



PROFILE FOR THE KIRISIA COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION – K-CFA



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BACKGROUND TO KIRISIA FOREST ECOSYSTEM.

The Kirisia forest is located in Samburu County transcending across the three Sub-County boundaries of Samburu Central, Samburu North and Samburu East. Kirisia hills forms the larger part of the Leroghi plateau that are topographically the highest altitude in the largely arid and semi-arid regions of Samburu County.

Samburu County occupies an area of 20,826Km², 3.6% of which is under forest cover.

Kirisia Forest (locally known as Leroghi) measures 91,944Ha comprises of gazetted dry montane forest reserve, covering the Kirisia Hill at an altitude of between (2000-2200m) above sea level.

It is one of the oldest state forests reserve in Kenya gazetted in the year 1933.

At the moment Kenya only has a tree cover of 1.7%, with Kirisia Forest accounting for over 6% of the remaining indigenous forest cover in Kenya (Rona Birnie –Wilderness Foundation).

Kirisia forest and the ecosystem around it is one of the greatest water towers in Kenya that is maintaining the Samburu heartland as a functional ecosystem supporting pastoral livelihoods and a key habitat for wildlife and Carbon storage.

The seven seasonal rivers to the east (Barsaloi, opiroi, Suyan) and four to the western side (Baawa area) of the

Kirisia hills are the main source of water for the lowlands inhabitants around the Kirisia hills. Communities from the South eastern side (Seiyia, Maibae, Swari) rely on ground water emanating from the Kisisia forest.



Baawa River

A baseline Survey carried out by Suyan Trust supported by FAO in March 2021, confirmed that Kirisia forest is richly endowed with varied types and species of flora and fauna that form part of its unique biodiversity and natural ecosystem. The Survey confirmed sightings for 37 different mammal species, 327 different species of birds, 103 butterflies, 450 species of plants including grasses and a few reptiles and amphibians.

The Forest is under the management of the Kenya Forest Service and Kirisia CFA. The surrounding land around the forest is sub-divided into group ranches.

Kirisia forest has had a history of improper exploitation of its resources and products owing to intense human activity and settlements that led to

rampant deforestation caused by illegal logging and charcoal burning. A baseline Survey carried out 2021 by Suyan Trust on Kirisia Forest Ecosystem established that the forest degradation is as a result of the combined effects of human settlements, forest fires, and illegal logging. The report indicated that there were 620 human settlements or Manyattas in the forest, 96 fire incidences recorded and 318 indigenous trees cut down or logged.



Logging at Kirisia forest.

Forest fires are largely attributable to crude traditional honey collection methods by the local inhabitants living within and outside the forest. 96 such incidences were witnessed just in two days through aerial surveillance that was carried out



Location and Arial view of Kirisia Forest.

during a Baseline survey data collection exercise in 2005.

The uncontrolled settlement into the Kirisia forest was occasioned years back by the persistent insecurity and frequent drought in Samburu North and parts of Samburu central that led to an unprecedented wave of internal displacement.

The migrants therefore moved into the heart of Kirisia forest as a safe haven and source of pasture for the families and livestock.

It was until the year 2019 that a multi-stakeholder initiative was mooted by KFS and FAO through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) stepped in to restore and safe the Kirisia forest ecosystem.

The intense community sensitization led by the CFA, FAO, KFS, Samburu County Government and other stakeholders finally bore fruits given that the over 10,000 people who occupied the Kirisia forest, voluntarily moved out of the forest, marking the onset of the renewed efforts to restore and conserve the forest ecosystem.

1. Vision

To be a leader in Community based Environmental and bio-diversity conservation for Kirisia forest and its environs.

2. Mission statement

To support and promote community led Conservation initiatives for the sustainable management and restoration of Kirisia Forest as a gateway for an improved standards of living and socio-economic transformation of the communities and residents of Samburu County.

3. Core objective.

To promote and strengthen Community based biodiversity conservation and restoration of Kirisia Forest Ecosystem.

