

Analysis of the Roles of Rural Community Stakeholders in Implementation of National Land Use Policies in North Rift Region of Kenya

John Musto Lomuk, James Chelang'a, Bramwel Matui

Moi University

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2026.100600005>

Received: 18 January 2026; Accepted: 23 January 2026; Published: 16 June 2026

ABSTRACT

Rural community involvement on matters land use policies and their implementation and specific roles of various actors have not been clearly defined in Kenya. This study analysed the specific roles of stakeholder in the implementation of land use policies in the North Rift Region in Kenya. The objective that guided this study was: To analyse roles of rural community stakeholders in the implementation of national land use policies. The paper was guided by bottom-up approaches to policy implementation and Communicative Action Theory. Mixed research design and comparative case study and pragmatic research paradigm were adopted. The study was conducted in Sekerr Ward in West Pokot County, Sitatunga Ward in Trans Nzoia County and Ziwa Ward in Uasin Gishu County. The target population were the local bureaucrats, legislators, ordinary citizens and non-state actors. A sample size of 417 was arrived at from the target population of 40,666. It was revealed that local bureaucrats implemented decisions made by the County Technical Implementation Committee- including aligning the policies to Governor's manifestos; ordinary citizens for each ward agreed that they contributed in management of natural resources as follows: Sekerr-33.1%, Ziwa- 27.6% and Sitatunga- 40.9%. In Sekerr, locals used indigenous knowledge to manage natural resources like land, forest and water catchment areas, while in Sitatunga and Ziwa Wards, the residents relied more on local government officials. The study concludes that the roles of rural community stakeholders are still evolving processes that require improvement. The study recommends that the Kenyan Government should ensure that the roles are clearly defined and the rural community should be given their space in matters implementation of land use policies in their localities in the best ways known to them.

Key words: rural community, policy implementation, land use policies, stakeholders, roles

INTRODUCTION

Democratic participation of the people in matters land use plans and programmes with the aim of enhancing political and economic relationship within a community is of great importance (Kumar (2002). In addition, Maloff et al. (2000) observed public participation as procedural tool for involving participants in a given initiative and problem solving technique. They further observed that for evaluation on effectiveness of public participation to be realized, consistency in relation to theoretical framework should be considered.

According to Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2018) efficient and effective execution of zoning regulations requires the efforts of administrators and common citizen. Citizens require enough knowledge and understanding in relation to given regulations. Cooperation is also very important between stakeholders involved like the engineers, designers, planners among other experts and the common citizenry for effective implementation to be realized.

According to the Kenya's Ministry of Lands (2009) land issue has attracted various interests related to development. Some of the challenges that have cropped up are: failures of land administration and delivery procedures, poor participation of rural communities in land management and natural resources, and non-involvement of women in decision making, among others.

Statement of the problem

After analysis of Kenya National Land Use Policy of 2017 on the policy implementation framework, it was noted that, the policy failed to provide guidelines on how the public is involved in the sound implementation process. This led to resistance to some of the policy measures and therefore, slowed implementation process contained in the policy timelines. It is perceived that the implementation process is government owned and the ordinary citizens have no role and therefore, do not own it.

Despite government's effort to put all mechanisms of implementing land use policies including conducting public participation the consumers of such policies still complain of poor involvement.

Objective

The objective of this paper was to analyse roles of rural community stakeholders in implementation of national land use policies in North Rift region of Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In Nigeria, Town planning and lands services department is responsible for proper and effective inclusion of the general populace in matters land and put more efforts on how decisions are made. The department regulate and manage land use and most important is collecting the views of the people through public hearing forums in order to make land use planning strong having suggestions from the people as guided by Nigerian Urban and Regional Planning Law (NURP) (Ojigi, 2012).

The constitution of Kenya 2010 mandates the Kenyan Parliament to: review, put together and rationalize land laws that are in existence; review departmental land use statutes and laws in line with the principles as set in Article 60 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Following this, The Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning in 2017 established county technical committee that is chaired by the Governor and the deputy will be the deputy governor. The duties of this committee resemble that of the national technical committee but the County Technical Committee is to focus on county issues

In India, the role of local level activist in matters information access was felt since the time they agitated for the right of information. Their efforts of creating awareness among the locals through forums like Jan Sunwai in Rajasthan State bore fruit especially at the local levels and some level of accountability by the grass root administrators were realized (Jenkins et al. 1999).

Graham et al. (2008) posit that for many years, civil societies have been making key contributions in many societies and states. For instance, the Geneva Convention which brought out clearly the role of civil society organization in the contemporary world of democracy is worth noting.

