COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AT RORYA DISTRICT MARA REGION

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN MONITORING AND EVALUATION (MAME)

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that he has read and here by recommends for acceptance by The Open University of Tanzania a dissertation entitled, “Community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management at Rorya district within Mara Region” in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of degree of masters in monitoring and evaluation (MAME).

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Dr. Noel Matemba

(Supervisor)

……..….

Date

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DECLARATION

I, **Julius John Ikongora,** declare that, the work presented in this dissertation is original. It has never been presented to any other University or Institution. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided. It is in this regard that I declare this work as originally mine. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Masters in monitoring and evaluation in faculty of arts and social science of the open university of Tanzania.

……

Signature

……..

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation and its fruits first to God and second my Lovely wife miss Anipha Misana Masatu, my father Mr. Photonatuce J. C. Ikongora and fully family. They all kept me in their prayers and exercised great patience during my study period. Indeed, they have been a source of encouragement throughout my life.

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ABSTRACT

The study evaluated the extent of community involvement in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management projects within the Rorya district in Mara region. The study guided by three specific objectives; to assess the degree of community engagement in monitoring and evaluating natural resources management initiatives in Rorya district, to investigate the impact of community participation on the monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives and to analyze the challenges impeding community involvement in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management endeavors in the Rorya district. The study's findings revealed a discernible correlation between community participation and the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluating natural resources management projects in Rorya district. Employing a case study design, characterized by an extensive and comprehensive examination of a specific individual, group, or area, it was employed a diverse array of skills and methodologies to systematically gather comprehensive information about this phenomenon. Data where gathered through questionnaires to respondents in Rorya district, the study's outcomes underscored several barriers to community participation, including limited financial resources, a shortage of monitoring and evaluation personnel, restricted natural resource assessments, data insufficiency, and an absence of clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the community. Finally the study recommends the importance of nurturing community participation within Rorya district to support programs that emphasize accountability, enhance service quality, inform policymakers/donors, and provide valuable insights for technical specialists to execute more effective interventions within the community.

Keywords: *Participation, Evaluation, Monitoring, Community Participation.*

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LIST OF ABREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

CDD	Community Driven Development
CPM&E	Community Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
CMT	Council Management Team
DED	District Executive Director
DLNRO	District Land and Natural Resource officer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
VEOs	Village Executive Officers
WEOs	Ward Executive Officers

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Globally, there is a growing consensus emphasizing the pivotal role of integrating participation into monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes to enhance development opportunities and accountability (Matsiliza, 2012). This approach has emerged as a means of engaging people in development endeavors, affording them a voice in governing and reaping the benefits of various development initiatives and resources (Theron, 2008). As early as 2009, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) acknowledged the significance of community participation in development policies, programs, and projects, both in developing and developed nations. This acknowledgment is rooted in the understanding that community participation elevates the quality, effectiveness, and sustainability of development endeavors.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) play pivotal roles in evaluating the performance of community projects. They function as indispensable management tools for systematically monitoring project progress, showcasing tangible on-ground results, and gauging the necessity for project design adjustments to accommodate evolving circumstances (World Bank Group, 2013). According to OECD (2018), the monitoring system is a dynamic tool involving the continuous, systematic collection of information from various projects to assess progress towards achieving objectives, outcomes, and impacts. Conversely, the evaluation system is defined as the systematic and objective assessment of ongoing and completed projects, programs, or policies, encompassing their design, implementation, and results. Its objective is

to ascertain the relevance and attainment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability in various community and natural resource management projects or programs.

In Asia, the inception of monitoring and evaluation systems commenced through participatory processes aimed at bolstering ownership and sustainability. Civil Society Organizations have played a pivotal role by leveraging their expertise to formulate objectives, strategies, targets, key performance indicators, and data collection tools (INTRAC, 2008). Active community involvement in monitoring and evaluation, such as in Land Use Planning (LUP), fosters ownership of development projects. Depending on the extent of engagement, community participation aims to address economic and social welfare needs (FAO, 1985). It also enhances project performance and impact, consequently boosting accountability and transparency. Moreover, community participation in monitoring and evaluation can stimulate stakeholder engagement, socialization, partnership, and long-term sustainability.

In Africa, participatory monitoring and evaluation have supplanted traditional approaches in developing countries (Chinnadurai, 2012). Research conducted in Central Ethiopia by Tadesse, et al., (2013) affirmed the success of community participation in planning and implementation, albeit encountering challenges in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management.

Kenya places significant emphasis on participatory approaches to attain sustainable development, aligning with Article 27(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which endows everyone with the right to freely participate in the cultural life

of their community. Tanzania, likewise, underscores the importance of stakeholder participation in monitoring and evaluation as a critical component of project management. Development programs, policies, and the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 all underscore the significance of participatory approaches in the development process, including resource management. Nonetheless, the extent of local community participation in resource management, particularly in monitoring and evaluation, remains a subject of debate for various reasons.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The examination of community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management in Tanzania sheds light on the long-term impact of community involvement in various independent projects and the support provided to research and management institutions. Natural resource management has consistently contributed to sustainable outcomes, including the reduction of income poverty, enhanced resilience among the most vulnerable groups, and improvements in overall quality of life and social well-being in Tanzania.

However, the evaluation and monitoring team has encountered challenges in adapting to the rapidly evolving policy and strategic landscape. Consequently, the focus of program activities has largely remained on natural resource conservation, and top-down management approaches have continued to characterize the relationships between project management, local communities, and the private sector. Furthermore, the transfer of program responsibilities to local governments has proven to be exceptionally challenging during the evaluation phase and project closure.

One possible explanation for these challenges is the limited level of community participation in these plans, with communities appearing overly reliant on district-level authorities. Therefore, this study aims to delve into the underlying issues surrounding community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management and its implications for the sustainability of village land use plans.

1.3 General Objective of the Study

To determine the community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management.

1.3.1 Specific Objective of the Study

i. To identify the levels community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management.
ii. To examine the challenges facing community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management
iii. To assess the effect of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management.
iv. To explore the factors influence community to participate in project M&E?

1.4 Research Questions

i. What are the levels of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management?
ii. What are the challenges encounter in community participation in project

monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management?

iii. What are the effect of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management?

iv. What are the factors influence community participates in project M&E?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study's findings offer significant benefits to the various stakeholders engaged in community participation within the project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management in Rorya District, Mara Region. These advantages encompass a range of project initiatives, including community project monitoring and evaluation, policy development for more effective socio-economic policies across different sectors, and the enhancement of NGO and government collaboration in designing M&E strategies and systems to ensure community accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in natural resource management at multiple levels, including the village, district, and national levels.

Furthermore, the study's results facilitate the incorporation of corrective measures aimed at enhancing community participation in the ongoing implementation of natural resources management projects in the study area and throughout Rorya District. In addition to these benefits, the study serves as valuable information for donors and development partners. It enables them to assess the value for money invested in various programs and projects, as community participation plays a pivotal role in ensuring accountability in both fund allocation and the implementation process.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

The study faced several limitations. Firstly, some respondents proved uncooperative and were reluctant to provide the necessary information. This reluctance may have arisen from the sensitive and confidential nature of the study's subject matter. Despite the researcher's assurances that all information provided would be handled with the utmost confidentiality and solely used for academic purposes, some respondents remained hesitant to share their insights. Secondly, financial constraints posed a limitation, impacting the resources available for the study. Additionally, time constraints during the data collection phase presented challenges, as there was a limited timeframe to gather the necessary information effectively. Lastly, adverse weather conditions, particularly rain, also posed a limitation to the study, potentially affecting the logistics and timing of data collection activities.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The study was structured into five chapters, each serving a distinct purpose. In the initial chapter, an overview of the study was presented. The second chapter delved into the literature review, offering an in-depth examination of the relevant existing research and knowledge. Moving on to the third chapter, the methodology employed in the study was elaborated upon. The fourth chapter presented the study's findings, along with a thorough analysis and discussion of these findings. Finally, the fifth and concluding chapter encapsulated the study's summary, its conclusions, and the recommendations derived from the research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter provides an overview of the theoretical and empirical literature relevant to the study's objectives. Additionally, it presents the conceptual framework that illustrates the interrelationships among the key variables of the research.

2.2 Definitions of the Key Terms

2.2.1 Participation

As per the Business Dictionary (2015), participation is defined as involving employees in decision-making, goal setting, profit sharing, teamwork, and other measures designed to enhance their commitment to collective objectives within a firm. A more detailed explanation of participation programs suggests that they involve a substantial number of individuals in activities or situations aimed at improving their well-being, such as income, security, or self-esteem (Chowdhury, 1996). The World Bank extends this definition by describing participation as a process in which stakeholders exert influence and jointly share control over development initiatives, decisions, and resources. It's worth noting that the concept of participation encompasses a vast body of literature and has gained widespread popularity, with various interpretations and applications (World Bank, 2001).

In the context of development, participation signifies a process in which all members of a community or organization are actively engaged and hold influence over decisions related to development activities that will impact them. This implies that development projects should address the specific needs and priorities chosen by

community or group members themselves. Moreover, it emphasizes that all stages of the development process should feature the active involvement of community or organization members.

2.2.2 Community Participation

In 2005, community participation was defined as the active involvement of individuals within a community in projects aimed at addressing their own issues and challenges. Community participation serves as a mechanism for empowering people, fostering the development of their skills and capacities, enabling them to engage with the development process, and enabling them to independently determine their development needs and priorities.

2.2.3 Monitoring

Monitoring refers to the systematic evaluation of a program or project's advancement concerning its initial objectives, with the aim of managing activities and implementing necessary corrective measures. It serves as an internal project activity intended to offer insights into project progress, efficiency, and challenges encountered during its implementation (Michael and Eleano, 1986; MOEC, 1996; Bartle, 1998). The process of monitoring is essential for achieving the desired outcomes, as it ensures that progress is continually assessed and allows for timely adjustments when needed.

