



3<sup>rd</sup> Science for the Environment Conference  
Aarhus Denmark 1-2 October 2015

## A MULTIPLE APPROACH FOR A RAPID BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT: INTEGRATION OF PARTICIPATORY, FIELD AND ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES IN THE MAU FOREST, KENYA

Guido Trivellini, Adrien Lindon

ELIANTE, no profit organisation, [www.eliante.it](http://www.eliante.it)

### ABSTRACT

A rapid (15 days) biodiversity assessment was carried on the KIPTUNGA forest, eastern MAU complex, Kenya. Participatory mapping, field-work, and a landscape-analytical approach were mixed: we (i) set up a participatory workshop, by which the community mapped ecosystem services and described bird and mammal species detectable in the forest; we (ii) checked information on the ground by recording land use reference points and examples of ecosystem services utilization and by a direct camera-trapping activity of animal diversity and (iii) we performed satellite and aerial pictures based GIS analyses to map the actual land use of the forest. The three methods led to a coherent view of the differences of conservation status between logged and pristine areas, showing the decrease of biodiversity linked to deforestation. Relevant ecosystem services (hunting, gathering, bee-keeping) also appeared to occur only in the untouched areas, this having consequences on the possibility for the people to carry on elsewhere a sustainable and traditional lifestyle. We would like to report an example of how a multiple approach, both technical and based on local knowledge, can provide useful results for very rapid assessments. We also conclude that it should be warned how, in times of carbon off-set policies implementation, reforestation strategies unable to take in account the quality of the forest ecosystem are often not sustainable ways to reduce climate change impacts.



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