

Biodiversity Conservation and Social-economic Intervention of the Project with Ogiek Community in the Mau Forest

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Social, Political and Economic Marginalization of the Ogiek Community

- ☐ Until about 20 years ago they were the only Kenyan community without clearly designated ancestral land.
- ☐ They have been settled on part of the Mau forest but they don't have title deeds which makes them feel insecure.
- ☐ Communication and road infrastructure is in terrible state in Mariashoni location. The earth road is only passable dry the few months of dry weather which is hardly 4 months of the year while cell phone connectivity is very weak.

Section of the Mariashoni Street



Economy and Livelihood

- The main economic activity in the location is saw milling which unfortunately is controlled by timber merchants from outside the community.
- The Ogiek community only provides cheap manual labour and after the merchants have transported their timber the earth roads are left in even worse condition.
- Uncontrolled saw-milling has resulted in destruction of the forest including the indigenous forest sections on which the Ogiek depended for food, nutrition, medicine and other livelihood needs.

From this.....



Through these.....



Leading to these.....



Consequences of Ogiek Marginalization

- **High poverty and illiteracy-** Mariashoni ward (and community) is the poorest and has lowest literacy level in Nakuru county
- **Destruction of Ogiek food and livestock base-**because of deforestation food and dietary diversity has shrunk
- **Limited access to community development services-**because of the impassible roads and poor communication NGO and government services including on agricultural development, health, education and even civic education are not readily accessible by the community. Marketing of produce also faces major challenges
- **Erosion of Ogiek culture and language-**Religion, interaction with other communities and engagement in the money economy contributed to erosion of undocumented Ogiek culture and language

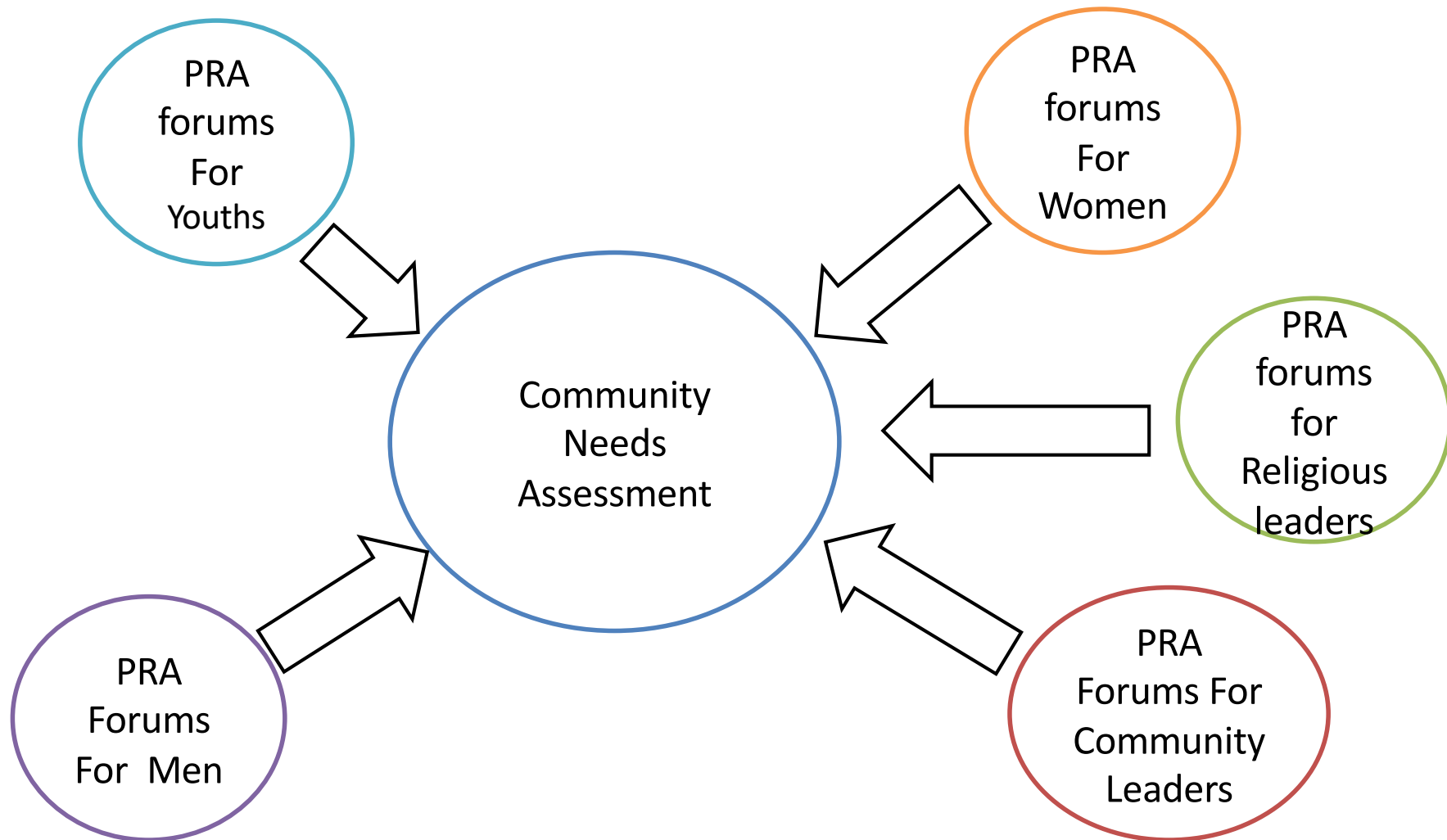
Consequences of Ogiek Marginalization....