4. Specific objectives.

- i. Promote the sustainable use of the biological, ecological, environmental and socio-cultural values and products of Kirisia forest.
- ii. Secure and protect the Kirisia forest Ecosystem and its natural resources from degradation and over exploitation by human and natural calamities.
- iii. Manage, restore, and rehabilitate the degraded ecosystem of Kirisia forest and its environs.
- iv. Carryout continuous community education, sensitization and awareness creation on the conservation and management of Kirisia forest and its ecosystem.
- v. Initiate and establish alternative livelihoods interventions for the communities surrounding Kirisia forest to reduce over dependence on the forest resources for livelihood.
- vi. Institute participatory measures and plans for sustainable utilization of the forest flora and fauna including grazing management.
- vii. Strengthen the institutional capacity of Kirisia Community Forest Association to manage, restore and conserve the Kirisia forest ecosystem.

5. Mandate and Obligations.

The CFA draws its mandate from the Kirisia Forest Management Agreement between Kenya Forest Service and the Kirisia Community Forest Association (KCFA) for a five year renewable period as from 2023 to 2028. The mandate and official obligations of the CFA are as follows:

- I. The Association shall protect, conserve and manage the forest or part thereof pursuant to this Management Agreement and the provisions of the approved management plan for Kirisia Forest.
- II. The CFA will protect Sacred Grooves and protected trees species for Kirisia forest.

- III. The Association shall assist the KFS in enforcing the provisions of the Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016 and any rules and regulations made pursuant hitherto, in particular relating to illegal harvesting of forest produce and game hunting.
- IV. The Association shall inform the KFS of any new developments, changes and Occurrences within the forest that is critical to the biodiversity conservation of the forest ecosystem.
- V. The Association shall take part in fire fighting and prevention measures and will help in combating and dealing with fire outbreaks.
- VI. The Association shall maintain an inventory and database of its members, employees, agents and will continuously update and furnish the KFS with information on the same as required and upon request.
- VII. The association shall maintain and preserve all written record of all activities undertaken within the forest for a period of six years in reference to date and time of this agreement.
- VIII. The Association shall comply with the laws governing any Commercial activities it may venture in, that it should be partaken in accordance with the existing legal regulations geared towards the protection and conservation of Kirisia Foret

6. Formation of Kirisia Community Forest Association (K-CFA).

After failed attempts to form a functional Community Forest Association for Kirisia in the previous years, a breakthrough was realized in the year 2019 after the community accented to the idea to form Kirisia Community Forest Association.

Key community conservation advocates teamed up with FAO and other stakeholders to undertake a comprehensive community mobilization and sensitization exercise that led to a mutual consensus to deal with the destruction of the Kirisia Forest ecosystem particularly by clearing the forest of illegal settlers and inhabitants.

Following the concerted efforts by the multi-sectoral partners the Kirisia Community Forest Association was born and formed in the year 2019, as joint venture bringing together three existing CFAs blocks that were dissolved to form the Kirisia Community Forest Association (K-CFA)



Community meeting during CFA elections

The three dissolved community groups were transformed into regional community blocks for the K-CFA, included Naramat representing the

urban sub-area, Nkarro representing Baawa and Lodojekejek sub-area and Nailepunye representing Angata Nayokie, Apiroi and Lbukoi Sub-area.

The forest conservation and management was therefore categorized into the three blocks namely; Naramat, Nailepunye and Nkarro all of which fall under the management of Kirisia Community Forest Association.

The Kirisia Community Forest Association was therefore formed and registered on 30th July 2019 under the Department of the Societies Act cap 108 laws of Kenya Reg. NO 32540.

The CFA is mandated to Manage and conserve the Kirisia Forest in conjunction with the KFS and other relevant stakeholders.



CFA Chairman addressing a Community Sensitization meeting

(c) CFA management

The Kirisia Community Forest Association is Managed on behalf of the Community by a six member elected Executive committee members composed of the executive Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Orgernizing Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Secretary, and Vice Treasurer. There exist also a Management Committee that comprises of the Executive Committee members and additional community members representing women, youth and persons representing the three CFA blocks

7. VOLUNTARY RELOCATION FROM THE FOREST

The rampant and bloody insecurity in Samburu North and parts of Samburu central Sub-Counties has over the years led to massive displacement of the pastoralist communities who moved en-mass into Kirisia forest to seek for a safe haven and pasture for their households and livestock.