2.2.4 Evaluation

In line with the EU's (2011) definition, evaluation can be described as the periodic assessment of a project's efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, and

relevance concerning its stated objectives. It serves as a management tool employed for the systematic and impartial evaluation of an ongoing or completed project, program, or policy, encompassing its design, implementation, and outcomes (Gudda, 2011).

In the context of this study, evaluation encompasses assessments conducted at different stages: before the initiation of a project, during its progress, and upon its completion. The primary objective of evaluation is to determine the project's significance, its fulfillment of predetermined objectives, its efficiency, impact, and sustainability. The World Bank (2000) distinguishes three primary types of evaluation based on various criteria.

2.3 Natural Resources

As per the Encyclopedia, natural resources are those resources that exist independently of human actions. These resources encompass elements that possess inherent value for various purposes, including commercial and industrial use, aesthetic appreciation, scientific research, and cultural significance. On our planet, natural resources encompass a wide array of elements such as sunlight, the atmosphere, water bodies, landmasses, all mineral deposits, as well as all forms of vegetation and animal life. The allocation and utilization of natural resources can often become a focal point for numerous economic and political disputes, both within individual nations and on the international stage. These resources hold substantial importance and can lead to significant conflicts and negotiations among various stakeholders.

2.3.1 Common Pool Resources

Common pool resources encompass a range of natural and human-made assets where one person's utilization diminishes the availability for others, often posing difficulties and expenses in restricting external access. These resources span diverse domains, including forests, fisheries, wildlife habitats, grazing systems, and agricultural landscapes. The governance of common pool resources can be structured under various institutional frameworks, broadly classified as government-controlled, privately owned, or community-managed, as outlined by Ostrom in 2008.

Ostrom's characterization further underscores that common pool resources typically exist at a scale where identifying recognized users and imposing access limits, while challenging, remains within the realm of possibility. Consequently, these resources are commonly described as "open-access," signifying that anyone can enter and exploit them, rendering them vulnerable to overutilization and potential depletion.

2.4 Theoretical Literature Review

The study primarily relied on the theory of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), comprising two core components: monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring entails the systematic and continuous collection and analysis of information pertaining to the progress of a project or program (Gosling and Edwards, 2010). It serves as an ongoing assessment of project activities, particularly in terms of their social impact, facilitating the early identification of issues that could impede progress or deviate from equity objectives. Monitoring is typically regarded as an internal project activity and a critical element of day-to-day management (Casley et al., 2009; Randel, 2008).

Conversely, evaluation centers on the periodic and objective assessment of an ongoing or completed project's relevance, performance, efficiency, and impact. Evaluations are expected to furnish credible and valuable information, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the decision-making processes of both beneficiaries and donors (Kusek and Rist, 2008; OECD, 2009; Kaaria and Njuki, 2010). Despite their distinct functions, both monitoring and evaluation share a common objective: learning from a project's progress and impact, with a focus on efficiency and effectiveness (Spaulding, 2013).

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) is an approach that has gained prominence in the field, involving those who contribute to or are affected by the project, such as local communities, collaborating organizations, and program field staff, in various stages from planning M&E to using its results for learning and change (Talukder et al., 2001; Campilan et al., 2012). This approach acknowledges the significance of community-based planning, monitoring, and evaluation, enabling communities to collectively comprehend, learn from, and reflects upon the design and implementation of local development plans (Mohammed and Schechter, 2012; Kaaria, 2008).

Monitoring and evaluation serve as invaluable tools for identifying problems, proposing solutions, challenging assumptions, and stimulating reflection and action to attain program goals (Republic of Liberia, 2009). In the context of the study, community participation in natural resource management aligns with the principles of M&E theory. By involving communities in decision-making about their future, this approach fosters confidence and empowers them to take control of their own

destinies (Hubley, 2000, 2001).

Sarkissian (2002) underscores ethical and pragmatic reasons for community participation, highlighting that it cultivates improved relationships between communities and workers. Implementing programs that engage all members of a community can enhance their understanding of challenges and encourage participation and self-reliance. In this context, community participation concentrates on organized community involvement rather than individual beneficiaries. Through this process, communities acquire influence and develop the capacity to determine which interventions are required and how to address them (Midgley, 2000).

2.5 Empirical Review

2.5.1 The Levels Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

Community Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation of Project Management: Insights from Tanzania. As per NLUPC (2013), community engagement in project planning is an indispensable component across all levels of the planning process. Aligned with decentralization policies, villages and districts serve as primary institutions for the integration of project planning and execution. The Village Project guideline (2013) delineates the roles of village institutions within the village project planning process. The village assembly, encompassing all village members, assumes a central role in decision-making and approval processes concerning village matters. The village council, tasked with village project planning, may delegate specific responsibilities to the Village Project Management Committee (VLUM) team. The VLUM team closely collaborates with the Project Management Committee (PLUM)

team, receiving comprehensive on-the-job training to foster the expertise necessary for their tasks both during and after the presence of PLUM team members in the village.

In the context of Community Participation, Monitoring, and Evaluation (CPM&E), community members take the lead in identifying their objectives and instigating actions to achieve them. Their responsibilities extend to data collection, analysis, and the utilization of M&E information to adapt and refine their activities, as articulated by Cramb and Purcell (2001). Community participation can be categorized into various levels, encompassing:

Passive Participation: Involving individuals who are primarily recipients of project information without engaging in substantive dialogue or decision-making.

Manipulative Participation: Encompassing individuals who falsely claim to represent official bodies, lacking genuine decision-making authority.

Material Incentive or Resource Contribution Participation: Involving individuals who provide labor or resources in exchange for compensation or benefits.

Functional Participation: Typically occurring after external agencies have already made significant decisions, with community members enlisted to execute project goals with limited input into the decision-making process.

Interactive Participation: Highly recommended, this level entails active community engagement in all project phases, from analysis and planning to implementation and evaluation. It ensures that community-identified needs and objectives are met for sustainable development, fostering shared decision-making.

Self-Mobilization: Representing the pinnacle of community participation, this level empowers communities to autonomously define project objectives and independently plan and execute activities without significant external intervention, fostering self-reliance and sustainability.

2.5.2 Challenges facing Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Challenges in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) in Development Projects and Sustainable Development. The choice of appropriate tools for comprehensively understanding the impact of various interventions is a critical aspect that requires careful consideration (Goyder, 1998). Determining which indicators to monitor also necessitates ongoing discussions between program implementers and the community. Moreover, the challenges in PM&E are closely connected to the values, structures, and professional practices within organizations. The introduction of PM&E models requires extensive discussions on how to effectively and widely implement them, acknowledging their inherent complexity, which often surpasses initial assumptions.

2.5.3 The Factors Influencing Community Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Several factors influence community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management. These factors encompass budgetary allocation, effective leadership, managerial skills, and the quality of communication. Budgetary allocation plays a pivotal role in influencing community participation in the monitoring and evaluation process. Effective leadership is another key factor that

can either enhance or hinder community engagement in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management initiatives. Additionally, the presence of managerial skills within the community can significantly impact their participation in monitoring and evaluation activities. Lastly, the quality of communication channels and practices within the community is also a vital factor that affects their involvement in natural resource management.

Participation for material incentives or resource contributions involves individuals providing resources such as labor in exchange for incentives like food, cash, or other material rewards. This form of participation may not necessarily involve community members in experimentation (Pretty and Scoones, 1995; Hawlett and Nagu, 2001; Rulinga and Simpson, 2002). On the other hand, functional participation typically occurs after significant decisions have already been made by external agencies, and community members are co-opted to achieve external project goals at minimal costs. Effective community participation often encompasses both interactive and shared decision-making processes.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

The central concept explored in this study revolves around community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management projects within the Rorya district of Mara region. Essentially, community members who are beneficiaries of these natural resource management projects are actively engaged in participatory monitoring and evaluation activities, as supported by scholars such as Cleaver (1999), Neef (2003), Jacobs et al. (2010), and Onyango (2018). The implementation of these activities is typically facilitated through strategies employed

by either the government or non-governmental organizations responsible for project execution.

Community participation serves as a catalyst for community ownership and responsibility toward projects, fostering a sense of commitment among individuals. Furthermore, it equips communities with conflict resolution skills and ensures that diverse perspectives are taken into account, thereby promoting a culture of learning and self-sufficiency (Baum, 2011:187). Communities gain the capacity to assess their own circumstances, organize themselves effectively, and work collaboratively to effect positive societal change and construct a better future.

Sarkissian (2002) highlights both ethical and pragmatic reasons for community participation, emphasizing its numerous advantages, which have been acknowledged by numerous scholars.

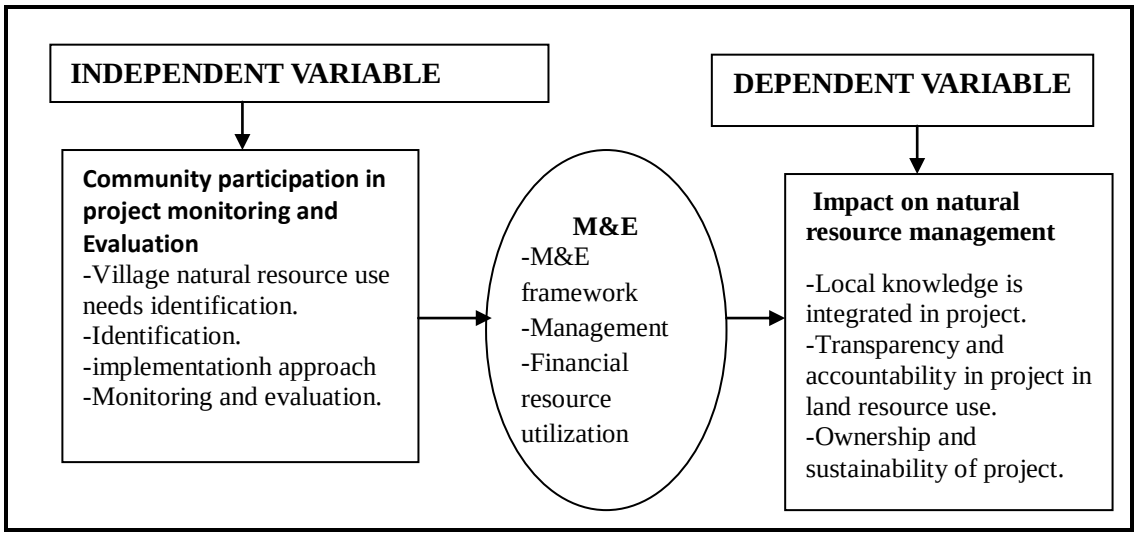

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework on Relationship between PM&E of Community Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation of Land Natural Resources Management
Source: Author (2022).