- **Inferiority complex and suspicion**-Relationships with outsiders: government and even NGO's agencies subjected the community to inferior position and to receive instructions unquestioningly. Because of many failed promises and exploitation the community became very suspicious and untrusting.
- **Marginalization and limited opportunities for women**-Because of some cultural traditions, limited education and low exposure women have limited opportunity for generating income, FGM is rampant even as they bear the burden of raising family without a functional maternity facility and basic health serves.

Project Interventions for Restoring Biodiversity, Community Dignity And Economic Development

- ❖ Institutional capacity strengthening of the community
- ❖ improving household income, food and nutrition security
- ❖ Enhancing community knowledge, participation in restoration and protection of biodiversity

Institutional Capacity Strengthening of the Community is Based on the Success of the Community Needs Assessment Done in 2011



Important Achievements of Community Needs Assessment-PRA Process

Community members **shared**
their concerns and aspirations



Launching community action
plan

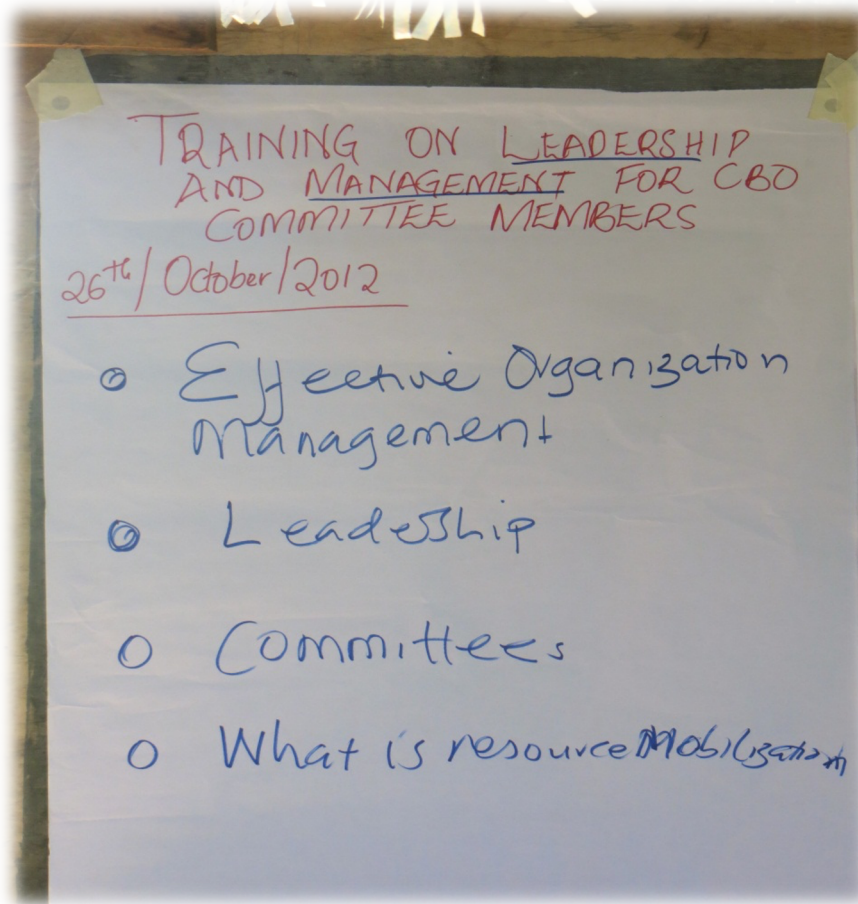


Building on the PRA Foundation In Empowering the Community

- Mobilizing community groups and members to form Community Based Association for coordinating community development activities and liaising with outsiders
- Profiling and creating inventory of community groups
- Training association and group leaders on leadership, management, records keeping and resources mobilization
- Establishing community resource-centre for information access and sharing
- Exposure visits

Empowering the community

Leadership & Management Training



Profiling Community Groups



Empowering the Community

Exposure Visit



Community Resource Centre



Supporting Community Food Production & Nutrition Education Initiatives

Establishing vegetable nursery

**Community group
shamba/garden**



Supporting Community Honey Enterprise



Enhancing community knowledge, participation in restoration and protection of biodiversity

The intervention aimed at adding another “feather” to Ogiek reputation of harmonious co-existence and protection of the forest... **‘planting of trees’**



Ahsante Sana/Thank You Very Much