

Examples of a Whole Landscape Approach in Kenya and Costa Rica

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**Landscapes for
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Whole landscape approach: Lari, Kenya



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Lari is a densely populated smallholder farming landscape in the Central Highlands of Kenya, producing commercial tea and vegetables, subsistence maize and potatoes and forest products. It is in one of the most important “water towers” of Kenya, near the capital of Nairobi, and is home to one of the last remaining natural forests in the country, with rich bird and wildlife biodiversity. Since 1994, a community-based organization, KENVO, has facilitated a multi-stakeholder process to protect forests and other resources while promoting sustainable economic development. This photo shows some of the innovations being developed:

- 1 - Farmers have small plots of commercial vegetables like onions, potatoes and cabbages; some limit chemical inputs to protect water quality
- 2 – Farmers plant diverse trees in their crop fields, to build soil fertility and reduce erosion and to earn income from fruit, wood and other products.
- 3 - Farmer groups protect and enrich this community forest, to supply their own fuelwood, building materials, and medicinal plants, and to provide additional wildlife habitat.
- 4 – The Forest Department partners with local communities and environmental NGO’s to protect this high-biodiversity national forest and to reduce human wildlife conflict.
- 5 – Farmers have become active in eco-tourism, managing huts and home stays, constructing trails and serving as wildlife tourist guides.
- 6 – Farmers are partnering with NGO’s and local businesses to develop a landscape eco-label for their products, to sell for a premium in nearby towns and to tourists.
- 7 – KENVO and others are exploring options for downstream water users to pay communities like this for protecting watershed services from farms and forests.

Whole landscape: Monteverde, Costa Rica



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Monteverde is a wet, mountainous region in northeast Costa Rica of high-value biodiversity value, including unique cloud forests, but also of high and growing value for commercial coffee and dairy production for cheese. In 1989, the Conservation League of Monteverde began partnering with 19 farming communities to find strategies for farmers to benefit from conservation activities. Innovations include:

- 1 – This community windbreak of planted trees provides a continuous habitat corridor between protected forests, and disperses wild tree and shrub seeds
- 2 – Farmers benefit economically from improved wind protection provided by the windbreaks, reducing calf mortality, increasing milk yields, increasing coffee yields and introducing wind-sensitive horticultural crops.
- 3 – Previously degraded grazing area now has high-quality pasture for dairy animals, that increases productivity for local cheese-making and reduces pressure to clear additional forest for grazing.
- 4 – Farmers have improved soil and vegetation management on degraded hillsides, to increase production, reduce erosion, and improve rainfall infiltration.
- 5 – The nearby community partners with public agencies and conservation organizations to conserve this protected forest area
- 6 – Visits to eco-friendly farms like this have been incorporated into eco-tourism activities.