2.7 Knowledge Gap

Numerous researchers have delved into the topic of community participation from various angles. For instance, Omunu (2008) explored the challenges associated with community participation, uncovering a range of issues spanning from the community to organizational levels. These challenges have implications for the sustainability, ownership, and accountability of community-managed projects. Another comprehensive study conducted by Iddi, et al., in 2018 provided an in-depth examination of the challenges and opportunities related to community participation in monitoring and evaluating government projects in Tanzania. This research revealed that community participation faces obstacles and is not consistently carried out as intended. Factors contributing to these challenges include the socio-economic backgrounds of beneficiaries, gender dynamics, the influence of influential figures in villages, stringent accountability requirements at the organizational level, and inadequately trained project facilitators.

In this study, an extensive literature review was undertaken to explore the topic of participation in monitoring and evaluation. The examination encompassed practices occurring at the global, regional, and local scales, with specific attention given to Tanzania. Despite these efforts, it is important to note that there is a notable scarcity of documented information that provides insights into the practical implementation of community participation in monitoring and evaluation, as well as its potential ramifications for the sustainability of projects.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter has provided a comprehensive overview and discussion of the research methodology, outlining the techniques employed for data collection and analysis in the study. The key components covered in this chapter include the research design, study area, study population, sample size, and sampling technique. Additionally, it has addressed the sources of data, data collection techniques, an explanation of the data analysis process, and a discussion of research ethics.

3.2. The Study Area

3.2.1 Description of the Study Area

The research was conducted within the jurisdiction of Rorya District Council, located in the Mara region of Tanzania. Rorya District is one of the nine district councils in the Mara Region, covering a total land area of 9,345.496 square kilometers. It is further subdivided into four divisions, 26 wards, 87 villages, and 508 sub-villages, with a projected total population of 554,490 for the year 2021, according to the District profile (2022).

This specific district, Rorya, was chosen for the study due to observed challenges related to community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management initiatives, including those concerning water, land, and forests. The research aimed to investigate both the advantages and disadvantages experienced by the community when engaging in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management. Furthermore, the study sought to identify potential strategies

for enhancing community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management, addressing prevalent issues within Rorya District.

3.2.2 Administrative Set Up

The study area, Rorya District, is characterized by administrative divisions, including 4 divisions, 26 wards, 87 villages, and 508 hamlets. From these, a selection was made to focus data collection efforts on 8 specific wards out of the total 26 wards. These selected wards include Mirare, Koryo, Mkoma, and Nyamunga. Furthermore, the study honed in on 6 villages within these selected wards, chosen based on their representation of the majority of households.

In terms of agricultural potential, the district boasts approximately 291,375 hectares of arable land suitable for cultivation. However, it is noteworthy that only 130,481 hectares are currently under cultivation, despite the district experiencing two annual seasons of rainfall. This situation highlights the significance of the study area for assessing the impact of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management, as it faces challenges related to optimizing its agricultural potential.

3.2.3 Demography

Rorya District is home to three major ethnic groups: the Suba, Luo, and Kurya. The Suba ethnic group encompasses sub-groups such as Ryeri, Kine, Simbiti, Sweta, and Surwa, among which male circumcision is a common practice. The Luo ethnic group, on the other hand, comprises sub-groups like Kamageta, Jakiseru, and Jaluo-imbo, and they typically do not practice female genital mutilation (FGM) or male circumcision. Lastly, the Kurya ethnic group consists of sub-groups that practice

both FGM and male circumcision.

As of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Rorya District had a total population of 554,490 people, with 169,913 being males and the remaining 184,577 being females. The district's population density is reported as 59.3 individuals per square kilometer (NBS, 2023).

3.2.4 Main Economic Activities

Approximately 85% of the residents in Rorya District primarily rely on agriculture and livestock farming as their main sources of income. Other economic activities in the area include fishing, small-scale mining, and petty businesses (Rorya District Council, 2023). The district's agriculture is diverse, with major crops such as maize, sorghum, millet, sweet potatoes, rice, and beans being cultivated.

Additionally, Rorya District is home to numerous small and medium enterprises, as well as a variety of informal activities. These informal activities often involve women engaged in food vending, while there are also shops, guest houses, and an emerging sector centered around motorcycle riding, locally known as 'Boda-Boda.' A smaller portion of the population is employed in the formal sector, working for entities like the District Council, Faith-Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and banks.

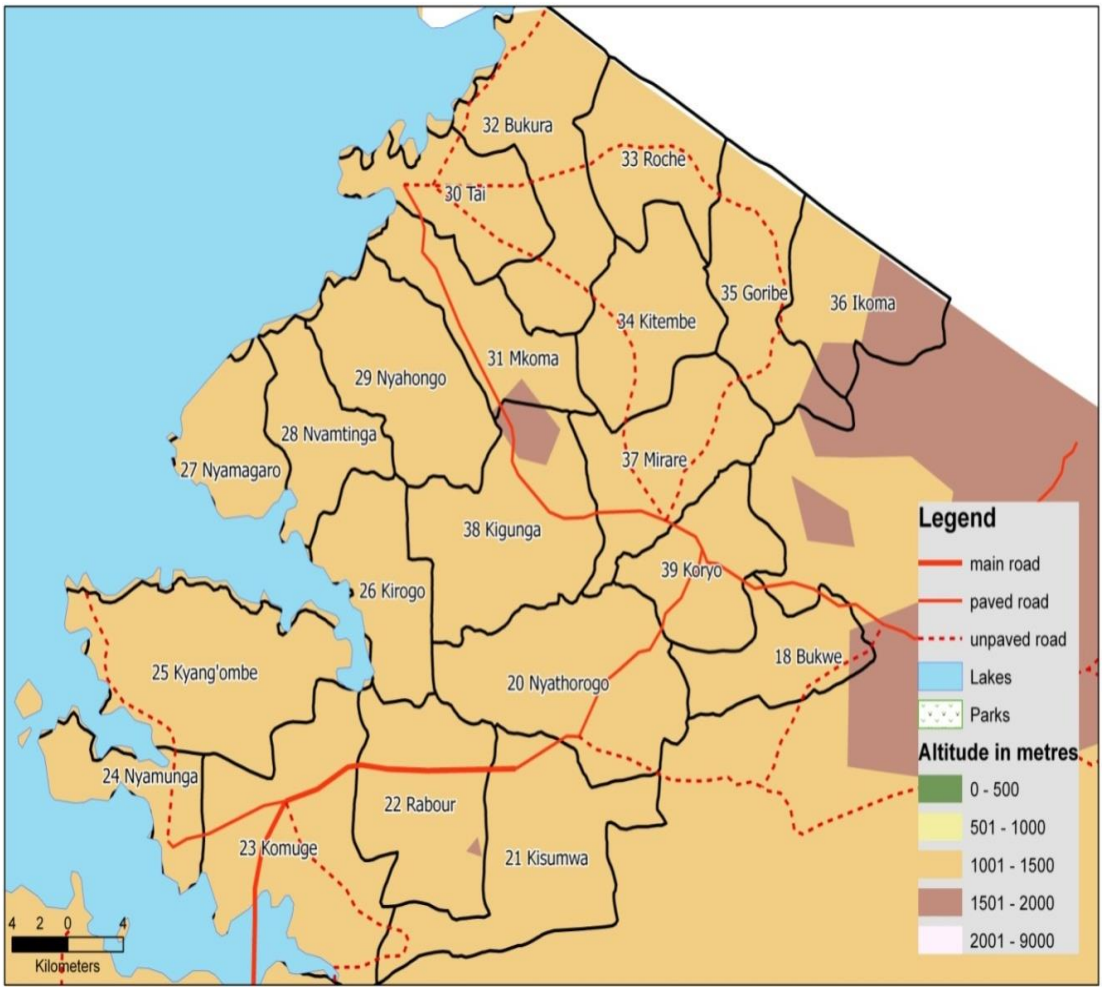

Figure 2.2: Map of Rorya District Council

3.2.5 Climate

The district has 2 agro-ecological zones, with a total of 192,829 Ha. Of arable land and 111,970 Ha. Under cultivation every year (62.0%). The zones are:

3.2.6 Midlands

The midlands encompass an area of 2,235 square kilometers and are situated at an altitude ranging from 1,300 meters to 1,500 meters above sea level. This region experiences an annual rainfall ranging from 900 millimeters to 1,250 millimeters. The primary food crops cultivated in this zone include maize, millet, sorghum, sweet

potatoes, sunflower, and cotton as a cash crop.

As of the year 2002, the midlands had a population of 119,010 people, resulting in a population density of 53.25 individuals per square kilometer. By the year 2006, it is estimated that the population in this zone had increased to 133,427 people, with a population density of 59.7 individuals per square kilometer.

3.2.7 Lowlands

The lowlands encompass an area of 1,101 square kilometers and are situated at an altitude ranging from 800 meters to 1,200 meters above sea level. This region experiences an annual rainfall ranging from 700 millimeters to 900 millimeters. The major food crops cultivated in the lowlands include cassava, millet, sweet potatoes, and maize, while the zone also produces cash crops such as sunflower, groundnuts, and cotton. As of the year 2002, the lowlands had a population of 161,158 people, resulting in a population density of 146.37 individuals per square kilometer. By the year 2006, it is estimated that the population in this zone had increased to 180,681 people, with a population density of 164.1 individuals per square kilometer. The lowlands cover Nyancha, Suba, and Luo-Imbo divisions.

