

Developing Fire Danger Maps for Identifying Fire Hot Spots and Improving Fire Management in Mt. Kenya Forest | FIREMAPS

A research partnership between Kenya and Austria

KEF



Human-induced wildfires have caused major losses to forest resources, wildlife and property in the recent past. Mt. Kenya forest is one of the five major water towers of Kenya. The stakeholders around Mt. Kenya forest have inadequate technical fire management capacities to control the spread of large scale fire events in the recent past. The project FIREMAPS seeks to support wildfire management in Mt. Kenya forest by developing fire danger maps to be used by the government and communities to identify fire hot spots, support fire prevention and firefighting.

The FIREMAPS project will achieve its goal by

- undertaking a participatory multi-stakeholder engagement of communities around Mt. Kenya forest to identify fire prone areas and causes of wildfires
- analysing records on socio-economic activities, weather data, vegetation types and wildfires to develop fire danger maps.

Wildfire related issues are multi- and interdisciplinary in nature and there is no single organization that can handle these issues on their own. FIREMAPS will therefore combine scientific evidence and local knowledge of communities on fire management. Through the experiences gained from learning together and interacting with communities, research findings will be tailored to the needs of communities to improve their capabilities. Recommendations for monitoring and managing of wildfires will be disseminated to forest managers, ecosystem conservators, volunteer forest fire patrol crews, community forest association (CFA) members, community leaders and other stakeholders.

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