



Bedford Biofuels Jatropha, Tana Delta, Kenya

Basic Data

Name:	Bedford Biofuels Jatropha, Tana Delta, Kenya
Country:	Kenya
Province:	Coast Province
Site:	Tana Delta District
Accuracy of Location:	MEDIUM regional level

Source of Conflict

Type of Conflict (1st level):	Biomass and Land Conflicts (Forests, Agriculture and Livestock Management)
Type of Conflict (2nd level):	Wetlands and coastal zone management Land acquisition conflicts Plantation conflicts (incl. Pulp)

Description:	Bedford Biofuels Ltd proposed to establish Jatropha plantations on 6 ranches in Tana Delta on 64,000 ha. Phase one would commence on 10,000 ha in Kitangale ranch; phase 2 would take a further 30,000 ha in 4 other ranches, while phase 3 would add another 24,000 ha.
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Specific Commodities:	Ethanol Jatropha Carbon offsets Land
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Project Details and Actors

Project Details:	Bedford Biofuels (Tana Delta) Limited, has negotiated sub-leases from six ranches to grow Jatropha, investing around USD 68,730,625. NEMA has approved the first phase in Kintangale Ranch, which plans to cultivate Jatropha on 10,000 ha at a total budget of USD 12,355,000. The project involves the following stages: Initial clearing and ground modification and construction of associated infrastructure Growing Jatropha seedlings in a temporary nursery for manual planting; Management and operation of the plantation areas including harvesting; and Enhancements of the management of non-plantation areas in the ranch Bedford claims to commit USD \$3,600,000 to the EMPOWER programme to fund
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community development projects, even though other previous projects have promised heaven but delivered little and at a cost on environment.

Project Area (in hectares):	64000
Level of Investment (in USD):	68730625
Type of Population:	Rural
Potential Affected Population:	80-100,000
Start Date:	11/2010
Company Names or State Enterprises:	Bedford Biofuels Limited (Kenya) Bedford Biofuels Inc (Canada)
Relevant government actors:	National Environment Management Authority; Kenya Wildlife Service; Kenya Forest Service; Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA); Commissioner of Lands; Water Resources Management Authority; Tana River County Council; Tana Delta District Development; Ministries: Provincial administration (Tana Delta and Lamu Districts); Office of the Prime Minister; Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources; Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife; Ministry of Local Government; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Tourism ;
International and Financial Institutions:	UK Aid IUCN Wetlands International World Bank United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Environmental justice organisations and other supporters:	East African Wildlife Society; East African Wildlife Society; Nature Kenya; Kenya Wetlands Forum; Kenya Forests Working Group; AROCHA Kenya; Tana Delta Conservation Organization; Wema-Ngatana Farmers Cooperative Society; Lower Tana Delta Conservation Trust, LUSH Charity Pot, Darwin

The Conflict and the Mobilization

Intensity of Conflict (at highest level):	MEDIUM (street protests, visible mobilization)
When did the mobilization begin:	PREVENTIVE resistance (precautionary phase)
Groups Mobilizing:	Landless peasants Neighbours/citizens/communities Farmers Local scientists/professionals Indigenous groups or traditional communities Local ejos Local government/political parties Pastoralists Fishermen International ejos
Forms of Mobilization:	Development of a network/collective action Involvement of national and international NGOs Lawsuits, court cases, judicial activism Media based activism/alternative media Objections to the EIA Official complaint letters and petitions Public campaigns

Impacts

Environmental Impacts:	Visible: Deforestation and loss of vegetation cover Potential: Biodiversity loss (wildlife, agro-diversity), Global warming, Soil erosion, Large-scale disturbance of hydro and geological systems
Socio-economic Impacts:	Visible: Increase in Corruption/Co-optation of different actors, Displacement, Land dispossession Potential: Loss of livelihood, Loss of landscape/sense of place

Outcome

Project Status:	Proposed (exploration phase)
Pathways for conflict outcome / response:	<p>Institutional changes Land demarcation Strengthening of participation Violent targeting of activists New Environmental Impact Assessment/Study Project suspended. The Office of the Prime Minister, with funding from UKAid, has set up a committee, with about 20 government representatives, to facilitate preparation of a strategic plan and strategic environmental assessment for the Delta. This would allow for development of sustainable livelihoods for the people while safeguarding the environment upon which the local economy depends.</p>
Development of Alternatives:	<p>1. Nature Kenya is working with local communities; pastoralists, farmers, fishermen and conservation groups in order to take action against the proposed developments in the Tana River Delta and to take forward positive proposals to enhance livelihoods.</p> <p>2. Develop appropriate guidance on sustainable biofuel production before any commercial biofuel projects are approved.</p> <p>3. Carry out a cost-benefit analysis to assess whether growing a biofuel crop carries an energy cost as well as environmental and social costs.</p>

Do you consider this as a success?:	Yes
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Why? Explain briefly.:	NEMA granted the developer the licence even though scientific evidence pointed out to Jatropha plantations not being viable; and there were concerns that 10,000 ha size was too huge to be pilot. However, the company has now pulled out and the project is stopped.
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Sources and Materials

Legislations:	Constitution of the Republic of Kenya, 2010; Forests Act, 2005; Forest Policy; Wildlife (Conservation and Management) Act of 1976 ; Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act (EMCA) of 1999; Environmental Policy; Water Act, 2002; Water Policy (National Policy on Water Resources Management); The Agriculture Act, Cap 318; The Local Government Act, Cap 265;
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References:	<p>Land Clearing and the Biofuel Carbon Debt, Joseph Fargione et al, February 2008. http://www.atmos.washington.edu/2009Q1/111/Readings/Fargione2008_biofuel_land-clearing.pdf</p> <p>Sustainable biofuels: prospects and challenges, Royal Society, 14th January 2008. http://royalsociety.org/policy/publications/2008/sustainable-biofuels/</p>
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Links:	<p>BBC http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7538102.stm</p> <p>Nature Kenya http://naturekenya.org/node/180</p> <p>Birdlife http://www.birdlife.org/community/2011/10/planning-process-for-tana-river-delta-under-way/</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/sustainability_criteria_en.html</p> <p>GMA News www.gmanews.tv/story/95762/Plant-biofuel-crops-in-marginal-land---Zubiri</p>
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Media Links:

and

<http://www.youtube.com/ktnkenya#p/u/4/kcSIOflH3IA>

<http://www.youtube.com/ktnkenya#p/u/27/P2U5TP08czg>

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