3.3 Research Design

As per Ndunguru (2006), a case study design can be described as a comprehensive and in-depth examination of an individual or a specific area. In this approach, an investigator employs a wide range of skills and research methods to systematically collect ample information about a particular phenomenon. This in-depth exploration aims to provide a deeper understanding of how the phenomenon operates within the

context of a larger society or system.

3.4. Data Collection

The study primarily relied on the use of primary data to address the knowledge gap by collecting fresh information directly from the field. This primary data encompassed both qualitative and quantitative information. To gather this data, the study employed various data collection methods and techniques, including surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions. In addition to primary data, the study also incorporated secondary data sources, such as official documents, relevant literature, and research reports. This multi-source approach allowed the researcher to leverage the strengths of each method while mitigating some of their limitations, thereby enhancing the overall validity of the data.

Questionnaires were one of the key methods used to collect information from community members. These questionnaires were designed in both unstructured and semi-structured formats and were distributed to individuals within the community. To ensure the effectiveness of the questionnaires, a pretest was conducted to refine the questions and ensure they elicited the intended information from the respondents. The researcher played a central role in organizing and supervising the questionnaire-filling process, involving a total of respondents. The questionnaire itself consisted of a series of written questions presented on paper, which respondents read and answered.

3.4.1 Survey

Survey research is a methodological approach defined as "the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions"

(Check & Schutt, 2012, p. 160). This research method provides flexibility in terms of participant recruitment, data collection methods, and the use of various instruments. In this study, a survey-based approach was employed to gather information from a selected group of individuals by eliciting their responses to a series of questions

3.4.2 Interview

Interviews are a data collection method that involves the presentation of verbal or oral stimuli, to which respondents provide verbal responses during face-to-face interactions (Kothari, 2004). This method was chosen to gather additional information that could complement data obtained through other means. During the interviews, the researcher posed questions to selected respondents, including members of community conservation committees, two DLNRO representatives, 19 CMT officers, and 12 village leaders. The aim was to elicit personal experiences and insights from each respondent regarding community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management. Additionally, the respondents shared their perspectives on the advantages of monitoring and evaluation, including its role in improving dialogue among project stakeholders.

3.4.3 Focus Group Discussion

The researcher conducted a group discussion with a community group consisting of 13 members and discovered that the group was organized into several subcommittees, each responsible for different aspects of community participation and monitoring of natural resource management. These subcommittees included: the Health, Water, education, and Environmental Committee, the Finance and Economic Committee, the Security Committee and the Sub Steering Committee.

The steering committee played a vital role in planning and coordinating the group's activities. The meetings held by the group served as a platform to discuss various issues related to community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management. Furthermore, the study revealed that group members assumed distinct roles in the management of natural resources. For instance, the security committee was responsible for conducting patrols to safeguard natural resource management areas.

3.4.4 Document Review

The study collected secondary data by reviewing a variety of relevant documentary sources, including: National Census Data, ministerial Reports, Rorya District Council Profile, journals, internet Materials, published and Unpublished Literature. These secondary sources were consulted to provide additional context and information to support the study.

3.5 Validity and Reliability

The study established validity and reliability through several key steps. It ensured the relevance of the study by conducting a comprehensive review of existing research. The study then employed a structured questionnaire administered to respondents, which underwent rigorous testing and analysis. Data collected from the questionnaire were processed using statistical software, specifically SPSS, to verify that the measures aligned with the study's objectives. This process involved testing whether the questionnaire effectively captured the intended variables and constructs. By employing this systematic approach, the study aimed to confirm that its research instruments accurately measured the intended aspects of the research, thus enhancing

the overall validity and reliability of the study's findings.

3.6 Sampling and Sample Size

The study involved multiple categories of respondents who provided the necessary information for this research. These respondents included community members, the community development officer, the Council management team, the District Natural and Land Resource Officer, village executive officers, and ward executive officers. To gather data from these diverse groups, the study employed a combination of sampling techniques, including simple random, purposive, and stratified sampling procedures.

In Rorya district, which comprises a total of 26 wards and villages, the purposive sampling method was applied to select 8 wards: Nyamunga, Baraki, Kyang'ombe, Mkoma, Koryo, Nyaburongo, Nyathorogo, and Kisumwa. These selected wards were chosen to represent the entire spectrum of wards in the district. The sample size was determined using the following formula:

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{N}}{\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{N}(\mathbf{e})^{\mathbf{2}}}$$

(Kothari, 1985)

Where:

n = sample size**,** N = total number of the ward and e = level of confidence

Therefore, n=?

N= 101628 and e = 5% = 0.05

$$n = \frac{101628}{1 + 101628(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{101628}{3.9999}$$

n =398.9x0.5=199

Therefore the sample size (n) used will be 199

Therefore researcher expected to have 199 of respondents.

Table 3.1: Sample size in Tabular Form

S/N	Category	Population	Method Employed
1	Ward Executive officer	8	Purposive sampling
2	Village executive officer	32	Purposive sampling
3	District Natural and land Resource officer council	2	Purposive sampling
4	Council management team	13	Purposive sampling
5	Community development officer	21	Purposive sampling
6	Community members	123	Simple random and purposive
	Total	199	

Source: Fieldwork (2023).

3.7 Study Population

The study encompassed a diverse population of participants, including community members, the community development officer, the Council management team, the District Natural and Land Resource Officer, village executive officers, and ward executive officers. These individuals collectively constituted the study's population and provided valuable insights and information for the research.

3.8 Sampling Procedure

The study employed a combination of sampling techniques, including simple random sampling, purposeful sampling, and stratified sampling. Simple random sampling ensured that each community member, both youth and adults, had an equal opportunity to be selected for participation, minimizing bias. The research also considered age categories in the data collection process to maintain fairness. For specific groups such as members from community conservation committees, 2 District Land and Natural Resource Officers (DLNRO), 19 Community Management Team (CMT) officers, and 12 village leaders, purposive sampling was used. This

approach allowed the researcher to select individuals with personal experiences related to community participatory efforts, ensuring that their insights were captured in the study.

3.9 Data Analysis

The data collection process was conducted systematically, ensuring that data were clearly coded and analyzed in alignment with the research questions and objectives. The analysis phase included several steps, such as reviewing collection forms for omissions, legibility, and consistency while addressing any incomplete responses or missing data. Data analysis encompassed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. For questionnaire data, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer software was utilized to conduct quantitative analysis. Qualitative analysis involved content analysis of data obtained from direct observations and group discussions.

In the quantitative analysis, descriptive and inferential statistical methods were employed. Descriptive statistics, such as frequency distribution tables and numerical descriptive values (percentages), were used to summarize socio-economic data, providing insights into the distribution of respondents and explaining the socio-economic characteristics related to community participation in natural resource management. The inferential statistical analysis aimed to identify factors that might influence households' willingness to participate in the conservation of open spaces.

3.10 Ethical Issues

The study strictly adhered to the ethical guidelines provided by the university. The research process began with obtaining the necessary permissions and approvals from

the university authorities. Throughout the data collection phase, utmost respect for the original research design and methodology was maintained. In the course of gathering information, the highest level of confidentiality and privacy for the respondents was observed, ensuring that their personal information and responses remained protected and undisclosed.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we present the outcomes and discussions concerning community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management projects within the Rorya district of the Mara Region. The chapter is organized into four main sections, each addressing distinct aspects of community involvement in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management initiatives. These sections encompass the demographic characteristics of the respondents, the socioeconomic factors related to community engagement in monitoring and evaluation, the extent of community participation, the sustainability of natural resource management practices, and the challenges encountered by the community in their participatory efforts within the field of natural resource management.

4.2 Characteristics of Respondents

4.2.1 Sex of Respondents

The study sought to ascertain the gender distribution of respondents, recognizing the significance of gender sensitivity in community participation within the realm of monitoring and evaluation in natural resource management. The results reveal that the majority of respondents, constituting approximately 63.89% out of the total 199 respondents, were male, whereas 37.0% of the respondents, equivalent to 69 individuals, were female. This data illustrates a predominant male presence in the study, as outlined in Table 4.1, which provides an overview of the sex distribution among the respondents.

Table 4.1: Sex of Respondents

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Male	130	63.89
Female	69	37.00
Total	199	100

Source: (Researcher, 2023).

Observations conducted in the mentioned wards, including Nyamunga, Baraki, Kyang'ombe, Mkoma, Koryo, Nyaburongo, Nyathorogo, and Kisumwa, revealed that within these communities, men and women seldom convened jointly to discuss shared concerns. Consequently, most decisions related to natural resource management were predominantly influenced by men, with limited female involvement. This pattern can be attributed to the multiple roles that women typically fulfill both within their families and at the community level. These findings align with the results of a study conducted by Dauda, et al., (2009), which reported a similar dominance of males in natural resource management within community contexts, largely influenced by cultural factors, as evidenced in a study conducted in Nigeria.

4.2.2 Age of Respondents

Community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management spans across different age groups. In this study, particular attention was given to understanding the age demographics of respondents involved in project monitoring and evaluation within natural resource management. The research aimed to discern whether both youth and adults actively engaged in these activities. Respondents were categorized into age groups, including 20-30 years (26.6%), 30-40 years (25.5%), 40-50 years (25.5%), and those above 50 years (18.0%). This approach sought to capture the diverse attitudes, perceptions, and influence wielded by different age

segments of the population in their involvement with natural resource management within the community. Respondents were asked to place themselves into the respective age groups, and the resulting findings are summarized in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Ages of Respondents

Value	Frequency	Percentage
20-30	53	26.6
30-40	50	25.5
40-50	50	25.5
50 Above	36	18.0
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

The findings revealed an interesting demographic pattern, as the group of respondents aged 50 and above constituted a relatively smaller segment compared to those in the age groups of 20-30, 30-40, and 40-50. This observation deviated from the expected population structure in developing countries, which typically features a broader base with a larger number of young individuals and a smaller proportion of elderly individuals. The anomaly can be attributed to the migration of individuals aged 20-30 to urban centers in pursuit of income-generating opportunities. Consequently, community involvement in natural resource management within the study area appeared to be predominantly driven by individuals aged 30-40 and 50 and above, possibly because they assume more significant roles within the community and possess diverse experiences related to the management and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

4.3 Respondent of Marital Status

In the realm of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management, the researcher sought to understand the marital status

of the respondents. This study delved into the marital status of the individuals who constituted the study's population. The questionnaires administered to the respondents included inquiries about their marital status. The objective of gathering data on marital status was to determine whether it had any discernible impact on community participation in the practice of natural resource management.