Since then further encroachment into the forest became a common norm and free for all tendency for the displaced pastoralist and many other neighboring populations living around Kirisia forest.

As such over 5,000 households found their way into the forest and established their residential *Manyattas* and *Bomas*.

Kirisia forest, has for the last few years been subjected to massive and uncontrolled destruction of its ecosystem arising from the illegal logging especially extraction of cedar and unregulated collection of firewood and charcoal production. These threats have depleted the ecological stability of the Kirisia forest ecosystem which consequently affected the species population, diversity, structure and composition.

Previous efforts by the Government and Non Governmental partners to Secure and evacuate settlers out of Kirisia forest were met with hostility by the community members and Samburu County leadership. The whole idea as misinterpreted as an ill motivated plan to evict and disrupt the livelihoods of the affected households whereas the politicians worked against the idea as a way of gaining political mileage and support from those residing in the forest and beyond.

Efforts to form a CFA were equally futile and negatively conceived in 2011 as the community and Samburu County leadership remained adamant and declared a status quo towards any efforts to conserve Kirisia forest. The stalemate to safe Kirisia forest was unlocked in 2019 by KFS and FAO leading to the inception and formation of Kirisia Community Forest Association. The said partners owe their success to a new approach and strategy that is community led

and mutually implemented with other stakeholders.



Flagging-off the voluntary relocation.

Following a one year period of thorough and intensive community sensitization, mobilization and consultation, a breakthrough and a consensus was realized for a voluntary relocation and movement out of the forest by all the households living inside the gazetted forest land.

This monumental milestone was attributable to various closed door consultation meetings with the leadership fraternity and other stakeholders coupled by 102 community sensitization meetings that were conducted through the support from FAO and KFS.

The above concerted efforts by the CFA, KFS, FAO and Suyan Trust among other stakeholders, culminated into a consensus with the leadership and the affected communities to voluntarily relocate and move out of the forest as opposed to forceful eviction as has been the tradition in other parts of the country with illegal settlers in gazette forests.

The relocation and voluntary movement of households commenced in December,

2019 through to 12th March 2020 when the last household vacated out of the forest. The settlers dispersed and relocated to various group ranches and community land across the three sub-counties bordering Kirisia, with many of the households moving to settlements and group ranches in Angata Nanyokie, Baawa, Maralal, Wamba North and Elbarta Wards.



Households demolish their manyattas for relocation.

The Communities through the CFA requested for assistance and support

to move their belongings to the new homesteads. This request was honored by National Government through CS for Environment and Natural Resources and the KFS having provided five Lorries to facilitate the movement and relocation of 667 households out of the Kirisia forest. It is estimated that a total population 10,000 people evacuation from the Kirisia forest by March 2020.



Households facilitated to move out of the forest

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSERVATION MILESTONES SO FAR:

1. Mass tree planting

Tree planting is one of the most critical activities that is vital for the restoration of the Kirisia forest ecosystem that was apparently badly depleted and degraded. In the long-term and as part of its routine activities the KFS and the KCFA will continuously undertake to massively plant trees in Kirisia forest. To kick start this critical venture the KCFA in conjunction with the KFS launched a mass tree planting operation on 30th December 2019.



Communal tree planting exercise in Kirisia forest

The initiatives to conserve and restore Kirisia Forest elicited the full participation of the National and International stakeholders as evidenced by the presence of the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources Mr. Keriako Tobiko accompanied by Chief Conservator of Forests who presided the exercise.

A total of 10,000 tree seedlings were planted on this single day. Samburu County Parliamentary legislators and the County Government officials led by the Deputy Governor also graced the occasion.

