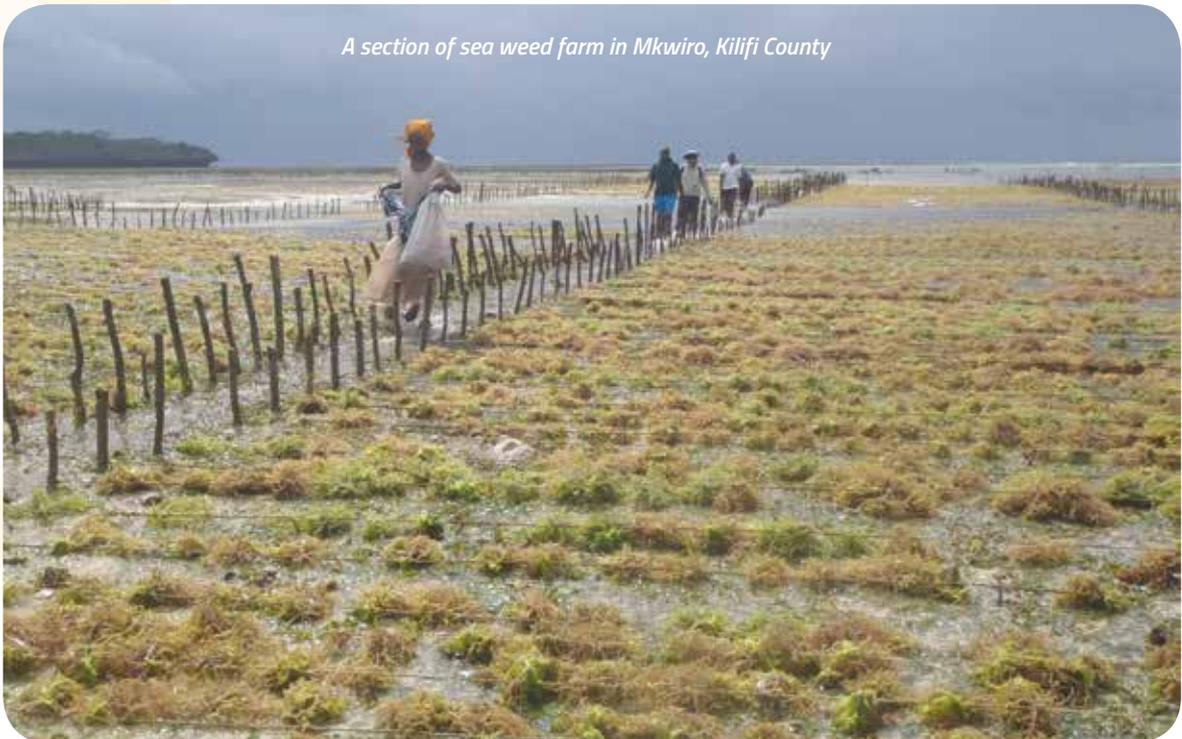
One member corroborates this: *“Before the introduction of SHG approach, we had no voice on many matters relating to the development of our community. We depended on our husbands to meet our household needs. But today, as a result of training, we now see the endless possibilities that exist amidst us. Such empowerment has seen a number of our members take up leadership positions in the community in such community governance structures as village development committees, land committees, village elders’ committees, health committees, school committees and church committees. In these committees, women confidently give their views on how best we can address development challenges in the area”.*

Despite limited markets, commercialization of seaweed farming has had a substantial impact on the lives of communities that used not to be involved in farming. In Msabweni and Mkwiro, in Kwale and Kilifi Counties respectively, 1,952 seaweed farms and 4 drying centres have created additional employment for 534 people who are former fishermen.