Oshewolo, 2011 recognized the influence of non-governmental organization (NGO) in processing of public policy; he noted that NGO influence positively on the policy product and the place of citizen in the policy process and also has positive influence on the system of government. On the other hand, Pollard and Court (2005) posit that CSOs do not directly perform implementation role of policy but rather offer technical support in form of provision of advisory opinion, provide expertise knowledge for betterment of policy implementation.

Land sector non-state actors, 2016 indicated that since its initiation, it has managed to do robust work in relation to making of policy and execution of the same policies and laws. It also went further to consider developing regulations for land. It has also developed strategies where there is mutual collaboration and relationship between Ministry of lands, national land commission and land sector non-state actors (LSNSA).

In Ethiopia, more focus has been toward participatory approach in decision making. For example, farmers took part in making decisions on natural resources management decisions (Roe *et al.*, 2009). In addition, Food Agriculture Organization (2008) observed that engaging farmers in training using their own land in what was called field farmers schools made farmers improve their skills and farming practices.

Holmes (2011) posits that citizen participation in the affairs of their government or society is almost full democracy. Kgotla traditional system in Botswana has proved to be one of the best systems that involve ordinary people fully in the affairs of the community. Common citizenry participate actively in policy process and engagement of citizens has been part and parcel of the process of policy making (Obasi and Lekorwe, 2014).

METHODOLOGY

This study employed case study and mixed method research designs. According to Baxter & Jack, 2008 case study research design is where more than one case study is used to bring in comparison and similarities and generate more understanding on the matter in question. Creswell and Clark, (2010) stated that embedded mixed method research design blends collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data. The study also employed comparative case study research design. In this study, comparative analysis was done to understand how rural communities participate in policy implementation in the three different study areas of Sekerr ward (West Pokot County), Ziwa Ward (Uasin Gishu County) and Sitatunga Ward (Trans Nzoia County). Pragmatic research paradigm played significant role because it allowed the use of both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis to answer research questions.

The study targeted total population of 40666 respondents from the following groups: local bureaucrats (60), non-state actors (45) the ordinary citizens 40558 and three (3) legislators. Cohen et al. (2007) posits that target population is the total number of persons that the researcher would wish to inquire from and because the researcher may not meet all of them he/she takes a small sample to represent the rest. From the target population of 40666, the study sampled 417 respondents using roasoft sample size calculator and Greg D. 2024 formula. As stated by Orodho and Kombo, 2002 sampling is a procedural way of coming up with a select number of persons from a total population which contains specific characteristics that represents the target population.

The primary data was collected by administering questionnaires and conducting interviews to various respondents who includes: local bureaucrats, Members of County Assemblies, non-state actors (radio, NGO/CBO and church) and members of the public and the secondary data were sourced from other researchers.

The data was analysed using linkert scale, frequencies and per cent and presented in charts and tables. On the other hand, thematic analysis was applied in analysing qualitative data through identification of patterns and development of themes.

FINDINGS

The roles of the local bureaucrats in the Implementation the National Land Use Policy of 2017

Lipsky, 1969 puts that the way front line officials bestowed with responsibilities to execute government policies present themselves have an impact to implementation processes. In this case, frontline staffs are the area assistant Chiefs, Chiefs, ward/location/village administrators, field/extension officers from the relevant departments at the ward levels. He did describe street-level-bureaucrats as a true reflection of a policy, because these are the people who work directly with the ordinary people. Through interview the following were found to be the roles of local bureaucrats in all the selected counties/wards:

Local bureaucrats (officers at the ward level) maintain a land data system, communicating decisions made by government to the people, issuance of development permission and control instruments having been adopted by County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in all the three Wards.

Local bureaucrats prepare reports on the level of policy implementation from relevant departments/agencies to be presented to the County Technical Implementation Committee (CTIC). Agricultural officers and chiefs from Sekerr, Ziwa and Sitatunga do monthly reports basing on the type of work that they were engaged in that month. In addition to the monthly report, they also present specific reports when there is need on specific time and depending on the matter at hand.

As technical persons at the ground, officers at the location/ward level provide specialized service and empower and train the public and other institutions within the sector. The core mandate of agricultural field officers and chiefs in Sekerr is training to farmers on the best practise in relation to agricultural practices are concerned. Chiefs also train the locals in any government policy or Act. In Ziwa, Chiefs train the locals about government policies and laws. The agricultural officers in Sitatunga also provide full technical support to the farmers in relation to agricultural practices right from soil conservation and fertility, different crop farming and the general knowledge on improving agricultural production using the scarce resource called land.

At the locational and sub-location levels Chiefs mobilize the public for meetings/barazas. According to Hassan, 2015; Carey et al. 2018; Rohregger et al. 2021 chiefs and village elders play a key role in implementation of government programmes in the locality. They mobilize community members and pass information as required by the programme coordinators and also make sure those policy outcomes are facilitated. Chiefs in Sekerr, Ziwa and Sitatunga locations and sub-locations do mobilize ordinary citizen whenever there is any call from any government department or agency that wants to pass information to the people.

