



Full Gospel Churches of Kenya
National Development Projects
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Introduction

Full Gospel Churches of Kenya (FGCK) is a locally registered church. It was started by missionaries from Finland in 1949. Presently, it has estimated that it has over 700,000 members. The church administrative organisation structure at National level we have the National Pastoral Council (NPC) which is the highest decision making organ with National Executive Council (NEC) as its executive arm comprised General Overseer, General Secretary, National Treasurer and 11 Regional Overseers. The church is organised in 11 regions, 75 Districts and 545 Local Church Assemblies and 5,000 branches spread across all national administrative district except Mander district in Northern Eastern Kenya.

FGCK is committed to respond to the social and physical needs of its members and the community at large. It has a development department that is entrusted in running development programmes that include health facilities, 124 pre-schools, 57 primary schools and 1 secondary school. FGCK is also a sponsor for many public primary and secondary schools which had been started by the church started and handed over to government. There several other development programs (Street Children, Maasai girls, Homa bay children's home, Kakamega daisy for physical challenge children school, Child sponsorship programmes, HIV/AIDS work and many other small activities at local level. Now the church in getting involved in environmental issues

Background information

Big parts of Kenya have very different climatic and environmental conditions. In the past decade rain seasons have become irregular and average temperatures have increased. At the same time deforestation (less than 1.7% forest cover) has been a major crisis in the country. The Full Gospel Churches of Kenya (FGCK) has severally raised and also requested relief food for the most affected areas especially in Northern Kenya and sometimes in the Coast. There still remains the need to find a more permanent solution to drought related starvation. In 2009 FGCK leadership taken environmental problems facing Kenya's as a priority in development cooperation with Fida International and any other like -minded partner who value environment and would want to see its conservation.

The project will aim to empowering FGCK and the target communities. The process will be based on strong local commitment. The target communities will be trained on environmental and other related knowledge in order to achieve the goal. There will also be facilitation of practical developments (e.g. water tanks, land and water use and the peoples livelihoods). The first year will still be more research and the objectives, indicators and activities will be more defined that time. Environmental Policy development and dissemination would be an activity in this phase. The project is likely to continue after 2016. This is a new intervention for FGCK and there is lot

to learn in the first years. The core problem is very big and needy communities are many, so there is justification for long term intervention.

The project will build the local partner's capacity to deal with environmental issues and to find better livelihood strategies (practical solutions) for people suffering from the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. The FGCK have been part of the planning process and they will be the key actors in the implementing process. Other stakeholders have also been consulted (government officials, other NGOs). The planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation will continue more deeply in the first years and all stakeholders will be involved. Networking will be a key factor in this project since lot of knowledge and expertise is available with the government and other NGOs.

Planning process

The planning process and assesment started in 2009, in 2010 an assesment and planning completed and project proposal developed and presented to Fida International.

Phase I 2011-2012: Beginning of the project, more research and policy formulation and dissemination to be done in the first year

Phase II 2013-2014: Project implementationcontinues.

Phase III Evaluation be done in 2013 and possible new plans in 2014 for continuity of the project.

As we began the journey 2011, we have realized that we do not own the environment indeed, no one can. We are simply caretakers of the resources that we use in our daily lives, and it is our responsibility to administer those resources to the best of our abilities so they are available for the use and enjoyment of others, including future generations. Stewardship is what we do. As good administrators we need to establish goals for ourselves as to how we manage those resources. Simply put, stewardship is the concept of responsibly managing all of our resources for the benefit of present and future generations of people, plants, and animals.

In September 2011 we attended Farming in God's Way workshop facilitated by Craig Sorley. "*Environmental stewardship*" is the careful and responsible management of our natural resources and the environment. It is the long-term management aimed at preserving and enhancing the quality of an environment. It implies the following:

- Meeting the basic needs of all peoples, and giving this priority over meeting the needs of a few;
- Adjusting consumption patterns and the design and management of systems to permit the renewal of renewable resources;
- Conserving, recycling, and establishing priorities for the use of non-renewable resources; and
- Keeping environmental impact below the level required to allow the systems affected to recover and continue to evolve.
- Improve the living and working conditions, particularly in low-income settlements, by improving capacity to deliver basic solid waste management services and proper land and other resource use.

- Increase employment opportunities and higher income for small enterprises and community organizations.
- Provide technical, entrepreneurial and related skills to manage solid waste.
- Change attitudes to promote solid waste management as a respectable sector

Through networking and collaboration FGCK managed to get a grant from Alliance for Religious Conservation (ARC) which facilitated **SEVEN YEAR STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR FGCK ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP AND POLICY FORMULATION CONSULTATION WORKSHOP HELD AT JJ McCARTHY FROM 24TH – 26TH JANUARY 2012.**

Participants:

They were drawn from NEC members, District Overseers, Project staff, Women leaders, Youth leaders, Sunday School Ministry and Bible School principals. 28 participants attended to brainstorm on FGCK strategic planning for environmental stewardship and policy formulation with assistance from two facilitators.

The main strategic priorities that the participants agreed FGCK should pursue given the church past experience and its current and future capabilities are as follows:

Vision: To be a Just, Responsible and Caring church in **environmental conservation** to liberate man to the glory of God.

1. Strategy: Equipping and Transforming church leaders to teach and advocate for adaptive climatic changes and environmental stewardship

Goal 1

Empowered church leadership that is able to articulate and advocate for climate change and environmental stewardship

Goal 2

Climatic change and environmental stewardship mainstreamed in all church bible schools

Goal3

FGCK to develop/formulate and disseminate a policy document on environmental stewardship and climate change in Kenya

2. Strategy: Empowering/building the capacity of the/ church and community members to implement practical solutions in environmental conservation for sustainable development

Goal 1

A well informed church and community who will implement practical solutions in climatic change and environmental conservation for equitable gender based sustainable development

Goal 2

Empowered communities practicing nutritious food security measures that are adaptive to climate change and weather variability

Goal 3

A community that is able to promote safer and healthier environmental practices

A community that is involved/committed to sanitation, hygiene, water conservation and management and clean and health environment

A community that is committed and living in clean and healthy environment

WASH- Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Goal 4: Appropriate technologies

- Energy saving stoves
- Solar power
- Alternative fuels
- Establishment of tree/fruit nurseries
- Agro forestry

Goal 5: Economic empowerment

Alternative livelihoods

A community that has diversified sources of livelihoods for improved standards of living.

3. Strategy: Networking and collaborating with like-minded individuals and organizations in solving environmental problems

Goal 1:

A church will established networks and partnerships, mobilizing resources and sharing information in addressing climate change and environmental conservation.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS 23–26th January 2012

VENUE: JJ McCarthy Assumption of Sisters Nairobi

| S/N | Name | Region | Gender | Designation | Mobile No. | Email Address |
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