**Ksh 3.5
Million**

Funding Kilifi Women Federation received following Act! Capacity Building support

A section of sea weed farm in Mkwiro, Kilifi County



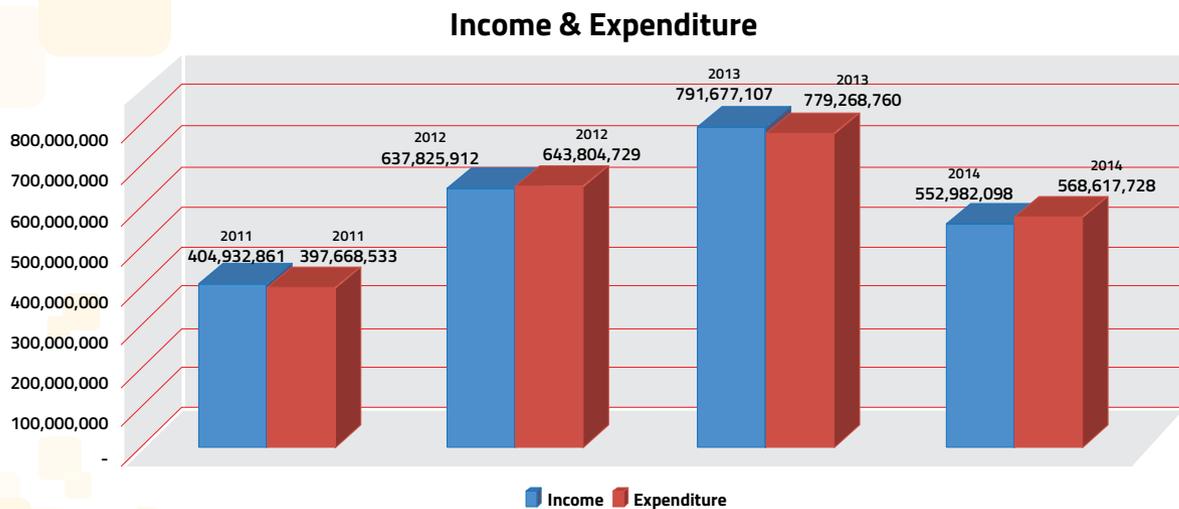


How we spent our Resources

Act! is committed to remain transparent and accountable to the communities we serve and to those who provide the resources for its work. In the period under review, we scrutinised our processes and procedures as part of continuing efforts aimed to improve our operational efficiency in the context of an ever-changing environment. Implementing partner organisations were equally supported through capacity development interventions and accompanying processes to improve on their operational processes and procedures.

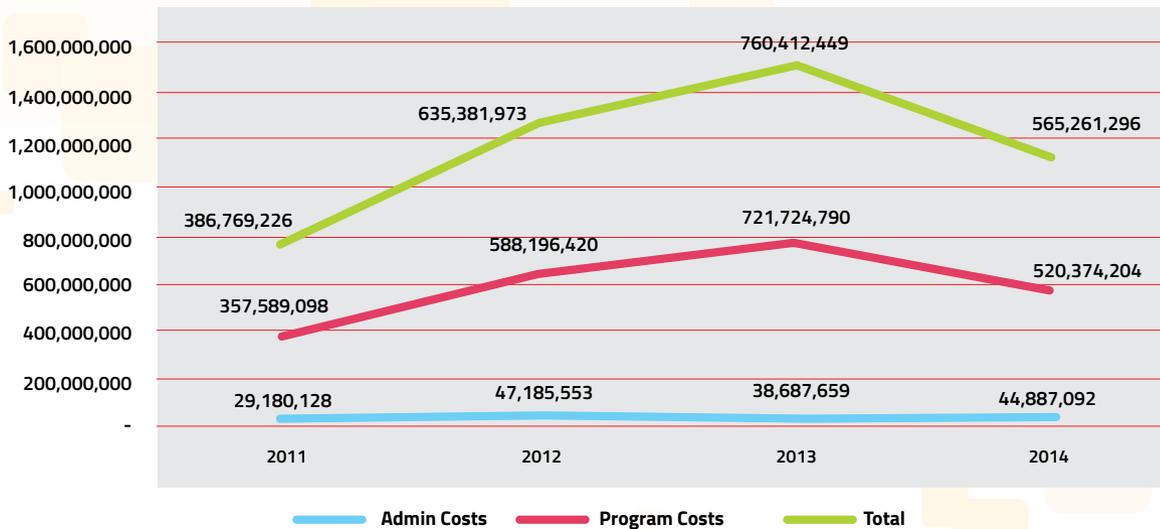
During the period 2013/14, Act!'s income amounted to **Ksh 1,372,427,572**, a **32%** increase over the previous period. Total expenditure grew by 90.6% from 2011 to 2013. Of this, administrative costs accounted for just eight per cent of the total.