Chiefs maintain order in case of misunderstanding or conflicts. As one of the core function of the Ministry of Interior, chiefs in Sekerr, Ziwa and Sitatunga take part in dealing with issues arising in the course of policy implementation like conflict resolution and also make sure that order is maintained. As stated in Chiefs Act, CAP 128 (repealed, National Government Cordination Act, No. 1, 2013), Chief/Assistant Chief maintains order in his/her area of jurisdiction.

Local bureaucrats especially the ward administrators from the three Wards (Sekerr, Ziwa and Sitatunga) indicated that they align land use policies with the Governor's manifesto. For example, in Ziwa ward, the governor launched Ziwa Machine Water project that serves the residents and the social institutions. The project is in his manifesto referred to as Nguzo Kumi and adequate water is number seven (7). The realization of that projects depended on the efforts put by local bureaucrats. In West Pokot County, the government is investing heavily in agriculture by distributing crop seedling like mangoes, avocado, and coffee among others to the locals. The work of government officers at ward level was to register farmers, teach farmers about the government plans/initiative and supervise distribution, planting and give continuous lessons to farmers after planting and until harvesting and marketing. In Trans Nzoia, The Ukombozi Campaign, launched on August 25, 2022, with revolutionary ten-point agenda put agriculture at the top because the county is referred to us food basket in Kenya. However, the production is not as expected. To address that challenge Under H. E George Natembeya, the county government has been distributing free and quality maize seed to over 90,000 small scale farmers. The role of agricultural officers in this exercise was to identify beneficiaries, collect the necessary data, assist in distribution exercise and provide extension service to farmers.

The Role of Non-State Actors in Implementing Land Use Policies

Edmond (1980) asserts that backward mapping approach emphasizes understanding the political and organizational dynamics that influence policy implementation at each stage. In this case, non-state actors (Church, media, NGO/CBO) were involved as stakeholder to give their views on its role and how it influences policy implementation. They were asked whether they agree with the following statements on the roles of non-state-actors/civil society in relation to implementation of land use policies in Kenya. The options were: strongly disagree (1) disagree (2) Neutral (3) agree (4) strongly agree (5) and the responses were as follows:

Table 1.1 the Roles of Non-State Actors in Implementing Land Use Policies

Role	County	1		2		3		4		5	
		Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%
Political parties influence implementation of land use	Sekerr	0	0	2	40	0	0	3	60	0	0
	Ziwa	0	0	1	20	1	20	3	60	0	0

policy in Kenya.	Sitatunga	0	0	2	40	0	0	3	60	0	0
Church provides spiritual and moral support in implementation of land use policy	Sekerr	1	20	2	40	0	0	2	40	0	0
	Ziwa	0	0	1	20	2	40	0	0	2	40
	Sitatunga	1	20	2	40	0	0	2	40	0	0
Pressure groups agitates for human rights violation as a result of implementing land use policy	Sekerr	0	0	1	20	0	0	3	60	1	20
	Ziwa	0	0	1	20	1	20	3	60	0	0
	Sitatunga	0	0	1	20	0	0	3	60	1	20
Civil society groups mediates in case of conflicts as a result of policy implementation	Sekerr	0	0	1	20	0	0	3	60	1	20
	Ziwa	0	0	1	20	1	20	2	40	1	20
	Sitatunga	0	0	1	20	0	0	3	60	1	20
Some civil society capacity build land owners and other sectors on matters land use and its implementation	Sekerr	0	0	2	40	0	0	1	20	1	20
	Ziwa	0	0	1	20	1	20	2	40	1	20
	Sitatunga	1	20	2	40	0	0	1	20	1	20
Some non-state actors finances implementation of land use policy	Sekerr	0	0	1	20	1	20	3	60	0	0
	Ziwa	0	0	2	40	1	20	1	20	1	20
	Sitatunga	0	0	1	20	1	20	3	60	0	0
Non-state actors take part in monitoring and evaluation of the process of land use policy cycle	Sekerr	0	0	2	40	1	20	1	20	1	20
	Ziwa	1	20	2	40	1	20	1	20	0	0
	Sitatunga	0	0	2	40	1	20	1	20	1	20
Some CBOs deals with environmental conservation by planting trees and educate the public on the importance of trees	Sekerr	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	60	2	40
	Ziwa	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100	0	0
	Sitatunga	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	60	2	40

Source: Researchers, 2024

The study found out that Political parties influence implementation of land use policy in Kenya. Respondents in all the three counties/wards agreed as evident in the table 1.1 with 60% in Sekerr, Ziwa and Sitatunga. Many political parties include land question in their manifestos and ideologies and because the question on land has been problematic issue in Kenya, electorates would want to hear parties' ideologies on land and how they promise to solve problems related to land. This is supported by Solé-Ollé et al., (2013) who posit that the parties on the political divide in Spain have different views on handling land policies.