Table 4.3: the Findings on Marital Status Respondents were as Summarized in Marital Status

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Single	50	25.12
Married	80	40.20
Widowed	30	15.07
Divorced	39	19.59
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Table 4.3, which displays the marital status of the respondents, reveals that 50 (25.12%) of them were single, 80 (40.20%) were married, 30 (15.07%) were widowed, and 39 (19.59%) were divorced. The results indicate that a majority of the respondents were married, and this group was the most actively involved in community participation related to natural resource management.

4.3.1 Educational Level of the Respondents

In the course of this study, the researcher's objective was to evaluate the educational backgrounds of the survey participants. This was undertaken because a comprehensive grasp of community involvement in project monitoring and evaluation, particularly in the realm of natural resource management, often hinges on the presence of individuals who possess relevant training and knowledge pertaining to these processes. To gather this information, respondents were requested to specify

their educational attainment within the provided questionnaires. The purpose of collecting data on education was to discern whether the level of education had any discernible impact on the extent of community participation in the domain of natural resource management. The summarized findings concerning the educational backgrounds of the respondents are presented in Figure 4.3.

Table 4.3: Educational Level of the Respondents

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	90	45.22
Secondary	60	30.15
University	49	24.62
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher (2023).

Table 4.3 illustrates that 90 (45.22%) of the respondents had completed primary education, while 60 (30.15%) had attained a secondary education, and 49 (24.62%) had a university education. These findings suggest that a significant proportion of the respondents have basic education, with a smaller number having secondary education. This may imply that community members in the study area have limited knowledge and skills related to community participation in natural resource management. In a study by January (2010) on natural resource management activities, it was reported that higher education levels are associated with a reduced knowledge gap in natural resource management. Educated individuals tend to have greater knowledge of management approaches, which can contribute to the sustainability of natural resource management and overall economic development.

4.3.2 Occupation of the Respondents

The occupation of respondents can have a significant influence on their participation in community monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management.

Therefore, the study aimed to understand the occupations of the respondents and how they relate to their involvement in community natural resource management.

Table 4.4: Distribution of the Occupation of the Respondents

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Teacher	50	25.12
Entrepreneurship	40	20.12
Nurse	29	10.05
Farmer	80	40
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Table 4.4 provides an overview of the occupations of the respondents, with the majority, 80 (40%), being farmers. Teachers accounted for 50 (25.12%) of the respondents, entrepreneurs made up 40 (20.12%), and nurses comprised 29 (10.05%). The data indicates that farming is the dominant occupation in the study villages, and farmers play a significant role in community participation in natural resource management.

4.3.3 The Levels Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

The primary objective of this study was to gauge the level of community involvement in project monitoring and evaluation within the sphere of natural resource management. To achieve this, respondents were queried about their familiarity with the concept of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation related to natural resource management in the wards of Nyamunga, Baraki, Kyang'ombe, Mkoma, Koryo, Nyaburongo, Nyathorogo, and Kisumwa.

The results, as presented in Table 4.5, reveal that out of 199 respondents, 70 individuals (35.17%) acknowledged having an understanding of project monitoring

and evaluation in the context of natural resource management within Rorya district. In contrast, 129 respondents (64.82%) indicated that they did not possess such awareness. These findings indicate that a significant portion of the respondents were not actively involved in community participation pertaining to natural resource management, and a substantial number were unfamiliar with the concepts of monitoring and evaluation within this context.

This outcome underscores the necessity for heightened awareness and educational efforts regarding the significance of participatory monitoring and evaluation. Such initiatives can foster increased project ownership, enhance effectiveness, promote transparency and accountability, and prompt corrective actions aimed at improving project outcomes, as noted by Maeda and Wickama (2008).

Table 4.5: To Identify the Levels Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	35.17
No	129	64.82
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher (2023).

The findings shows that those who said yes them do not able to elaborate the meaning of monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management.

4.3.4. The Challanges Facing Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

It is evident that communities face several challenges in their participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management. These challenges are

closely related to organizational values, structures, and professional practices. The third objective of the study aimed to investigate the specific challenges encountered by the community in natural resource management in Rorya district. Respondents provided insights based on their understanding of these challenges.

Approximately 25 (12.56%) respondents identified inadequate financial resources as a significant challenge faced by the community. Another 35 (17.58%) respondents pointed out that limited decision-making authority regarding the progress of development project implementation posed a challenge to the community. Additionally, 10 (5.02%) respondents mentioned insufficient information to guide the monitoring and evaluation process as a challenge. Furthermore, 40 (20.10%) respondents expressed concerns about the limited performance of evaluation activities.

The study also found that 50 (25.12%) respondents believed that the lack of qualified Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practitioners on staff was a challenge for the community. Lastly, 39 (19.5%) respondents highlighted the absence of clear roles and responsibilities within the community as a challenge. It is worth noting that respondents had varying perspectives on these challenges, as illustrated in Table 4.6. These findings underscore the complexity of the challenges faced by communities in natural resource management and the need for tailored strategies to address them effectively.

Table 4.6: The Challenges Facing Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate financial resources	25	12.56
Intimately decision making regarding progress of the implementation of development project	35	17.58
Insufficient data information to guide M &E process	10	5.02
Limited performance of evaluation	40	20.10
Lack of M &E Practitioner staff personnel	50	25.12
Lack of clear set of roles and responsibilities within community	39	19.59
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

The results presented in Table 4.6 unambiguously indicate that respondents acknowledged the presence of challenges when it comes to community participation in monitoring and evaluation (M&E). A significant majority, constituting 50.7% (equivalent to 25.12% of the 199 respondents), underscored a particular challenge: the scarcity of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practitioner staff personnel. This shortage impedes the effective involvement of the community in M&E activities. This observation aligns with Estrella's (2000) perspective, which underscores that M&E remains a relatively new approach for many development agencies. Consequently, this highlights the critical importance of training and capacity building for community members as integral components of successful M&E implementation.

Moreover, the introduction of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) accentuates the necessity for in-depth discussions on how this model can be more broadly embraced. The inherent complexity of PM&E, which may surpass initial assumptions, necessitates careful consideration. This finding underscores the imperative of addressing capacity and knowledge gaps within communities, thereby

enhancing their ability to actively and effectively engage in monitoring and evaluation processes.

4.4 The Effect of Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Development practitioners increasingly recognize the pivotal role of beneficiary community participation in various facets of the development journey, encompassing stages such as design, implementation, analysis, and comprehension of changes. People's active involvement is now regarded as an integral component of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process. It not only fosters collaboration but also offers a platform for assessment, learning, and a deeper understanding of the transformations that transpire. This inclusive approach makes the M&E process more responsive to the needs and aspirations of those who are most directly impacted.

The findings presented in Table 4.7, however, reveal a divergence in perspectives among the 199 respondents. While 70 individuals (35.17%) concurred that there are discernible benefits when communities engage in project monitoring and evaluation related to natural resources, a majority of 129 respondents (64.82%) contended that no such benefits exist. These results underscore the necessity for further exploration and discourse concerning the perceived advantages and disadvantages of community participation in monitoring and evaluation processes. Such discussions can illuminate the varied perspectives and potentially inform strategies to maximize the positive impact of community involvement in these crucial processes.

Table 4.7: The Effect of Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	35.17
No	129	64.82
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Respondents who acknowledged the advantages and benefits of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources provided several compelling arguments. Among those who recognized the benefits, approximately 30 individuals, equivalent to 15.07% of the 199 respondents, emphasized that community participation fosters advanced learning not only among project staff but also within the broader development community. Additionally, 29 respondents, constituting 14% of the sample, highlighted the significance of community participation in demonstrating accountability, a critical aspect of project management.

Furthermore, 40 respondents, making up 20.10% of the total, believed that involving the community enhances the quality of services delivered. Another group of 41 respondents, or 20.60% of the total, emphasized that community participation informs stakeholders and engages them in project activities, contributing to further project progress. Lastly, community participation was seen as a means to gain support and effectively demonstrate the project's positive impact. These findings, detailed in Table 4.7, underscore the perceived advantages and benefits associated with engaging communities in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource projects, highlighting the pivotal role of community participation in achieving project objectives and enhancing transparency and accountability.

Table 4.8: Effects When Community Participates in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource

Value	Frequency	Percentage
advance learning among project staff as well as larger development community	30	15.07
To demonstrate accountability	29	14
Improve quality of the service provided	39	19.59
Provide inform stakeholder on the project benefit engage in work that further project goal	40	20.10
To gain support demonstrating result	41	20.60
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Community participation offers numerous advantages, a consensus supported by various authors. One significant benefit is the improvement of the relationship between the community and project workers. When a program involves the active participation of all individuals residing and working within a specific locality, it fosters a sense of togetherness and a deeper understanding of the challenges that affect either a few or the entire community. Moreover, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes share a common goal of facilitating learning from the experiences of implementing development programs or projects. This learning is achieved by focusing on assessing the efficiency, effectiveness, and overall impact of these initiatives, as highlighted by Spaulding in 2008. Therefore, community participation not only strengthens community-worker relationships but also contributes to the continuous improvement of development programs and projects.