To date a total of 150,000 tree seedlings have been planted in Kirisia forest specifically on the 80 acres of the degraded forest land that is inhabited by the pastoral communities before the voluntary relocation out of the forest. This major milestones and achievements associated with the KCFA were made possible by the timely support coming from the KFS, Suyan Trust and FAO, all of which walked the entire journey with the community up and until the full realization of the desired outcomes and target objectives.



Launch of the tree planting exercise by Cabinet Secretary for ENR, the Chief Forester and the Samburu West MP

Security and Protection of Kirisia forest.

The Kirisia Forest Community Association and the KFS constituted and engaged a joint security workforce of 34 Government forest rangers and 64 Community Rangers to protect and provide security to the Kirisia forest on daily basis. In addition there are also over 100 community rangers from across the three community blocks who are voluntarily involved in the protection of the forest.

The joint team conducts daily patrols within the forest to counter and any illicit activities and fire outbreaks in the forest.



Community Rangers and Scouts manning Kirisia forest.

A patrol base or camp has been established in Tamiyoi that is located at the Kirisia forest borderline in the outskirts of Maralal town. The establishment of the Tamiyoi camp along with and facilitation of the community rangers was and is made possible through the support of the Suyian Trust which until now is the main partner supporting the day to day operations of the K-CFA.

- **Development of KIRISIA Ecosystem Management plan.**

The KFS together with other partners/stakeholders supported the development of the Kirisia forest Ecosystem Management Plan (2019-2029).

The plan spells out the immediate, medium-term and long-term conservation and management plans and activities for Kirisia forest including the role to played by the various stakeholders and the planned strategies to achieve the desired objectives over the ten year period.



Launch of the Kirisia Forest management plan.

- **Development of Participatory Forest Agreement.**

The Kirisia Forest Participatory Forest Agreement (PFMA) was developed and operationalized as a living document that spells out the terms of engagement between the KFS and the CFA. The five year agreement was entered in the year 2022 and will remain viable until 2027 for further review and determination.

- **Development of Forest Restoration Strategy and implementation plan.**

Kirisia restoration strategy was developed and its Implementation involved tree planting, regeneration and rehabilitation of degraded sites. The document was developed through the support from ACTED project Kenya.

- **Infrastructure development and Fire Management initiatives.**

During the five years since the onset of the Kirisia Forest restoration plans and initiatives in 2019, various infrastructural activities have been put place to enable the implementation of the Forest conservation and restoration strategy that is pursued by the KCFA and other partners led by the KFS. Key among them;

- a. Two Watch Towers were erected to monitor Forest fires and any other illicit activities in the forest.
- b. A 20 Km road have done improved to facilitate movement within the Forest.
- c. Establishment of eight community-based well equipped Scouts/rangers camps sites.
- d. Formation and strengthening of 12 community user right groups for forest resources management and utilization.

- e. Four patrol motorcycles were provided and availed to the CFA scouts through support from Suyian Trust
- f. Establishment of the CFA office that is well equipped with furniture, three Laptops and other office appliances.

Kirisia Forest Designation to an IBA standard.

The Kirisia forest is home to 372 different types of bird species including a rare species of the African vulture whose breeding point is at the Opiroi cliff that is situated in Kirisia hills. This unique endowment for Kirisia forest has been at the center of enduring research and conservation work undertaken by the leading national and international conservationists led by Suyian Trust.

Sustaining a stable ecosystem for Kirisia forest is critical to survival of the numerous bird species that has is abundant and thriving under the fragile nature of forest.



Rupellis vulture species in Kirisia forest that is critically endangered.

In recognition to the unique nature of Kirisia forest as a bird Sanctuary the forest Ecosystem was crowned and elevated to the status of an Important Bird Area in the year 2020 by the International Conservation partners. This move has once again put the Kirisia forest in the Global map and is recognized worldwide as unique ecosystem that is home to the highest bird species some of who are rare and considered endangered.

Alternative Livelihoods support Initiatives.

- The Samburu Pastoralist communities and the largely beekeeping Ndorobo section of the Samburu tribe have build a life support system around the flora and fauna within Kirisia forest. To break this cycle of over dependence on the forest for livelihood the CFA with the support of FAO, the Suyan Trsut and other partners have assisted the communities to venture into alternative income generating activities that are environmental friendly and promote the Kirisia forest conservation initiatives. As stated below a number of initial alternative livelihood interventions have been established as we look forward to further expand on this

strategic objective that will greatly complement the Kirisia conservation efforts and plans.