On whether Church provide spiritual and moral support in implementation of land use policy, the study found out that respondents in Sekerr disagree and agree in equal measure at 40% each section making the majority. In Ziwa ward, the study indicates that 40% of respondents were neutral and another 40% strongly agreed with the statement that church provide spiritual and moral support in the course of policy implementation. There was no clear evidence where church has been involved in the course of policy implementation. Respondents could not make full decision whether they agree or not. The church has been speaking against some strange policies related to land but it has not come out strong because church sermons does not have legal basis and therefore, people cannot expressly make decision based on church teaching and the place of church is not clear in any document in relation to land and its management. However, Alan (2022) puts that faith based institutions are steward of values of ethics in society including environmental conservation. In Sitatunga Ward, it was noted that majority of respondents at 40% choose disagreed and agreed in equal measures. This means the people are divided on whether to support or not.

The study also indicates that all respondents in the three counties represented by the three wards (Sekerr, Ziwa and Sitatunga) agreed with the statement that pressure groups agitate for human rights violation which may have arisen from implementing land use policies at the local level. In Sitatunga Ward, Trans Nzoia County for example, Haki Ardhi initiated Women Rise for Nature Project which is a digital tool to protect women land rights and fight against gender based violence. The roll out of this rights reporting tool in Trans-Nzoia County can support vital processes that ensure land-based environmental action does not come to the detriment of women's land rights, livelihoods and safety, but instead empowers them and secures their rights.

Civil society groups mediate in case of conflicts as a result of policy implementation. The statement was agreed by the majority as indicated in the table 1.1 with 60% (Sekerr), 40% (Ziwa) and 60% (Sitatunga).

One Interviewee contributed that:

Members of Law Society of Kenya (LSK) usually offer their services in mediation in case of conflict and also defending the accused. Religious leaders, professional bodies and other civil societies are sometimes selected to lead in mediation outside legal process and their decisions are binding and recognized by law. There are some organization that are qualified and approved to do mediation in like advocates and companies in case of conflict between the government and ordinary citizen.

Respondents from Sekerr (40%) and Sitatunga (40%) disagree with the view that some civil society groups provided capacity building to citizen, land owners and other sectors on matters of land use and its implementation. There has not been enough evidence to support the argument that civil society capacity built land owners and users. Majority of the respondents in Ziwa (60%) agreed with the view that some civil society capacity built land owners and other sectors on matters land use and its implementation.

The study established that respondents from Sekerr (60%) and Sitatunga (60%) agreed that some non-state actors finance implementation of land use policy. West Pokot County has had various organization supporting agricultural programs like smart agriculture, others support tree planting and forest conservation among others. Trans Nzoia has had some organization supporting land use programmes like One Acre Fund that supports agricultural activities in Sitatunga. Respondents from Ziwa at 40% disagree with the view that some non-state-actors finance implementation of land use policy.

Majority of respondents from Sekerr (40%) Sitatunga (40%) and Ziwa (40%) did not agree with the statement that Non-state actors take part in monitoring and evaluation of the process of land use policy cycle. This is because the aspect of monitoring and evaluation has not been done openly in relation to policy implementation. The reason could be because of the silence of monitoring and evaluation in policy cycle and in particular implementation stage.

On the view that some CBOs deals with environmental conservation by planting trees and educate the public on the importance of trees, majority of respondents from all the three wards agreed with 60% (Sekerr), 60% (Sitatunga) and 100% in Ziwa ward. So many parts of West Pokot County had challenges on environmental conservation. Non-governmental organization, community based organization and self-help groups have

invested in tree nurseries and planting trees in public institutions like schools, hospitals and public lands like forests and also take part in educating the public on the importance of trees and environmental conservation. County Government of West Pokot, 2018 stated that community based organizations (CBOs) participate in economic development of the county.

