

**AFEW KENYA LTD – GIRAFFE CENTRE
AFEW – NAIKARA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
SEPTEMBER 13th – 15th, 2012**

A SUMMARY REPORT ON THE MARA SCHOOL/COMMUNITY BIOGAS LAUNCH

Through invitation from the Naikara High school in partnership with Maji Moto/ Naikara Maasai residents, AFEW Kenya Ltd attended the official launch of the Moi Naikara high school and Maji Moto women group biogas projects on September 13th, 2012. The AFEW team was composed of Mr. Jagi Gakunju (Director), Japheth Mugambi (Director), Emmanuel Ngumbi (Head of Conservation Education Programmes) and Mr. Kelvin Papai (Conservation Education Officer) while in attendance was 9 AAR Team members including the camera crew.

The launch took part in Moi Naikara High school and the ceremony was attended by more than 200 people to include the local Maasai residents from Maji Moto and Siana group ranches, students, parents, teachers, local leaders, members of Narok County Council, representatives from environmental conservation organizations working in the greater Mara Ecosystem and the local government officers. The ceremony entailed the commissioning of the biogas project and planting of commemorative trees to mark the day by selected individuals from the invited organizations.



*Picture on the left Mr. Stephen Kisotu, Chairman of Naikara high school explains about the biogas project
Picture on the right: Mr. Mugambi fore ground and Mr. Gakunju (AFEW directors) plants trees to commemorate the launch.*

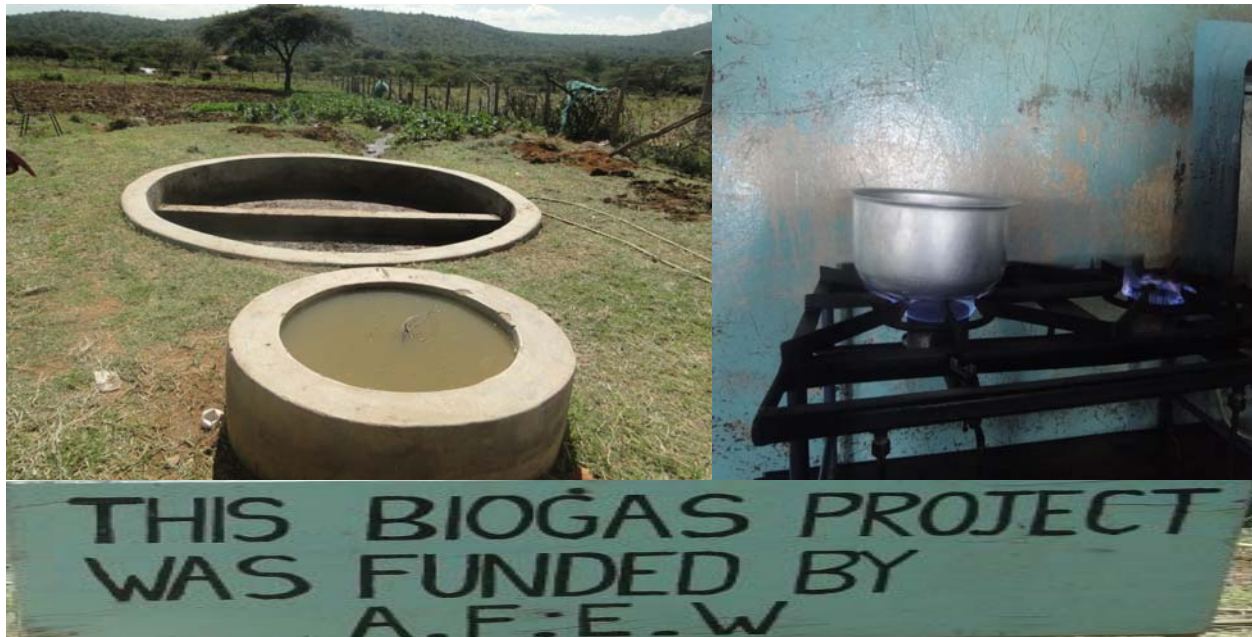
These two projects on green energy were sponsored by AFEW in 2011 with logistical support from The Friends of Conservation (FoC) through ILEPA, a local Civil Society Organization. Destruction of the Mara Ecosystem has been threatened through deforestation to create space for farming and for production of

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charcoal for local domestic consumption and large scale charcoal trade to meet the ever increasing demand in the major urban centres in Kenya.

