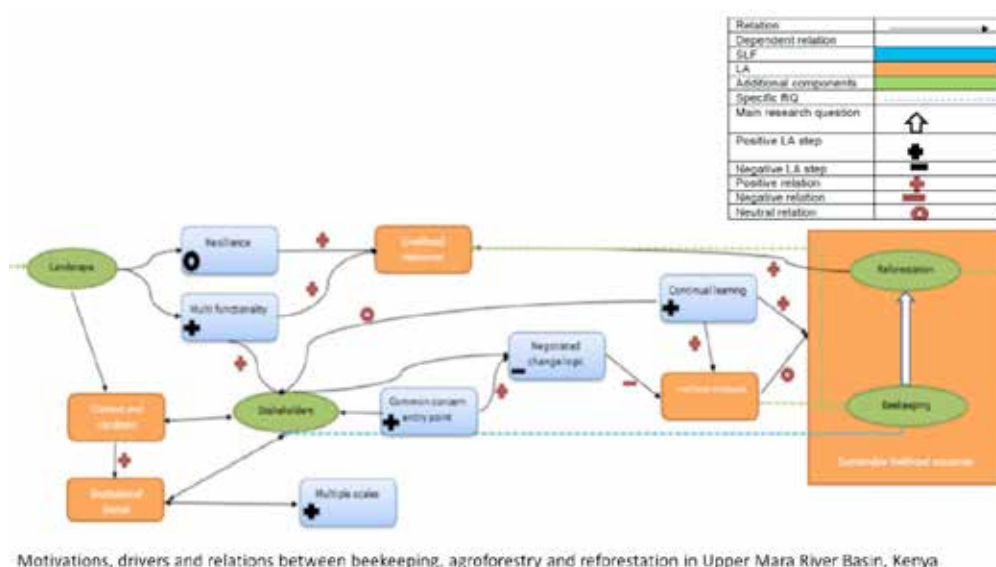


Impacts of beekeeping and agroforestry initiatives, Upper Mara River Basin, Kenya

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Training and support for beekeeping and agroforestry were part of the 4 year Mau Mara Serengeti Sustainable Water initiative (MaMaSe), aiming to improve water safety and security, support structural poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth and conservation of the Mara River Basin's ecosystems. Working with beekeepers, Community Forest and Water Resource Users Associations and their members, we assessed how beekeeping affected incomes and reforestation, and how agroforestry contributes to livelihoods. Beekeeping was found to contribute mostly modestly to farmer's livelihoods: providing income, food, timber and woodfuel and pollinating crops. Beekeepers are active in planting trees and protecting forests, attributing value to riparian natural forests contributing to protect the watershed, but not significantly more than non-beekeeper farmers. Whilst farmers and their organisations had planted trees, these are not well integrated into farming systems. Participatory action research, literature reviews and traditional knowledge resulted in 6 economically viable agroforestry options being identified for the 3 altitudinal zones, involving 75 indigenous and exotic species, with 36 tree species identified as valuable multi-use species, 118 indigenous and 74 exotic melliferous species. Farmers are concerned about the changing landscape and climate, however drivers to participate in projects to improve the environment are no different for beekeepers than non-beekeepers.



Motivations, drivers and relations between beekeeping, agroforestry and reforestation in Upper Mara River Basin, Kenya

Keywords: agroforestry, beekeeping, reforestation, agroforestry and tree value chains, livelihoods.