The Roles of Ordinary Citizen in Implementing Land Use Policies

Respondents were asked to indicate whether the following roles of ordinary citizens influence implementation of land use policies in Kenya. The responses are as indicated in the table 1.2 Strongly disagree (1) disagree (2) neutral (3) Agree (4) Strongly Agree (5)

Table 1.2 Roles of Ordinary Citizen in Implementing Land Use Policies

Role	Ward	1		2		3		4		5	
		Fq	%	Fq	%	Fr	%	Fq	%	Fq	%
Participation in monitoring and evaluation of the policy progress during implementation stage	Seker	18	14.2	21	16.5	18	14.2	47	37	23	18.1
	Ziwa	24	18.9	24	18.9	29	22.8	27	21.3	23	18.1
	Sitatunga	22	17.3	42	33.1	17	13.4	32	25.2	16	12.6
Contribute in solving conflicts arising in the course of implementing the policy	Seker	14	11	22	17.3	15	11.8	44	34.6	32	25.2
	Ziwa	15	11.8	35	27.6	23	18.1	31	24.4	23	18.1
	Sitatunga	15	11.8	25	19.7	18	14.2	47	37	22	17.3
Contribute in management of natural resources	Seker	25	19.7	21	16.5	10	7.9	42	33.1	29	22.8
	Ziwa	14	11	25	19.7	24	18.9	35	27.6	29	22.8
	Sitatunga	14	11	20	15.7	15	11.8	52	40.9	26	20.5
Assist the government in designing the best approach to use in the implementation process	Seker	25	19.7	48	37.8	13	10.2	25	19.7	16	12.6
	Ziwa	16	12.6	35	27.6	26	20.5	25	19.7	25	19.7
	Sitatunga	12	9.4	22	17.3	19	15	53	41.7	21	16.5
Assist government officials in provision of hospitality assistance in the course of their field work	Seker	23	18	23	18	8	6.3	45	35.4	28	22
	Ziwa	20	15.7	25	19.7	23	18.1	33	26	26	20.5
	Sitatunga	10	7.9	13	10.2	18	14.2	47	37	39	30.7
Provide expertise assistance in case of need on matters land use	Seker	26	20.2	35	27.1	13	11.6	34	26.4	19	14.7
	Ziwa	20	15.6	25	19.5	23	18.8	33	25.8	26	20.3
	Sitatunga	9	7	24	18.9	26	20.5	43	33.9	25	19.7
Assist in auditing the whole process of policy implementation including the resources used	Seker	23	18.1	37	29.1	18	14.2	30	23.6	19	15
	Ziwa	26	20.5	35	27.6	23	18.1	23	18.1	20	15.7
	Sitatunga	21	16.5	47	37	23	18.1	20	15.7	16	12.6

In case of failures, they may advise on the best approach in future	Seker	31	24.4	42	33.1	7	5.5	30	23.6	17	13.4
	Ziwa	16	12.6	22	17.3	38	30	26	20.5	25	19.7
	Sitatunga	11	8.7	43	33.9	19	15	40	31.5	14	11
Give feedback on the end results of the Policy	Seker	29	22.8	31	24.4	14	11	27	21.3	26	20.5
	Ziwa	16	12.6	25	19.7	40	31.5	23	18.1	23	18.1
	Sitatunga	14	11	41	32.3	16	12.6	40	31.5	16	12.6

Source: Researchers, 2024

On the role of ordinary citizen participating in monitoring and evaluation of the policy progress during implementation stage, the study found out that in Sekerr, the majority at 37% agreed with the statement, 18.1% strongly agreed, 16.5% disagreed, 14.2% were neutral and 18.1% strongly disagreed. In Ziwa it was noted that 22.8% of the respondents who make the majority were neutral, 21.3% agreed 18.1% strongly agreed, 18.9% disagreed and strongly disagreed. In Sitatunga Ward the study established that 33.1% disagreed, 25.2% agreed, 17.3% strongly disagreed, and 12.6% strongly disagreed. As one of the actors at the lowest level, ordinary citizens play a critical role in monitoring the implementation process making sure that every aspect is handled conclusively and if at any point something went wrong they can report to the relevant department or agencies or the implementing body.

On the role of contributing to solving conflicts arising in the course of implementing the policy, the following were the reactions from the ordinary citizens: In Sekerr, 34.6% of respondents making the majority agreed to the fact that they have a role to play in solving conflict as a result of execution of the policy, 25.2% strongly agreed, 17.3% disagreed, 18.1% were neutral and 11% strongly disagreed. In Ziwa, it was established that 27.6% of the respondent disagreed, 24.4% agreed, 18.1% were neutral, 18.1% strongly agreed and 11.8% strongly disagreed. In Sitatunga it was also noted that the majority of respondents agreed with 37%, 19.7% disagreed, 17.3% strongly disagreed, 14.2% were neutral and 11.8% strongly disagreed. As one of the actor, they have a place in relation to bringing solution to any conflict that may affect any actor or between and among actors. Their presence at the lowest level is of great influence in matters conflict resolution because ordinary citizen hatheir own indigenous ways of resolving conflicts amicably without involving legal process.