The FoC and ILEPA are working closely with local communities in the Greater Masai Mara region of Kenya to assist local communities understand the impacts of their activities on the environment; through Environmental Education and Awareness programmes among the youth and general public. Adoption of sustainable energy alternatives and their use especially biogas and use of fire briquettes instead of charcoal has been a key strategy to save the forest cover within the Mara Ecosystem.

ILEPA approached AFEW to support the setting up of the two biogas projects within the local community mainly targeting a widow's village of 8 households living together in a Manyatta and the Local Moi Naikara High School located in the Mara within the original Siana group ranches. AFEW supported the proposal, In recognition of the critical role that easily accessible and clean energy plays in saving the general environment and improvement of socio-economic welfare of the local communities is important for achieving sustainable development. The sludge is used as fertilizer in the school kitchen garden where vegetables are grown.



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Main Objectives Attending the Launch

- To find out the implementation progress of the funded projects.
- To assess the project impacts on the school, the community and the country at large in terms of local circumstances and meeting sustainable aspirations in adoption of increased use of local green energy sources.
- To come up with recommendations as a basis for AFEW's future project support, Monitoring and Evaluation in order to achieve the organization's mission and conservation objectives.

Our Findings

- ❖ The biogas project was well implemented with the support of the school management committee.
- ❖ The students take an active part in the management of the same project through feeding the digester with cow dung every morning.
- ❖ The gas generated is piped to the school kitchen gas burner where it is used to prepare light meals.

- ❖ The school promotes sustainable environmental conservation practices.

- ❖ The local community appreciates the school as an environmental resource centre in matters related to sustainable development including green energy utilization and tree planting.

- ❖ The school is like an oasis at a middle of a desert because a lot of trees have been planted within the school compound while the surrounding area remains as an open dryland.

- ❖ The school compound is very clean, with no signs of litter and eco-codes have been put up remind both the students and general public on how to treat the environment.

- ❖ Selected members of the 4 group ranches in Siana have been educated on sustainable development while neighbouring schools have been visiting the Moi Naikara high school to learn about how to establish and utilize biogas plants.

- ❖ The local community appreciates the adoption of green energy as a means to minimizing environmental degradation by reducing the overreliance on firewood and charcoal.

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Recommendations:



A born fire discussion on the way forward and time to compare notes; a breakout during a game drive at the Mara reserve

- It is of paramount importance that AFEW develops and implements a monitoring and Evaluation Matrix which can be applied on either learning institution or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) projects to make sure that these projects are in line with promotion of AFEW’s vision, mission and objectives.
- In the future it would be important to engage AFEW’s Board of directors, members and employees in carry out M&E exercises on selected projects to assess impact and as a basis for future funding of similar projects. If such approach is adopted it would strengthen AFEW’s operations, networks through active involvement of the members in AFEW’s activities.
- There is need to document through use of GIS mapping and filming of projects which promote best environmental practices to encourage replication in other regions either by AFEW or other interested partners.

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Acknowledgement:

We would like to acknowledge the Board of Directors and AFEW (K) Ltd Management for their approval and support of these unique Green energy Projects. To the school management committee through Mr. Stephen Kisotu, the Head Teacher and both teaching and non teaching staff of Moi Naikara High school, the local Maasai community and other interested stakeholders who made sure these projects were implemented based on agreed implementation plan. We hope the projects will be an eye opener to the greater Maasai Mara ecosystem on promoting the adoption and utilization of green energy sources.



A sign of appreciation as per Maasai tradition; Handing over of environmental awareness materials produced by AFEW to the school

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