- Establishment of Agro-forestry tree nursery at Tamiyoi Patrol camp.
- Establishment of 12 mega Apiaries each all of which are equipped with 550 beehives in total.
- Establishment of Four mega tree nurseries and seven village based tree nurseries in the three Community blocks. The nurseries which also serve as source of income for the community members are run and managed by community based group.
- Three groups supported to undertake poultry farming.
- Disbursed Ksh 600,000.00 to sixty charcoal burners who received Ksh. 10,000 each to start small micro businesses to ease forest pressure from charcoal production.
- Employment of 60 community forest scouts to Mann the forest from illicit human activities and destruction. A monthly stipend of ksh. 5000 per month is paid per person and are also provided with a complete security combat. These recurrent operational costs are met through the support from the Suiyan Trust.
- **Bee-keeping** – Beekeeping is one the most viable alternative and environmentally alternative income generating activities that can fits into the pastoralist lifestyles of the Samburu community. Beekeeping is also more suitable due to the favourable environment brought about by the conducive Kirisia forest ecosystem. The CFA established 12 beekeeping apiaries across the three community blocks having distributed 550 modern top bar hives. The beekeeping initiative has been successful and has served as alternative source of income and livelihood for the respective beekeeping groups drawn from the CFA membership. It is in our immediate plans to expand the beekeeping initiative by recruiting and training more beekeepers and more importantly establish a refinery for purposes of valuation and create a broad market base for the product.



Honey harvesting by the CFA beekeeping group equipped with harvesting equipment.

GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – From a humble beginning to a Global Achievement award.

The exceptional efforts and strategic approach to restore and conserve Kirisia forest as spearheaded by the CFA, the KFS, FAO, Suyan Trust and other partners did not go unnoticed by the national and international development partners and stakeholders.

The multi-stakeholders and community led approach that resulted to the voluntary relocation and evacuation of the illegal settlements out of the forest as opposed to forceful eviction was lauded and recognized by the Government of Kenya and the international partners as being a great milestone and achievement of its own kind. The landmark accomplishments put Kirisia forest and the Kirisia Community Forest Association on the global map after winning a UN-FAO Global Achievement Award that is domiciled in Rome, Italy.

The award by no means has crowned our country KENYA and the partners involved as champions of conservation in the world stage having emerged as number one out of the 197 organizations that are under FAO assistance globally.

The award was accompanied by a monetary complement of 10,000 US Dollars that was meant to boost the conservation and rehabilitation initiatives for Kirisia forest.



CFA Chairman being presented with the Global Achievement Award by the FAO Director General in Rome Italy.

The grand Global award ceremony was attended by the K-CFA Chairman Mr. Douglas Leboyare an ardent Conservation crusader for Kirisia forest who was in the forefront of transforming the Community's agenda on Kirisia forest leading to the formation of Kirisia Community Forest Association.

We proudly appreciate and equally recognize the passionate and un-measurable joint efforts by our close partners led by the KFS, FAO (GEF Program), the Suyan Trust and the Samburu County Government as we celebrate and scale up the Kirisia forest Conservation to the highest levels.



CFA Chairman attending the Award presentation ceremony at FAO headquarters in Rome Italy.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION.

1. Food Agricultural Organization – FAO

The FAO –GEF program in Samburu was focused at improving pastoral livelihoods through mitigation of effects of climate change by instituting and strengthening community led conservation initiatives for Kirisia forest.

The FAO project initiated and implemented activities that were geared towards making the Kirisia forest more productive and sustainable by strengthening the forest ecosystem management and capacity building of key stakeholders including the Community.