On the role of contribution in management of natural resources, it was established that 33.1% of respondents making majority in Sekerr agreed, 22.5% strongly agreed, 19.7% strongly disagreed, 16.5% agreed and 7.9% were neutral, in Ziwa it was established that 27.6% of respondents who makes the majority agreed, 22.8% strongly agreed, 18.9% were neutral, 19.7% disagreed and 11% strongly disagreed and in Sitatunga, the study also found out that 40.9% agreed, 20.5% strongly agreed, 15.7% disagreed, 11.8% were neutral and 11% strongly disagreed. At community level ordinary citizens do conserve environment in various ways. Community Land Act no. 27 of 2016 provided that for purposes of the sustainable conservation of land based natural resources within community land across counties, every respective registered community shall abide by the relevant applicable laws, policies and standards on natural resources (Government of Kenya, 2016). The community of Sitatunga takes seriously management of land, forests cover among other natural resource under the sun within Trans Nzoia County.

Interview by respondents in Sekerr contributed that:

Since time immemorial local people were at the center stage of managing natural resources like forests, water catchment areas and water bodies, minerals, land. They could do it in their own indigenous ways and those who mismanage the natural resources could face disciplinary action. In contemporary time, ordinary citizen still uphold that role and they have even done it better like reclaiming unproductive lands, planting more trees to increase forest cover, conserving environment among others.

The role of assisting the government in designing the best approach to use in the implementation process received mixed reactions. The study found out that in Sekerr 37.8% did not agree, 19.4% strongly disagreed,

19.7% agreed, 12.6 strongly agreed and 10.2% were neutral. Residents of Sekerr did not know how ordinary citizen can give alternative approaches as far as implementation processes are done when they do not have experts and they were not even mandated by law to carry out execution role. Majority of respondents in Ziwa respondents disagreed by 27.6%, 20.5% were neutral, 19.7% agreed and strongly agreed and 12.6% strongly disagreed. In Sitatunga Ward majority of respondents agreed by 41.7%, disagreed by 17.3%, strongly agreed by 16.5%, 15% were neutral and the role was strongly disagreed by 9.4%. Residents of Sitatunga indicated that because they are the consumers of land use policies, they are in the best position to advice government on the best way of handling implementation process.

Ordinary citizen assist government officials in provision of hospitality services in the course of their field work. In relation to this role, in Sekerr 35.4% of the respondents agreed, 22% strongly agreed, 18% disagreed and strongly disagreed and 6.3% were neutral. People of West Pokot (Sekerr Ward) are hospitable people, they do appreciate coming of visitors and they do receive them warmly. For this case, ordinary citizens provide food, shelter/accommodation among other hospitality services to government officials working in their localities. In Ziwa 26% agreed, 20.5% strongly agreed, 19.7% disagreed, 18.1% were neutral and 15.7% strongly disagreed. It was also noted that the people of Uasin Gishu value highly the work of government officials doing good to their society. They would give them total support in whatever they would need at the local levels including meals. In Sitatunga the study established that 37% of the respondents who make majority agreed, 30% strongly agreed, 14.2% were neutral, 10.2% disagreed and 7.9% strongly disagreed. It is evident that Trans Nzoia is cosmopolitan county accommodating the over 40 tribes of Kenya. It is hospitable county and her people like visitors in their households including government officials as they do their work at community level.

Provide expertise assistance in case of need on matters land use. In relation to this role, In Sekerr, it was noted that 27.1% of the respondents disagreed, 26.4% of the respondents agreed, 20.2% strongly disagreed, 14.7% disagreed and 11.6% were neutral, in Ziwa, it was disagreed by 19.5% of the respondents, 25.8% making majority agreed, 20.3% strongly agreed, 18.8% were neutral and 15.6% strongly disagreed and in Sitatunga The study noted that respondents agreed by 33.9%, neutral by 20.5%, 19.7% strongly agreed, 18.9% disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed to the role that ordinary citizens provide expertise assistance in case of need on matters land use.

Interviews from the residents of Ziwa noted that:

Among the ordinary citizens in this area there are some with skills; knowledge and experience on matters land especially those that were working as lands officers before but in most cases they are not given an opportunity to exercise their knowledge in solving issues arising in the course of the process.

Assist in auditing the whole process of policy implementation including the resources used. In Sekerr Ward the study established that 29.1% of the respondents disagreed with that role, 23.6% agreed, 15% strongly disagree, 14.2% were neutral and 18.1% strongly disagreed. Majority of the respondents disagreed because they claimed that there is no clear procedure as to how the ordinary citizens participate in auditing process. The study also established that in Ziwa ward 27.6% of the respondents disagreed, 20.5% strongly disagreed, 18.1% were neutral, 18.1% agreed and 15.7% strongly agreed. In Sitatunga Ward the study found out that 37% disagreed, 18.1% were neutral, 16.5% strongly disagreed, 15.7% agreed and 12.6% strongly agreed. The residents of Sitatunga indicated that there has been no case where locals were invited to take part in auditing implementation process.