4.4.1 The Factors Influence Community to Participate in Project Monitorinhg And Evaluation

The primary objective of the study was to discern the diverse factors that shape community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource

management. Respondents were queried to identify these factors, and the outcomes are outlined below. Approximately 60 respondents, constituting 30.15% of the total, asserted that budgetary allocation played a pivotal role in influencing community participation in monitoring and evaluation. This financial aspect was deemed significant in determining the extent of community involvement.

About 50 respondents, equivalent to 25.12% of the total, believed that effective leadership was a critical factor affecting community participation in monitoring and evaluation within the domain of natural resource management. Leadership was recognized as a key determinant that influenced community engagement in these processes. Furthermore, around 40 respondents, making up 20.10% of the total, highlighted the importance of managerial skills as a factor influencing community participation in monitoring and evaluation related to natural resource management. These skills were seen as essential in facilitating effective participation.

Lastly, approximately 49 respondents, representing 24.62% of the total, emphasized the significance of effective communication as another influential factor shaping community participation in natural resource management. Clear and open communication was acknowledged as a vital element in fostering community engagement. It is noteworthy that respondents also identified various other factors contributing to the influence on community participation in monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management, as detailed in Table 4.8. These diverse factors reflect the multifaceted nature of community involvement in these processes and underscore the need for a holistic understanding of the determinants that impact such participation.

Table 4.9: The Factors Influence Community to Participate in Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Budgettary allocation	60	30.15
Effective leadership	50	25.12
Managerial skills	40	20.10
Effective communication	49	24.62
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Participation for material incentives or resource contributions entails individuals providing resources, such as their labor or assets, in exchange for tangible rewards, which may include items like food, cash, or other material incentives. For instance, in agricultural contexts, peasants might offer their labor and fields but may not have actively participated in the decision-making process or experimental phases of a project (as noted by Pretty and Scoones in 1995, Hawlett and Nagu in 2001, and Rulinga and Simpson in 2002). This type of participation is often referred to as functional participation, and it typically occurs after significant decisions have already been made by external agencies or project planners. In functional participation, people cooperate to achieve project goals within the budget constraints set by external entities.

In contrast, true community participation encompasses a broader spectrum of involvement, including interactive and shared decision-making processes. In this approach, community members actively engage in various project stages, from analysis and planning to implementation and evaluation. Their input is valued, and they have a say in shaping project objectives and strategies. This form of participation is more inclusive and aligns more closely with the principles of genuine community involvement and empowerment.

4.4.2 Awareness of the Community in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

The primary objective of the researcher was to ascertain the extent of the community's awareness regarding the concept of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation related to natural resource management. Additionally, the study aimed to gauge their understanding of the entire monitoring and evaluation process in this context. The findings, as illustrated in Table 4.3, indicate that out of the 199 respondents, 80 individuals, equivalent to 40.22%, affirmed their awareness of the meaning of project monitoring and evaluation concerning natural resource management in Rorya district. Conversely, 119 respondents, making up 59.78% of the total, stated that they were not aware of this concept. These results suggest that a majority of the respondents were not actively involved in community participation related to natural resource management, and a significant portion lacked awareness of the fundamental concept itself.

These outcomes underscore the need for increased awareness and education concerning the importance of community participation in natural resource management, as well as the significance of monitoring and evaluation processes in achieving sustainable and community-driven outcomes.

Table 4.10: Awareness of the Community in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	80	40.22
No	119	59.78
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

The findings indicate that a significant portion of the respondents were not aware of the concept of project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management in their community, with 119 out of 199 respondents (59.78%) expressing a lack of awareness. However, 80 respondents (40.22%) were aware of the concept. This lack of awareness aligns with the perspectives of organizations like UNDP (2004) and the World Bank (2002), which emphasize that community participation in monitoring and evaluation is essential for community empowerment. It enables communities to define their goals, strategies, and indicators and actively assess their progress in achieving them. Additionally, community involvement in monitoring and evaluation promotes transparency and accountability in natural resource management.

4.4.3 Participation of Community in Project Monitoring And Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

The findings concerning community participation in project monitoring and evaluation within the context of natural resource management reveal that only a minority of the respondents, specifically 75 out of 199 (equivalent to 37.66%), reported their involvement in such activities within Rorya district. In contrast, the majority, consisting of 124 respondents (approximately 63.31%), indicated that they did not participate in project monitoring and evaluation related to natural resource management.

This suggests a notable limitation in community engagement in the realm of natural resource management. This observation aligns with the understanding that genuine community participation should encompass the active involvement of local individuals, including farmers, field staff, and other stakeholders, across various

facets of monitoring and evaluation, as articulated by Cramb and Purcell (2001).

Furthermore, it's important to note that participation can manifest at different levels, as categorized by researchers such as Pretty and Scoones (1995), Hawlett and Nagu (2001), Raniga and Simpson (2002), and Iddi and Nuhu (citing from Raniga and Simpson, 2002). These levels encompass passive, manipulative, consultative, material incentive or resource contribution, functional, interactive, and self-mobilization participation. The study's findings emphasize the need to explore and promote more active and meaningful community involvement in natural resource management processes, moving beyond passive or limited engagement toward more interactive and collaborative approaches for sustainable development.

Table 4.11: Participation of Community in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	75	37.66
No	124	63.31
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

4.4.4 Provision of Trainings on Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

The findings related to training and understanding of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation within the context of natural resource management reveal that only a minority of respondents, specifically 50 out of 199 (equivalent to 25.12%), reported having received training on monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management in Rorya district. In contrast, the majority, comprising 149 respondents (approximately 74.87%), stated that they had

not received such training. This indicates that the majority of respondents had not been provided with training in project monitoring and evaluation as part of their involvement in community participation in natural resource management. This lack of training appears to be associated with the limited level of participation observed in the study.

It's worth emphasizing that effective training can play a pivotal role in enhancing the capacity of community members to actively engage in monitoring and evaluation processes. By equipping individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills, training can empower them to contribute more meaningfully to natural resource management initiatives. Therefore, addressing this training gap may be a key strategy for promoting greater community involvement and fostering more effective monitoring and evaluation practices in the context of natural resource management.

Table 4.12: Show the Number of Respondent Provided With Trainings on Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	50	25.12
No	149	74.87
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

4.4.5 Community Participated in the Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

The study aimed to assess the level of community involvement in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management. The results from respondents indicate varying degrees of involvement. Specifically, 29 respondents (14.57%)

reported being involved in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management in their community on a monthly basis. A larger group, 75 respondents (37%), indicated involvement once every three months. Additionally, 95 respondents (47%) reported involvement once a year, while no respondents (0%) claimed not to be involved at all in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management in the community. These findings suggest that community participation in monitoring and evaluation activities varies in frequency, with some individuals participating more frequently than others.

Table 4.13: Community Involves in the Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Once per month	29	14.57
Once after every three months	75	37
Once per year	95	47
None	0	0
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Community participation in monitoring and evaluation plays a crucial role in fostering ownership of development projects within a community. This active involvement by community members is essential for achieving economic and social welfare objectives. Furthermore, it contributes to improving project performance and impact while enhancing accountability and transparency, as emphasized by Sirker (2002). Engaging communities in monitoring and evaluation processes also leads to stakeholder empowerment, supports democratization efforts, encourages partnership building, and contributes to the overall sustainability of development initiatives.

4.4.6 Organizations Involved in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

The study's focus was on organizations engaged in or supporting project monitoring and evaluation within the realm of natural resource management. These organizations, in various capacities, contribute to training and implementing community participation in project monitoring and evaluation within the context of natural resource management. Respondents were queried on these matters, and their responses were based on their understanding and perspectives.

The results presented in Table 4.14, derived from the responses of 199 participants, reveal that 50 individuals (equivalent to 25.12%) concurred that there are organizations actively involved in project monitoring and evaluation related to natural resource management within the community. In contrast, 149 respondents (approximately 74.87%) argued that there are no such organizations participating in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management within the community in Rorya district. This suggests that a significant majority of the respondents hold the belief that there are no organizations actively engaged in this process.

This observation resonates with the growing recognition of participatory approaches to monitoring and evaluation in the development literature. Such approaches are increasingly being applied in the field to cater to the diverse needs of stakeholders, including community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), researchers, consultants, government bodies, the private sector, and donors, as noted in the works of Coupal (2001), the WB (2002), Eldis (2005), and Estrella, (2000).

Table 4.14: Organizations Involved in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	50	25.12
No	149	74.87
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

4.4.7 Method Employed by the Community in Participation of Monitoring And Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

The study aimed to gain insights into the various methods employed by the community for monitoring and evaluating natural resource management. Respondents shared their perspectives, and the results presented in Table 4.15 reveal the diversity of methods used: 12(6.03%) respondents reported using the checklist method for community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management in their area. 20(10.05%) employed the questionnaire method for this purpose. 15(7.5%) utilized the log framework approach. 50(25.12%) chose the evaluation method as their approach. 10(5.02%) respondents relied on the criteria method. 30(15.07%) indicated the use of budget allocation. These findings underscore the community's use of a range of methods, reflecting their varied approaches to monitoring and evaluating natural resource management within their locality.

Table 4.15: Method Employed by the Community in Participation of Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Checklist	12	6.03
Questionnaire	20	10.05
Log frame work approach	15	7.5
Evaluation	50	25.12
criteria	10	5.02
Budget allocation	30	15.07
Method data collection	6	3.0
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

4.4.8 Mostly Activities Threaten of Natural Resources Management

The study identified various activities that, in one way or another, contribute to the threat to natural resource management within the context of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation. Respondents provided their insights based on their understanding of the situation. The most commonly cited activities that threaten natural resource management, as reported by the respondents, are as follows: 100(50.25%) of respondents identified the use of firewood and charcoal as activities that pose a significant threat to natural resources management. 50(25.12%) percent of respondents pointed to the cutting down of trees as a major threat. 49(24.52%) argued that charcoal burning activities are detrimental to natural resources management. These findings highlight the importance of addressing these activities as potential challenges to effective natural resource management within the community's participation in project monitoring and evaluation.