FAO Project played a key and pivotal role in spearheading the Kirisia forest Conservation and restoration initiatives. The enduring partnership between FAO and the community is credited for the exceptional results and outcomes that led to the formation of the Kirisia Community Forest Association and the eventual voluntary relocation from the forest land. These great milestones could not have been realized without the dedicated and strategic programmatic inputs that involved intense community and stakeholder

mobilization and sensitization for a whole year prior to the breakthrough that culminated into a voluntary evacuation from Kirisia forest.

The institutional establishments and colossal achievements that are associated with by the KCFA and Kirisia forest conservation are highly attributable to the FAO Project financial and technical support and partnership.

Suyian Trust.

The Suyian Trust is one of the key partner organizations working on the field of Conservation in Samburu County and is by extension one of the main partners supporting the conservation and restoration of Kirisia forest through the KCFA. Suyian Trust has been in the forefront of the initial efforts leading to the restoration and conservation of Kirisia forest and the resultant formation of the Kirisia Community Forest Association.

The Suyian Trust has continued to extend financial and technical support to the K-CFA and has been the main source funds facilitating the day to day operations of the Association. The Suyian Trust has supported the establishment of the Tamiyoi patrol camp for the KFS and Community Rangers including the employment of the 41 community rangers who are currently among the Kirisia forest protection force.

This support also includes a monthly food package for the ----Rangers who are based in the Tamiyoi Patrol base. The main operational costs of the KCFA are also being funded by the Suyian Trust in addition to routine community engagement and mobilization meetings.

The Community through the CFA received further support financial and or technical support from KFS, Samburu County Government, FSK, ACTED, East African and wildlife service, World Vision, NRT.

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

1. Community ownership.

The CFA has developed and put in place participatory measures and community channels that have elicited the full participation of the community in the management and conservation of Kirisia forest. The CFA has established grassroots committees and volunteers based in each of the three community blocks through which the community is actively involved in the day to day management of the Kirisia forest. The Community voluntarily conducts meetings to discuss any upcoming issues concerning the forest and the neighboring communities.

The communities have on many occasions supported the CFA to combat forest fires in addition to giving reports on illegal activities within the forest. The community and CFA committees' carryout routine surveillance and monitoring human activities and incidental occurrence of natural calamities within the forest.

2. Regeneration of the Forest Ecosystem.

The five years of intense forest conservation and restoration campaign yielded positive outcomes part of which included regeneration of the forest ecosystem. The revived the forest ecosystem ultimately led to favorable weather conditions within and around the forest ecological areas. The Kirisia hills water catchment potential was also restored, and hence the water sources including rivers and springs downstream to the surrounding communities.

Besides, there is also a renewed rejuvenation of tree and forest cover including grass owing to the minimal human activity within the forest. These positive outcomes has had an equal positive impact on people's lives particularly among the women folks who can now spend less time fetching water as opposed to the long distance to water sources when the streams were dry.

The increased forage and availability of pasture for the pastoralist during the dry seasons has immense positive effects to the pastoralist households ranging from improved body weight for the livestock, minimal lose of livestock to drought and banditry given the internal migration to banditry prone areas is no longer the norm due to the controlled grazing in the forest during the dry season



Rejuvenated pasture and forest cover at Kirisia Forest.

3. Return of the Wildlife species.

The historic voluntary evacuation out of the Kirisia forest has had far reaching positive and replenishing effects to the forest ecosystem and its biodiversity resource base. The minimal human activity within forest ultimately gave way to the rejuvenation of the forest flora and fauna back to its natural form. Following the restored natural ecosystem of Kirisia forest, various wildlife species found their way back to the forest to reclaim their lost territories and migratory routes. The bulging elephant numbers, lions, hyenas, different bird species, buffalos, Grevy's zebras, elands, bushbucks, bushpigs, warthogs, sunis, leopards, and wild dogs. and many other

wildlife categories, is a clear pointer to the fact that the Kirisia forest ecosystem is back to its natural form.

The stable ecosystem that is now home to various wildlife species will henceforth boost the tourist potential of Kirisia forest and define it as a new tourist destination. This will consequently open way for the establishment of eco-tourism activities and amenities that will translate to the socio-economic transformation of the pastoralist livelihoods through the accruing income and investments.