In case of failures, ordinary citizen may advise on the best approach in future. In Sekerr it was established that 33.1% of the respondents who make the majority disagreed, 24.4% strongly disagreed, 23.6% agreed, 13.4% strongly agreed and 5.5% were neutral. In Ziwa, it was established that 30% making the majority were neutral, 20.5% agreed, 19.7% strongly agreed, 17.3% disagreed and 12.6% strongly disagreed. Majority of the respondents indicated that they do not have the power to give any piece of advice to government officers. Majority of the residents of Sitatunga represented by 33.9% disagreed, 31.5% agreed, 15% were neutral, 11% strongly agreed and 8.7% strongly disagreed.

Give feedback on the end results of the Policy. In relation to this role, in Sekerr the study noted that 24.4% which make majority of the respondents indicated that they disagree with the statement, 22.8% strongly disagree, 21.3% agreed, 22.8% strongly disagreed and 11% were neutral. Majority of the respondents claim that they have not been asked for feedback on the end result of any policy related to land use. In Ziwa 31.5% of the respondents were neutral, 19.7% disagreed, 18.1% agreed and strongly agreed and in Sitatunga it was established that 32.3% of respondents making the majority disagreed, 31.5% agreed, 12.6% were neutral, 12.6% strongly agreed and 11% strongly disagreed. Generally the study found that majority of people in Sekerr and Sitatunga challenged the view that ordinary citizen participate in giving feedback on the end results of policy initiative this is because the whole process in most cases is government driven and rural community members are not asked whether the policy created any impact in their lives or community at large.

The Role of Legislature in Implementation of Land Use Policies North Rift Region

Respondents were asked to state specific roles of legislature during the implementation process of policies including national land use policies in Kenya.

All respondents across the three counties/Wards indicated that members of county assembly take part in the oversight on the implementation process of land use policies in the county as it is their core mandate as provided for in the constitution of Kenya 2010 and Standing Orders of County Assembly.

The study noted that legislators hear and determine petitions that rose in the course of policy implementation process. A petitioner presents their petition for consideration of county assembly as guided by Petition to County Assemblies (Procedure) Act No. 15 of 2020 and County Assembly of West Pokot Standing Orders, 2023, Part XXII and County Assembly of Trans Nzoia Standing Orders, 2017 Part XXII on Public Petitions.

In West Pokot County Assembly the respondent supported the statement that Hon. Members educate electorate on the content of policies in place. It is the responsibility of area MCA or the relevant committee to educate the people properly so that they understand what they are asked to implement. Uasin Gishu and Trans Nzoia MCAs were against the role of Legislators educating the public arguing that the duty squarely falls under the department. In relation to this, Ornstein, Norman J, (1992) pointed majority of legislators are educators; they break down complex issues and interpret or analyse policy options for general masses.

On adoption the policy before implementation respondents from West Pokot, Uasin Gishu and Trans Nzoia county Assemblies (Sekerr, Ziwa and Sitatunga) did not agree. They argued that policy is a cabinet document and its adoption is not the work of legislature, it is adopted by the cabinet and implemented by the line ministry or department. Legislature is only informed by a way of copy. In some cases, after Cabinet adoption, the policy gets its way to County Assembly for approval. After the tabling as Sessional Paper, it is committed to the relevant committee which then analyse, do public participation, if need be, report to the house for final approval.

The study also noted that Honourable members in West Pokot, Uasin Gishu and Trans Nzoia County Assemblies supported the statement that, to exercise representation role, legislator presents the interest of the electorates in the course of execution of the policy as put by Ornstein, Norman J (1992) who said that the first and foremost characteristic of a legislature is its intrinsic link to the citizens of the nation or state. Majority of those who supported this role indicated that some policies are punitive and oppress the electorates. It is the responsibility of law makers to speak for the people if they are not satisfied with the execution of a given policy.

In terms of resources allocation, all respondents indicated that County Assembly has a role in relation to allocation and approve appropriation of funds for the policy implementation. During the budget making process, executive presents their programs including policies and their budget. In that process the legislatures interrogate and may approve the programmes and budgets.

If the policy requires fund/board manager(s), the legislature may approve the nominees. All respondents indicated that they approve nominees tasked with the responsibility to implement a given policy. In usual cases

legislatures approve presidential/governor's nominees' as guided by the constitution and other law; equally some policies requires that the board or fund managers be nominated by the head of executive and approved by the parliament/county assembly before they are appointed by appointing authority. Sebastian M. (2005) puts that Legislature serves as a recruiting pools for other government positions.