Act! maintains administrative costs at 8% of total expenditure



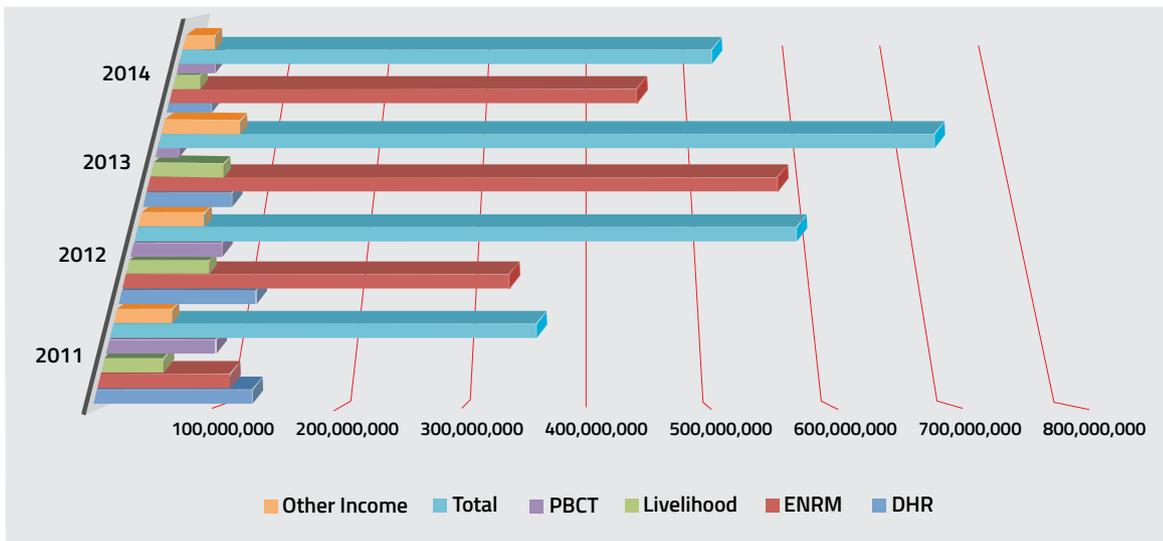
Income from Environment and Natural Resources Management programme has grown since 2011. In 2013 the growth stood at 445.7% compared to 2011 and 462% in 2014. This growth was as a result of increase in funding to our ENRM programme portfolio in 2013. Income from the Livelihood programme grew by 60% in 2013 compared with 2011. Democracy, Human Rights and Peace Building and Conflict Transformation programmes declined in 2013 compared to 2011 by 43% and 90% respectively. Peace Building and Conflict Transformation has begun to show growth following new USAID funding under the Strengthening Community Resilience against Extremism (SCORE) program.

Admin Costs vs Program Costs



Our commitment is to ensure we remain transparent and accountable to the communities we serve, to our partner organisations, to our donors and to the Government

Income Analysis by Platforms



**Pooling resources
to achieve more**



Generous Partners Supporting Act!'s Mission

Act!'s work is made possible through diverse funding sources and strategic partnerships that include national governments, multinational development agencies, corporations and foundations. We appreciate their trust and gratefully acknowledge their support over the years.

Funding Partners



Board of Directors

Act!'s governance comprises a Board of Directors drawn from diverse competencies such as finance and grants management, legal, capacity development and civil society sector expertise. The Board provides policy, financial and strategic direction as well as overall oversight.