Burchells zebra - Tamiyoi

3. Restoration of peace within and without the CFA territorial boundaries.

The CFA and the community blocks have put in place internal grazing plans within the forest during the dry season. This arrangement has saved the lives of the beneficiary community as regards to the pastoral conflict between the pastoralist groups within and across borders as they compete for pasture and water for their livestock.

The CFA through its grassroots structures and committees have instituted and adopted mechanisms to deal with internal cattle rustling incidences by recovering, reporting and following up cases of banditry that occur within CFA and even beyond its boundaries.

3. Adaptation of institutionalized community led forest restoration, rehabilitation and Re-forestation activities.

The CFA through intensive advocacy and education has created a culture of re-forestation amongst institutions and individual households. Since the inception of the CFA, many households and institutions have adopted a culture of tree planting and have established agro-forestry farms in their homesteads and schools. Over 50 primary and Secondary schools were supplied with tree seedlings for planting in their respective schools. The four tree nurseries that were established by the CFFA is the main source of seedlings to the several households and schools that have embraced agro-forestry in their homes and institutions respectively.

4. Grazing Management.

The three community blocks forming the CFA have taken upon themselves to develop and implement grazing plans that have been endorsed by the CFA management as a way of curbing encroachment and ensuring the prudent and sustained utilization of pasture within the forest during the dry seasons of the year.

The community has therefore strongly appreciated and in support of the Kirisia forest conservation and restoration plans and strategies.

The grazing management strategy have to a large extend minimized movement of livestock to banditry prone areas

and have therefore brought about peace and served as conflict resolution mechanism that have only saved the lives of the pastoralist herders but that have also ensured the survival and security of their herds from cattle rustling.

The new grazing pattern and formula for the pastoralist community has had a profound positive impact on their lives and livelihoods given that young herders could now spare more of the time on constructive activities including business with a good number voluntarily participating in CFA conservation activities.

The KCFA will in the immediate future formalize the community grazing management plans as a move to further regulate and ensure a sustainable of utilization resources within Kirisia forest.

FUTURE PLANS AND STRATEGIES.

The Conservation and restoration of Kirisia forest has come a long way over the past few years starting from a humble but passionate beginning to a Global award winning intervention. Strategic inputs put in place by the National Government through the KFS and other partners including FAO and Suyan Trust have supported the Kirisia Community Forest Association to undertake initial infrastructural development and establishments that have opened the way for an operational and sustained conservation and restoration of Kirisia forest.

The CFA is now endowed with the necessary institutional framework and structures to carryout routine management and conservation of Kirisia forest.

The CFA has a well established joint security workforce operating in Tamiyoi patrol base for routine monitoring and protection of Kirisia forest. The security team which is under the management of the KFS Maralal office and the CFA management is also supported by the Suyan Trust.

Through the above physical and institutional structures that are already in place, the CFA has laid a strong foundation to ably carryout community based biodiversity conservation of Kirisia forest.

Going forward the CFA and in collaboration with its partners including the KFS, FAO and Suayn Trust will build on the achievements so far to further initiate and institute more comprehensive conservation measures and activities for Kirisia forest.

The CFA will therefore endeavor to pursue the following strategic long-term, medium term and immediate plans and activities in order to further strengthen the management and conservation of Kirisia forest.

- i. Establishment of Ecotourism initiatives and amenities to tap on the tourism potential of Kirisia forest, the proceeds of which will support the CFA operations and also complement community livelihoods and income.
- ii. Initiate alternative livelihoods Interventions for the communities living around the Kirisia forest as a move break the cycle of over dependence and exploitation of the forest for a living as is the case with charcoal burners.
- iii. Expand Kirisia Forest Conservation, rehabilitation and re-forestation initiatives and activities..
- iv. Development and implementation of community grazing management plans.
- v. Support Inter and Intra Community peace initiatives.
- vi. Carryout Community education and Sensitization on environmental conservation and forest management.
- vii. Organizational and Institutional development of the Kirisia CFA.
- viii. Training and Capacity building of CFA management, key community support groups and collaborating partners and stakeholders.