



Trip Report

Project: Sustainable Management of Watersheds (SUMAWA)

Travelers: Scott N. Miller, University of Wyoming

Location (s): Egerton Univ., Njoro, Kenya Dates of Travel: April 10 – 15, 2005

Purpose of Trip: Management and progress review

Overview

This trip was an important component of the Phase I work plan for 2004/2005. Phase I is directed at improving management and scientific progress within the SUMAWA project, and activities in the previous 6 months (October – April) have been aimed at identifying weaknesses, adding constructive measures, and altering the overall trend of SUMAWA. The timing of the trip was significant in two ways: (1) it occurred immediately prior to the submission of a progress report on management and scientific advances made by the Kenya portion of the team, and (2) it was timed to coincide with the finalization and submission of the Phase II work plan for 2004/2005.

Objectives

- (1) review progress in management and scientific aspects of the SUMAWA project
- (2) maintain momentum in repairing perceived rifts in Kenya/US interactions and improving the international and overall collaborative nature of the project
- (3) finalize plans for structural changes in the management/administration of the project, specifically the addition of a ½ time staffer at Wyoming and a project coordinator/facilitator at Egerton

Timeline

April 10. Arrival in Nairobi. Travel to Mrs. Barbie Allen's house, Westlands. Meeting with Mrs. Allen and Dr. Mimi Jenkins, co-PI (University of California, Davis).

April 11. Travel from Nairobi to Egerton University, Kenya. Meetings with Dr. Jenkins and individual component PIs for Watershed Hydrology (Dr. Maina Gichaba, Egerton University), Ecology (Dr. Mucai Muchiri, Moi University), and Socio-Economics (Dr. Desterio Ouma, Egerton University).

April 12: All-day meetings with co-PIs at Egerton University.



April 13: Travel to pond aquaculture site. All-pday meetings with co-PIs at Egerton University

April 14: Meetings from 8am – 3 pm at Egerton University. Travel to Nairobi for meeting with Dr. Patterson Semenyne. Departure to US.

April 15: Return to University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Names of Contacts.

Addresses commonly known in SUMAWA documents unless otherwise noted

Dr. Mimi Jenkins, co-PI, University of California, Davis

Dr. William Shivoga, Kenya PI, Egerton University

Dr. Charles Maina Gichaba, co-PI, Egerton University

Dr. Desterio Ouma, co-PI, Egerton University

Dr. Francis Lelo, co-PI, Egerton University

Dr. Mucai Muchiri, co-PI, Moi University

Dr. Lois Chiuri, Egerton University

Dr. Shem Ouma, Egerton University and Kenya Institute for Public Research and Analysis (KIPRA)

Dr. Japheth Onyando, Egerton University and GTZ

Mr. Shadrack Inoti, Egerton University

Ms. Njeri Muhia, Egerton University

Ms. Mary Ndivo, Egerton University

Mr. Zakayo Akula, Egerton University

Ms. Barbie Allen, Westlands, Nairobi

Mr. Zachary Gichuru, Egerton University

Mr. Malachi, Egerton University

Mr. Samuel Kibichii, Egerton University

Ms. Ecology contact here

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Details of Activities and Key Findings

April 11

A listings and description of critical issues was initiated in the US and a schedule developed by the Kenya team, primarily under the direction of Mr. Akula and Dr. Shivoga. The initial plan was to have Drs. Maina Gichaba and Shivoga meet with Drs. Miller and Jenkins in Nairobi on the evening of the 11th at Ms. Allen's residence in Westlands. Unfortunately, Dr. Shivoga's wife was taken to hospital in Nakuru and the meetings were called off. In the absence of these meetings, informal discussions on the nature and timing of the project were held with Ms. Allen. A framework for discussion with the individual project components was



enhanced during a planning meeting with Dr. Jenkins with the goal of covering the following core topics: (a) review of scientific progress and findings as based on the previously submitted component progress reports, (b) status of and methods for improving US/Kenya relations, (c) planning for a highly functional and successful 2005/2006 work plan and budget, and (d) the key topics towards which we we will focus our Phase II efforts.

The project vehicle was found to have a badly damaged CV joint in the right front wheel, which was clearly evident on the return trip from the airport. It was decided that taxi arrangements would be made for Dr. Jenkins and Miller to travel to Njoro, while Mr. Inonda, the driver, would attend to the vehicle at a mechanic in Nairobi and then by following slowly the next morning if possible.

April 12

Meeting 1: Socio-economics component. Attended by Drs. S. Ouma, D. Ouma, Jenkins, Miller.

The meeting was opened with a general review of the documents created by the component in which progress towards the 2003/2004 activities were documented. I was able to review the reports in advance and the team was given copies of the marked-up papers. An oral summary was delivered by Dr. D. Ouma. The team is making good progress towards fulfilling the stated objectives and activities, and have made progress in analyzing their data and starting to interpret their findings.