Members of the ruling party make sure that the policy succeeds. This argument was supported by all respondents. In general elections, political parties play a great role in making government and it becomes collective responsibilities of all members of the party that made government to make sure that government agenda succeeds at all means. This is supported by Ornstein, Norman J. (1992) who puts that the process of making policy is fairly smooth in British system of government. Once the government make and submit her policies to the Parliament, the majority party in the parliament vote to it swiftly.

In relation to the role of the minority party, respondents in all the three wards agreed that Members of the opposition party may critique the policy in case it is not doing well. As watchdog to the sitting government, minority party questions applicability of policies especially when it is not performing as expected or the content of the document raise questions or if the policy goes contrary to the laws of the country. Ornstein, Norman J. (1992) "Gerhard Kunz said that the opposition must think critically, forcing the government to justify its positions and even at times to amend its legislation"

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study concludes that every stakeholder has a specific role in regards to making sure that the policy goes through as intended. The paper recommends that government should make the roles of all stakeholders especially at the grassroots very clear and well defined in order for them to participate fully and make the land use policy process a success.

Areas for further studies

The study suggests for further studies on synergies between indigenous knowledge and the modern knowledge in regards to the implementation of land use policies.

REFERENCES

1. Allan Channer, 2022. Re-greening Africa. Engaging faith-based organisations in land restoration across Africa: Insights and opportunities. World Agroforestry, Nairobi,
2. Baxter, P., & Jack, S. (2008). Qualitative Case Study Methodology: Study Design and Implementation for Novice Researchers. *The Qualitative Report*, 13(4), 544-559.
3. Creswell, J.W. and Plano Clark, V.L. (2010) Designing and Conducting Methods Research. 2nd Edition, SAGE Publications, Inc., Washington DC.
4. FAO. (2008): Farmer field schools on land and water management in Africa. Proceedings of an international workshop in Jinja, Uganda, 24–29 April 2006, FAO, Rome, Italy
5. Holmes, B. 2011: Citizens' engagement in policymaking and the design of public services, Research Paper No.1, Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Australia
6. Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 2018 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) RECS International Inc
7. Jenkins, R and Goetz, A M (1999). Accounts and Accountability: Theoretical Implications of the Right to Information Movement in India. *Third World Quarterly*
8. Kumar, S. (2002). Methods for Community Participation. A Complete Guide for Practitioners. ITDG Publishers.
9. Land Sector Non-State Actors (LSNSA) 2016, Implementation of Community Land Act, Advocacy Strategy for the Land Sector Non-State Actors: Kenya lands alliance. Nairobi
10. Lipsky M (2010) *Street-Level Bureaucracy, 30th Anniversary Edition: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Service*: Russell Sage Foundation

11. Maloff, B.; Bilan, D. & Thurston, W. (2000) Enhancing Public Input into Decision Making: Development of the Calgary Regional Health Authority Public Participation Framework: Family and Community Health, 23: 66-78.
12. Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning 2017, Sessional Paper No. 31 of 2017. National Council for Law Reporting: Nairobi
13. Obasi, I. & Lekworwe, H.M. 2014: Citizen Involvement in Public Policy Making Process in Africa: the case of Botswana. Public Administration Research, 3(4):1-11.
14. Ojigi, L. (2012), "An evaluation of the efficiency of the Land Use Act 1978 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and its implications in Minna and Environs", FIG Working Week 2012: Knowing to Manage the Territory, Protect the Environment, and Evaluate the Cultural Heritage, 6-10 May, Rome, Italy.
15. Oshewolo, S 2011: Limited Policy Engagement of Non-governmental Organisations: A Guilt trip on the Nigerian State. Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa. Vol 13 (1),
16. Ornstein, Norman J. 1992. The Role of Legislature in a Democracy: Freedom Paper No. 3. San Francisco, Calif.: institute of contemporary studies
17. Pollard, A. and Court, J., 2005, 'How CSO's Use Evidence to Influence Policy Processes: A Literature Review', working paper 249, Overseas Development Institute, London
18. Roe, D., Nelson, F. and Sandbrook, C. (Eds.), (2009), Community Management of Natural Resources in Africa: Impacts, Experiences and Future Directions. Natural Resource Issues No. 18, International Institute for Environment and Development, London,
19. Sebastian M. Saiegh (2005). The role of legislature in Policy Process: Inter-American Development Bank, Washington D.C
20. Solé-Ollé, Albert; Viladecans-Marsal, Elisabet (2013): Do Political Parties Matter for Local Land Use Policies? CESifo Working Paper, No. 4284, Center for Economic Studies and ifo Institute (CESifo), Munich