Table 4.16: Mostly Activities Threaten of Natural Resources Management

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Uses firewood and Chahrcoal	100	50.25
Cutting down tress	50	25.12
Charcoal burning	49	24.62
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Ngalande's (2002) study conducted in the Lusitu area of Siavonga district, Zambia, highlighted a direct relationship between human population growth and density and the degradation and deforestation of natural resources, particularly woodlands. This correlation is attributed to the increasing demand for agricultural land and forest resources as the population continues to expand. Furthermore, the study identified a lack of training and a shortage of information flow as significant factors influencing

the community's involvement in natural forest management. The researcher administered questions to Village Executive Officers (VEOs) and Ward Executive Officers (WEOs) concerning their training in natural forest management, revealing that none of them had received any training in this regard. Similarly, interviews with village chairpersons and Ward Councilors indicated that they had also not undergone any training in natural forest management.

These findings underscore the pressing need for improved training programs and enhanced information dissemination to empower communities in effectively managing their natural resources. Addressing this training gap can play a crucial role in mitigating the degradation of natural resources and promoting sustainable management practices in the face of population growth and increasing demands on these vital assets.

4.4.9 The Government Strategies to Overcome the Challenges

The primary objective of the study was to identify different strategies for addressing the challenges associated with monitoring and evaluation in the context of community participation within natural resource management. The findings, as depicted in Table 4.14 and based on responses from 199 participants, reveal that 50 individuals (equivalent to 25.12%) concurred that the government has implemented strategies to tackle the challenges encountered in community participation in monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management. However, a substantial majority of 149 respondents (approximately 74.87%) were unaware of these strategies.

This suggests a pressing need for enhanced awareness and communication regarding government initiatives aimed at addressing challenges related to community participation and monitoring within the domain of natural resource management. Improved dissemination of information and engagement with community members can facilitate a more informed and collaborative approach to tackling these challenges, ultimately promoting more effective and sustainable natural resource management practices.

Table 4.14: The Government Strategies to Overcome the Challenges

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	50	25.12
No	149	74.87
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

The perspective presented aligns closely with the views of Hilhorst and Guijt (2006), who underscore the importance of Community Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation (CPM&E) actively engaging primary stakeholders in development interventions that directly impact their lives. They argue that local communities should play a central role in monitoring and comprehending progress toward achieving results that they have either self-selected or jointly agreed upon at the local level. This process should involve drawing actionable conclusions from the collected data.

Moreover, effective CPM&E should encompass the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, and it is imperative to establish feedback mechanisms that keep all parties well-informed. This includes village authorities, the community itself, donors, and national authorities. Such a comprehensive approach enhances

transparency and accountability throughout the entirety of the monitoring and evaluation process, ensuring that it serves the best interests of the community and the goals of sustainable development.

4.4.10 Performance of the Government Strategies

The study's primary objective was to evaluate the community's performance in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management. Respondents shared their perspectives based on their understanding of the situation. The findings, as presented in Table 4.3.9 and based on responses from 199 participants, reveal that 49 individuals (equivalent to 24.63%) concurred that government strategies are performing adequately in this regard. However, a significant majority of 150 respondents (approximately 75.37%) argued that government strategies are insufficient for facilitating community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management.

These findings suggest that there is a prevailing perception among respondents that the existing government strategies may not be fully effective in promoting community engagement in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management. This underscores the importance of ongoing assessment and adaptation of strategies to better align with the needs and aspirations of the community and to enhance the overall effectiveness of natural resource management efforts.

Table 4:17: Performance of the Government Strategies

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	49	24.63
No	150	75.37
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Participatory approaches empower communities to identify their most pressing needs, as they actively engage in the process. Conversely, when communities are less involved, there is a perception that the project is solely the responsibility of the government or donors, and they are expected to rectify any issues that arise (Cooksey and Kikula, 2005).

4.4.11 Mechanism Applied While Providing M&E Feedbacks in your Community

The study inquired about the mechanisms employed when providing M&E feedback in the community, and respondents provided answers based on their understanding. Approximately 80(40.20%) percent of respondents suggested that law enforcement was a mechanism applied in providing M&E feedback in their community. About 49(24.62%) mentioned the importance of cultural values as a mechanism applied in the feedback process. Additionally, 30(15.07%) respondents pointed out the significance of an operational framework in providing M&E feedback, while 40(20.10%) argued that active participation was a crucial mechanism applied in the community when offering M&E feedback. However, respondents who indicated these mechanisms varied in their views, as illustrated in Table 4.4.3.

Table 4.18: Mechanism Applied While Providing M&E Feedbacks in Your Community

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Law enforcement	80	40.20
Cultural values	49	24.62
Operational framework	30	15.07
Participation effective	40	20.10
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Communities utilize data to adapt project activities, make informed decisions, and align various aspects of community initiatives. This information is instrumental in ensuring accountability to their priorities, facilitated by effective communication and feedback mechanisms.

4.4.12 Recommendation that Could Improve Performance of Monitoring and Evaluation

The study aimed to identify recommendations and suggestions that could enhance the performance of monitoring and evaluation. Approximately 47.22% of respondents suggested that having supportive leadership would improve monitoring and evaluation performance in the community. Additionally, about 37.18% believed that involving strategic stakeholders could enhance performance, and 15.07% thought that addressing political factors would contribute to improved monitoring and evaluation in the management of natural resources. Various respondents provided recommendations for enhancing performance, as shown in Table 4.19.

Table 4:19: Recommendation that could Improve Performance of Monitoring and Evaluation

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Supportive leadership	95	47.22
Stategic stakeholder	74	37.24
Dealing with politics	30	15.07
Total	199	100
Total	199	100

Source: Researcher, (2023).

Absolutely, effective monitoring and evaluation processes go beyond the mere generation of reports; they encompass the critical step of ensuring that these reports are appropriately shared and disseminated among relevant stakeholders. This

dissemination serves as a valuable tool in ensuring that program goals are achieved and that the insights and findings from monitoring and evaluation efforts are put to practical use.

Information technology plays a pivotal role in streamlining this dissemination process. It enables the efficient and widespread provision of high-quality, relevant, and timely data, information, and knowledge to support monitoring and evaluation endeavors. Leveraging technology can enhance transparency, accessibility, and the overall impact of monitoring and evaluation efforts by ensuring that the right information reaches the right people at the right time, facilitating data-driven decision-making, and promoting accountability and learning within organizations and communities.

4.4.13 Interviews Group

In interviews with selected community members, DLNRO representatives, CMT officers, and village leaders, the study sought to understand the personal experiences of each respondent regarding community participatory practices in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management. The researchers were informed that community participation in monitoring and evaluation can yield several advantages, including improved dialogue among project stakeholders, increased knowledge about the needs and problems of local communities, enhanced participation of local communities in decision-making processes, and the identification of local organizations to support the project. It also facilitates the development of new procedures for identifying priority needs and optimizing investments at the local level.

However, when community participation in monitoring and evaluation is lacking, it can lead to various challenges, such as the unsustainable use of firewood and charcoal, inadequate mechanisms for data gathering, limited performance in the evaluation process, and difficulties in implementing government strategies to overcome these challenges. Adams and Garbutt (2008) further underscore the challenges that community participation in monitoring and evaluation encounters, particularly related to constraints such as limited time and resources to address fundamental issues and provide support to staff. Experiences drawn from Central Asia indicate that local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are being encouraged to embrace participatory monitoring and evaluation approaches and give precedence to involving local communities. Nevertheless, defining and comprehending participation remains a multifaceted issue, with ongoing debates regarding how to effectively implement it in practice.

These observations are indicative of a broader shift in the development paradigm, moving away from traditional service delivery models toward a focus on capacity building among local actors. This shift recognizes the importance of empowering communities and local organizations to actively engage in decision-making, problem-solving, and the management of their own development processes. It emphasizes the value of participatory approaches in fostering sustainable and locally-led development initiatives.

4.4.13.1 Group Discussion

During the research, the researcher conducted group discussions involving a community group comprised of 13 members. To enhance efficiency, this group was

further subdivided into committees, each with specific focuses such as Health, Water, Education, Environmental, Finance and Economic, Security, and a sub-steering committee. The steering committee played a pivotal role in coordinating the group's activities, including organizing meetings to deliberate on various matters related to community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management. Members of these committees assumed distinct roles in the management of natural resources, with the security committee taking responsibility for patrolling the natural resource area.

Additionally, the chairperson of the group highlighted that they designated a specific day for clearing water sources around their natural resource area, demonstrating a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. Non-governmental organizations like MVIWANYA and GRA were actively engaged in natural resource management, and each member had a defined role in contributing to the organization's objectives. This sense of ownership among community members played a vital role in fostering participatory management.

However, the study uncovered that many respondents had an insufficient understanding of the monitoring and evaluation system, indicating a need for more comprehensive community engagement. Although community participation in the design of a village plan for monitoring and evaluation was proposed, it appeared to be inadequately implemented. The community faced several challenges, including limited knowledge of monitoring and evaluation, insufficient engagement in natural resource management, a lack of necessary equipment, motivation, and inadequate supportive supervision from the Department of Natural Resources and Land Use

(DNRLO) and donors.

These findings highlight the importance of strengthening community involvement, enhancing education and training on monitoring and evaluation, and addressing the various challenges faced by the community to promote more effective and sustainable natural resource management practices.

Figure 4.3: Health, Water, Education and Environmental Committee Member

Figure 4.3 provides an insight into the activities of the community members belonging to the Health, Water, Education, and Environmental Committee in Malongo Village, Mirare Ward. This committee plays a pivotal role in addressing various environmental and natural resource management issues within the community. It is essential that committee members prioritize the community's desires and needs in their decision-making processes.

