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Effect of Donor Funding on Effective Implementation of Wind Power Projects in Kenya

Abdullahi Gira Ali

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Abdullahi Gira Ali

Postgraduate student, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Email of the author: abdullahigira2014@gmail.com

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Abstract

Energy is crucial for economic and social development, acting as a key indicator and providing vital inputs for progress. The African continent has abundant energy resources, which still remains untapped. It is estimated that 60% of the population have no access to electricity in Kenya. The Least Cost Power Development Plan 2010-2030 report indicates a low implementation rate of 53% for many wind power projects, with issues such as land acquisition hindering progress. For example, the Kinangop Wind Park in Nyandarua County, proposed in 2012 and due for completion by mid-2015, remains frozen due to such challenges. The objective of the study was to assess how donor funding affect effective implementation of wind power projects in Kenya. The study was grounded on resource-based view theory. The study used descriptive survey research design. The target population was 128 stakeholders. The study conducted a pretest using a 10% sample, comprising of 13 randomly selected respondents from the project stakeholders. Stratified random sampling was used to select the respondents. The unit of observation were community leaders, donors, project managers and government agents. The study used primary data gathered by use of a structured and semi-structured questionnaire. The results reveal that donor funding has a positive and significant relationship with the effective implementation of wind power projects in Kenya. The study recommends that for donor funds be channeled, Kenya as a country to be performing better hence encouraging policy reform incentives. Kenya should therefore manage donor project in a way that they will be satisfied. An increased collaboration and networking among development partners could lead to a more integrated approach, thereby increasing the overall effectiveness of donor funding.

Keywords: *Donor funding, implementation, wind power projects, Kenya*

1.0 Background of the study

Access to energy is crucial for economic and social development and improving the quality of life (Boyle, 2004). The African continent possesses abundant energy resources, including hydro, geothermal, wind, and solar power, which remain largely untapped (Mallon, 2006). These renewable energy sources have the potential to address the persistent problem of power shortage in Africa and provide affordable electricity to the population (Mallon, 2006). To mitigate the consequences of fossil fuel use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, there is a growing call from the scientific community and other stakeholders to develop alternative energy solutions (Commission Proposal COM (2000) 796 final; IPCC, 2007; Mallon, 2006). Diversifying and utilizing alternative energy sources, such as solar, hydropower, wind, and bioenergy, can significantly reduce GHG emissions (Boyle, 2004). However, the development of renewable energy sources faces various obstacles related to energy source, implementation location, and available technology (Geller, 2003; Mendonça, 2007; McCormick, 2007).

Overcoming these obstacles is essential, as local renewable energy sources offer multiple positive impacts, including improved energy supply and security, local development, and job creation (Kelly, 2007). The wind power industry is a rapidly growing sector worldwide, with an estimated annual worth of \$36 billion and an installed capacity that grows at over 20% per annum (Leva and Zaninelli, 2006). Increasing environmental concerns have shifted attention to the environmental effects of energy generation and the correlation between energy, development, and sustainability (Leva & Zaninelli, 2006). The European Union has set a target of 20% renewable energy in its energy mix by 2020 to reduce import dependence and greenhouse gas emissions (Commission of the European Communities, 2007; Zervos, 2007). Achieving this target necessitates a properly functioning energy market, an effective emission trading mechanism, and the development of a renewable energy industry (Commission of the European Communities, 2007). The wind energy sector continues to develop worldwide, but inadequate funding, suitable sites with good wind resources and access, and policy and price stability pose challenges for implementation (World Energy Council, 2003).

Africa is rich in both renewable and non-renewable energy resources, such as hydropower, geothermal, solar, and coal (Mallon, 2006). Despite this, less than 7% of the wind power potential has been developed in Africa, and over 60% of the population lacks access to electricity (Ashwin, 2015). Developing large-scale infrastructure projects in Africa involves navigating numerous permits, licenses, and engagement with communities, while scaling up regional power supply and transmission networks is necessary to ensure energy security (World Energy Council, 2003; All Africa Energy Week, 2012). In Kenya, the development of renewable energy sources, including wind, is crucial to address the country's power problems (Africa Energy Yearbook, 2015). However, implementation challenges, such as changes in local governance, hurdles with local communities regarding project sites, and inadequate infrastructure, hinder the utilization of Kenya's immense wind energy potential (Africa Energy Yearbook, 2015; Wang & Li, 2011). To fully utilize this potential, significant investments and a stable grid network are required (Energy Act, 2006).

The Government of Kenya recognizes wind power as a key source of renewable energy and aims to install significant wind capacity in the coming years (Kiplagat, Wang, & Li, 2011).

