

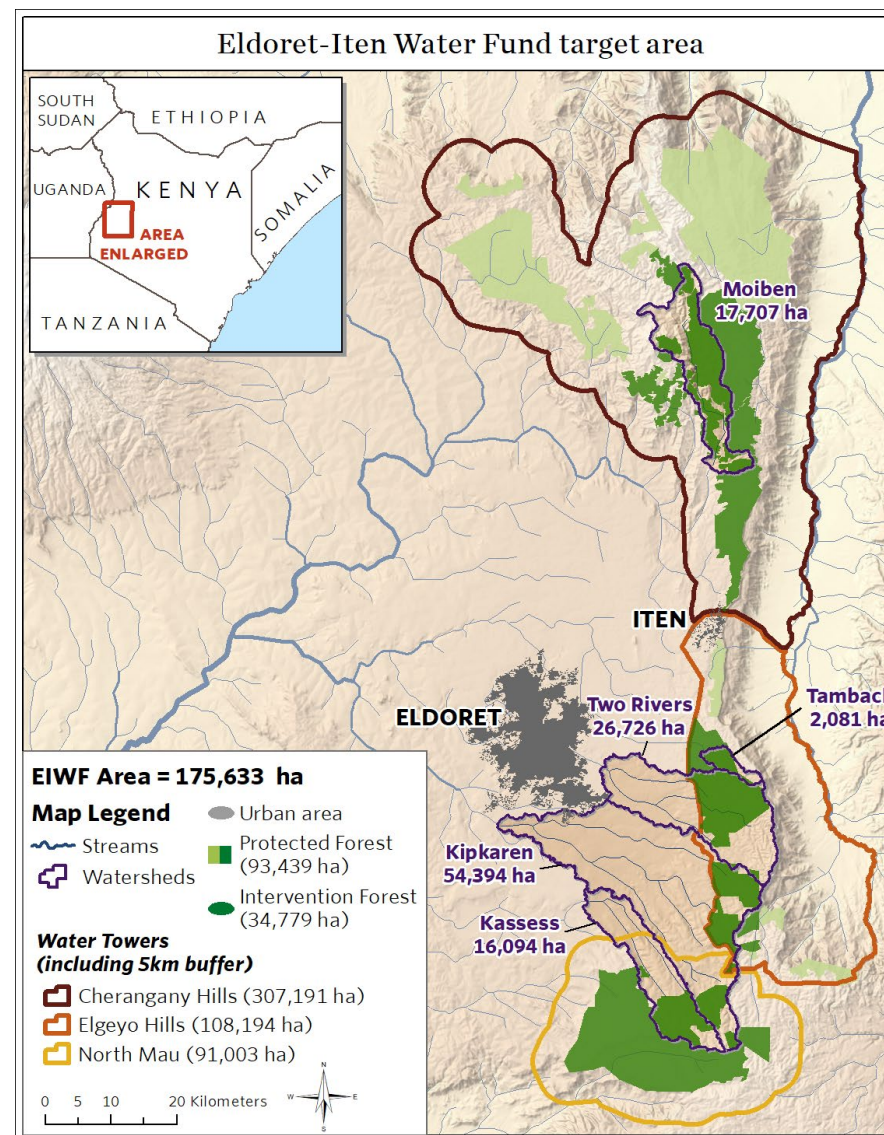
# Ground-up approaches to inclusive finance: Leveraging Technology and Youth in Monitoring





# Eldoret Iten Water Fund (EIWF) – Overview

- **EIWF Project** – Catchment restoration program targeting of 120,000 ha
- **Threat:** High level of catchment degradation from unsustainable land management practices
- **Impact** - Low river flows, sedimentation, water pollution, low agri. productivity & biodiversity loss
- **TNC MEL grant:** Pilot program trained youth in use of drones for monitoring restoration efforts – SLM, Agroforestry, riparian areas
- **Objective:** Acquire high resolution imagery for monitoring impact of project interventions
- First time youth drone training program implemented in the region



## Outcome – Youth – led drone program

- Trained 16 youth champions, drawn from the project areas to a level of certification
- Developed guidelines for analyzing drone's images for the youth focusing on forest cover, degraded areas and agro-forestry
- Developed drone operational framework and plan for EIWF
- Recommendation on future engagement of youth in use of drones for monitoring restoration activities



Credit: Skibet – Drone training



# Application of the drone program – Indicators tracked

- **Riparian management** – vegetation cover



Credit: John Gathagu - MEL



# Application of the drone program – Indicators tracked

- **Farmland** - adoption of sustainable land management practices – terraces and strip grass



Credit: John Gathagu - MEL



# Application of the drone program – Indicators tracked

- **Agro-forestry** – species, terracing, proportion of land with soil management



Credit: John Gathagu



# Application of the drone program – Indicators tracked

- **Protected Forest** –forest rehabilitation and recovery



Credit: Drone Kimitei –Drone pilot



# Application of the drone program – Indicators tracked

- **Biodiversity** – tracking endangered sitatunga antelope and threatened crested crane birds
  - A total of **16 sitatunga antelopes** were positively identified.
  - Observed in **five distinct family groups**, spread across central, western, and southern sections of the swamp.



Credit: Jones Mutebi



# Lessons learned

1. **Promising results to scale-lessons to be replicated in other water funds**
  - a) Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund
  - b) Yala-Nyando Conservation Water Fund
  - c) Jumuiya Water fund
  - d) Tanga Water Fund – Tanzania
2. **Opportunity of involving youth in monitoring watershed conservation through use of drones**
3. **Low-cost technology** for monitoring short term impacts of restoration efforts
4. **Opportunity to leverage AI, GIS and Remote sensing** for detailed analysis
5. **Evidence based monitoring** is a key to resource mobilization
6. **Challenges to address** - Training and safety, Access to advanced drone equipment and regulatory compliance



Credit: Abel Meresy: Wetland Monitoring



ASANTE SANA!