One key aspect highlighted in the figure is the need for equitable distribution of incentives and the inclusion of all community members in the management of activities. This approach ensures fairness and broadens community involvement, fostering a sense of ownership over the resources and projects. Furthermore, the figure emphasizes the significant link between managerial operations and sustainability, especially when the resource and project are centered on natural areas. The steering committee employs two main approaches:

Direct Controls: This involves the establishment and enforcement of rules, regulations, permits, and charges designed to prohibit or limit human activities that could harm the natural environment. Indirect Mechanisms: These mechanisms focus on reducing undesirable behavior through education, ultimately encouraging voluntary changes in behavior. However, despite the commendable efforts of the steering committee, the study found that a substantial number of respondents lacked a proper understanding of the monitoring and evaluation system. This knowledge gap underscores the importance of enhancing community participation at every stage of natural resource management, including monitoring and evaluation. Effective community involvement is crucial for achieving sustainable resource management and overall community development.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

The preceding chapter has provided a detailed exploration of the findings and discussions stemming from the data collected in the field, addressing the research objectives of this study. This chapter is dedicated to presenting a comprehensive conclusion for the research. Furthermore, it offers recommendations aimed at improving community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource projects. The chapter underscores the potential restructuring of monitoring and evaluation systems to enhance project management and decision-making. It also emphasizes the incorporation of lessons learned and identifies areas that warrant further research, all encapsulated within the following recommendations.

5.2 Summary of the Research Findings

The study embarked on its journey with the overarching objective of evaluating community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management in Rorya district, while also examining its implications for the wards and villages involved in the utilization of natural resources. The following subsections encapsulate the principal findings of the research, with each subsection dedicated to a specific objective of the study.

5.2.1 The Levels Community Participation in Project Monitorinhg and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management

The research findings have brought to light a significant knowledge gap among the respondents concerning community participation in project monitoring and

evaluation of natural resources management. This lack of understanding suggests that community involvement across all stages of natural resource utilization may be insufficient. The study reveals that the effective engagement of communities in the monitoring and evaluation system appears to fall short of the recommended guidelines for community participation in natural resource use. Furthermore, the research findings indicate that while community participation in natural resource management does occur to some extent, many respondents are unaware of it. This observation aligns with the fundamental principles of participatory monitoring and evaluation, which aim to enhance project ownership, assess effectiveness, empower beneficiaries, foster accountability and transparency, and facilitate corrective actions for improved performance and outcomes.

5.2.2 The Challenges Facing Community Participation in Project Monitorinhg and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Despite the challenges encountered, the study has revealed that respondents have a reasonable understanding of the benefits associated with community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management. Respondents acknowledged the existence of challenges in community participation in monitoring and evaluation, including issues such as the shortage of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practitioner staff personnel and a lack of clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the community.

5.2.3 The Effect of Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resource Management

Indeed, despite the challenges faced by the community in participating in project

monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management, there are several advantages and benefits that emerge when the community actively engages in such processes. These benefits include advancing learning among project staff and the larger development community, demonstrating accountability, and enhancing the quality of the services provided.

5.2.4 Conclusion

Based on the study findings discussed, it is evident that the government should undertake several crucial steps to enhance community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management. Firstly, there is a pressing need to review the monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that it allows sufficient time for knowledge dissemination to local communities. This will enable them to become more actively engaged in decision-making processes.

Furthermore, it is highly recommended that the government formulates specific monitoring and evaluation policies for each sector, rather than incorporating them as aspects within broader policies and programs. For example, the Liberian government's formulation of a dedicated monitoring and evaluation policy in 2009, aligned with the National Health Policy vision statement, aimed at improving health services and ensuring equal access to healthcare. Such sector-specific policies can provide more focused and effective approaches to monitoring and evaluation in various areas of natural resource management. These steps can help bridge the gap in community participation, enhance understanding, and promote more effective and sustainable natural resource management practices.

5.3 Recommendations

This study suggests several recommendations to enhance community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management:

Review Monitoring and Evaluation Systems: The government should conduct a thorough review of existing monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure they allow ample time for knowledge delivery to local communities. This will empower community members to actively participate in decision-making processes and make meaningful contributions to project monitoring and evaluation.

Utilize Participatory Methods: District authorities and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNRO) should employ suitable participatory methods to ensure that communities are actively engaged throughout the project cycle. This engagement should go beyond mere consultation and involve communities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages.

Sector-Specific Monitoring and Evaluation Policies: It is highly advisable that the government develops specific monitoring and evaluation policies for each sector instead of incorporating them as components within broader policies and programs. This sector-specific approach can provide more targeted and effective strategies for monitoring and evaluating various aspects of natural resource management.

Empower Local Government Authorities: Government teams and facilitating organizations should empower local government authorities, particularly village council members, to take on more active roles in implementing and managing their natural resources. Village council members can ensure effective community

participation, maintain proper record-keeping, and facilitate the timely preparation of reports, ultimately enhancing overall project effectiveness.

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APPENDICES

OMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT RORYA DISTRICT WITHIN MARA REGION

Appendix I: Questionnaire Guide for Community Members

Name of the Village ……

Tick in appropriate answer (v)

I. Background Information of the Respondents

1. Sex (a) Male ( ) (b) Female ( )

2. Age (in years) (tick where appropriate

(a). 20-30 ( )

(b). 30 –40 ( )

(c). 40-50 ( )

(d). Above 50 ( )

3. Marital Status

(a) Single ( ) (b) Married ( ) (c) Widowed ( ) (d) Divorced ( )

4. Level of Education

(a) Primary ( ) (b) Secondary ( ) (c) University ( )

Other specify……

5. Designation/Occupation……

I: Examining the community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management.

6. (a) Do you have any idea on what project monitoring and evaluation of natural

resources management means?

(i) Yes [ ] (ii) No [ ]

(b) If yes, please briefly elaborate which project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management means to you.

……

……

……

7. Are you aware of the project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management in your community?

(i) Yes [ ] (ii) No [ ]

8. Have you ever participated in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management?

a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

9. Have you ever been provided with trainings on project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management?

(i) Yes [ ] (ii) No [ ]

10. Do you think the local community is adequately informed on the need for M&E on natural resources management?

(i) Yes [ ] (ii) No [ ]

11. How often are you involve in the project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management in the community?

(i) Once per month [ ]

(ii) Once after every three months [ ]

(iii) Once per year [ ]

(iv) None [ ]

(v) Others (specify)……

11. Which of the following groups participate more in the project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management?

(i) Men [ ]

(ii) Women [ ]

(iii) Youth [

12. (a) Are there organizations/stakeholders involved in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management in the community?

(i) Yes [ ] (ii) No [ ]

(b) If yes, please mention

(i)…….

(ii)……

(iii)……..

13. What method do you/community employ in participation of monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management in your area?

(i)----------

(ii)----------

(iii)----------

II. Challenges facing community participation in monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management

14. What are the challenges face the community participation in monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management?

(i) ----------

(ii)----------

(iii)----------

Other specify----------

15. Mention mostly activities that you think threaten the community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management.

(i)……

(ii)……

(iii)…….

16. What are strategies done by government to overcome the challenges face community participation in monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management?

(i)----------

(ii)----------

(iii)----------

Other specify----------

17. Do you think government strategies are performing enough?

(a)Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

If yes give reasons----------

III: The impact of community participation in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management

18. What are the advantages/benefits when community participates in project monitoring and evaluation of natural resource?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

If yes, what are they (Mention)

(i)----------

(ii)----------

(iii)----------

Any other----------

If no, why

……

……

……..

19. What factors influencing community participation in monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management? Mention

(i)----------

(ii)----------

(iii)----------

20. What mechanism applied while providing M&E feedbacks in your Community?

(i)----------

(ii)----------

(iii)----------

21. What recommendations/suggestions would you give that could improve

Performance of monitoring and evaluation?

(i)----------

(ii)----------

(iii)----------

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR KEY INFORMANTS

1. What factors contribute to community engagement in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management projects?
2. Have government strategies effectively promoted community involvement in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management projects?
3. What approaches do communities employ to actively participate in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management projects?
4. Can community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management projects help mitigate conflicts within the community?
5. Is community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management projects deemed essential by the local community?
6. What types of activities are undertaken by the community to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management projects?
7. What weaknesses exist in policies related to community participation in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management projects?

APPENDIX III: GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

1. To what extent do you believe that community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management contributes to development in your area?
2. How would you assess the effectiveness of community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management?
3. In what ways does the committee serve the community's interests in the monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management?
4. Can you describe the level of community involvement in decision-making processes related to monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management?
5. What specific actions or strategies have been implemented to address the challenges associated with community participation in monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management?
6. From your perspective, what advantages or benefits result from community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management?
7. Are there any government-initiated strategies or interventions aimed at enhancing community participation in monitoring and evaluating natural resource management?
8. How frequently have you been involved in discussions regarding the planning of project monitoring and evaluation in natural resource management within your area?

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR GOOD COOPERATION"

APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH CLEARANCE LETTER

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Ref. No OUT/ PG202000157 **31th January, 2023**

Regional Administrative Secretary,
Mara Region,
P.O Box 299,
MARA.

Dear Regional Administrative Secretary,

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR MR JULIUS IKONGORA JOHN, REG NO: PG202000157

2. The Open University of Tanzania was established by an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1stMarch 1993 by public notice No.55 in the official Gazette. The Act was however replaced by the Open University of Tanzania Charter of 2005, which became operational on 1stJanuary 2007.In line with the Charter, the Open University of Tanzania mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.

3. To facilitate and to simplify research process therefore, the act empowers the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania to issue research clearance, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, to both its staff and students who are doing research in Tanzania. With this brief background, the purpose of this letter is to introduce to you **Mr. Julius Ikongora John, Reg. No: PG202000157)** pursuing **Master of Arts in Monitoring and Evaluation (MAME)**. We here by grant this clearance to conduct a research titled **"Community Participation in Project Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources Management at Rorya District within Mara Region".** He will collect his data at Rorya District Council in Mara Region from 1st February to 28th February 2023.

4. In case you need any further information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the Open University of Tanzania, P.O.Box 23409, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 022-2-2668820.We lastly thank you in advance for your assumed cooperation and facilitation of this research academic activity.

Yours sincerely,
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA
Prof. Magreth S.Bushesha
For: VICE CHANCELLOR