Chris Ngovi, Board Chair
- 25 years experience in Grants management and Finance



Irene Gathinji, Treasurer - Over 25 years' experience in organisational capacity development in Kenya and Africa in general



Anne Nyabera, Executive Director/Secretary
- Over 15 years of experience in programme management in civil society, bilateral and multilateral agencies



Dennis Kabaara, Member - Over 25 years corporate experience in analysis and advisory on business strategy, public policy, socio-economic, financial, organisational and human resource development



Hephzibah Beulah, Member - Over 15 years of experience in advocacy, youth empowerment and community development

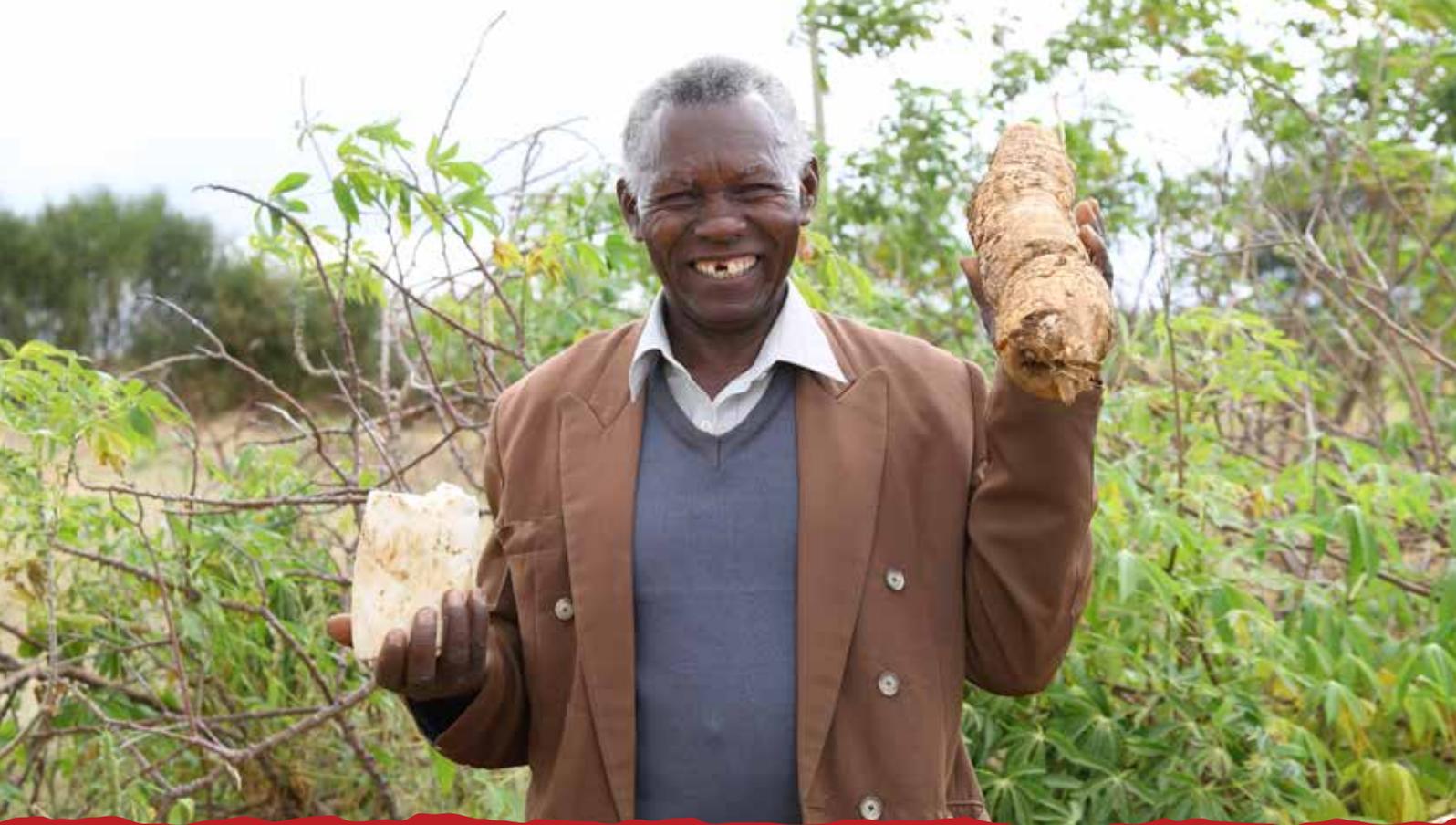


Titus Syengo, Member - Over 16 years' experience in training, education, communication, management operations, programme development, information technology and leadership in civil society organisations in the Eastern African region



Francis A. Aywa, Member - Over 15 years experience in civil society, governance and grants management





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