Independent investment in the wind sector is encouraged through the introduction of a feed-in tariff (FiT), and the government has commissioned consultancy services to analyze wind energy data and develop wind power projects (Energy Act, 2006). Wind resource assessments indicate that a significant portion of Kenya experiences favorable wind speeds, particularly in regions like Marsabit, Ngong, and the Coastal region, which have the potential for large-scale utility electricity generation (Energy Act, 2006). This presents an immense opportunity for wind energy utilization in Kenya, attracting domestic and foreign investors/developers (Energy Act, 2006). Considering the low implementation rate of wind power projects in Kenya, this study aims to assess how donor funding affects the effective implementation of wind power projects in the country. By examining the impact of financial support and addressing implementation challenges, this research aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers, project developers, and donors, ultimately contributing to addressing energy access and sustainability challenges in Kenya and promoting the use of renewable energy sources.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Kenya faces a slow and delayed implementation of renewable energy (Rambo, 2013). Despite the remarkable potential for wind energy expansion in Kenya, the implementation of wind power projects faces significant challenges, leading to slow and delayed progress (Rambo, 2013). For example, the Kinangop Wind Power project in Nyandarua County has experienced a low implementation rate due to issues related to land acquisition, resulting in delays and the project being put on hold (Herbling, 2016). Similarly, the Lake Turkana Wind Power project has faced implementation delays due to allegations of violating community land rights (LTWP, 2014). These implementation challenges, including factors such as lack of community involvement, management issues, donor-related challenges, and social and environmental issues, contribute to delays and hinder the realization of wind power projects' potential (WB, 2012). The delays in project implementation have far-reaching impacts on various stakeholders.

The government loses a potential source of revenue, investors face prolonged payback periods, and citizens are deprived of much-needed energy consumption (Ogari, 2012). Although previous studies have examined factors influencing the implementation of various infrastructure projects and renewable energy sectors, there is a significant knowledge gap regarding the specific factors affecting the effective implementation of wind power projects in Kenya (Kiara, 2013; Maynard et al., 2010; Githenya & Ngugi, 2014). Therefore, there is a need for a comprehensive study to fill this knowledge gap and gain a deeper understanding of the factors that impact the successful implementation of wind power projects in Kenya. This study seeks to address the following research question: How does donor funding affect the effective implementation of wind power projects in Kenya? By exploring the specific challenges related to donor funding and its impact on project implementation, the study aims to provide insights into strategies and recommendations that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of donor funding mechanisms for wind power projects in Kenya.

1.2 Research Objective

To assess how donor funding affect effective implementation of wind power projects in Kenya.

2.0 Literature Review

The literature review is a critical exploration divided into several sections. In the theoretical literature review, researchers analyze existing theories related to the research topic, evaluating their applicability and identifying any gaps in knowledge. This leads to the development of a conceptual framework that establishes connections among the study's variables and helps form the research questions or hypotheses. Lastly, an empirical review examines past studies that utilized practical data, providing a real-world understanding of the research topic and the findings from previous research. This multilayered approach ensures a comprehensive grounding in the existing literature, forming a robust basis for further study.

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

A theory is any conceptualization, used in interpretation of empirical phenomenon. According to Sapru (2008), theories can be classified according to their scope, function, structure and level. The study will be anchored on Resource Based View theory. Resources of the right quality and quantity are important for strategy implementation (Aosa, 1992, Machuki and Aosa, 2011). Resource based view of the firm starts with the assumption that the desired outcome of managerial effort within the firm is a sustainable competitive advantage (SCA). Achieving a SCA allows the firm to earn economic rents or above-average returns. In turn, this focuses attention on how firms achieve and sustain advantages. The resource-based view contends that the answer to this question lies in the possession of certain key resources, that is, resources that have characteristics such as value, barriers to duplication and relevance. A SCA can be obtained if the firm effectively deploys these resources in its product-markets. Therefore, the RBV emphasizes strategic choice, charging the firm's management with the important tasks of identifying, developing and deploying key resources to maximize return.

Resources comprise three distinct sub-groups, namely tangible assets, intangible assets and capabilities. Tangible assets refer to the fixed and current assets of the organization that have a fixed long run capacity. Intangible assets include intellectual property such as trademarks and patents as well as brand and company reputation, company networks and databases (Williams, 1992). Capabilities have proved more difficult to delineate and are often described as invisible assets or intermediate goods (Itami, 1987). Essentially capabilities encompass the skills of individuals or groups as well as the organizational routines and interactions through which all the firm's resources are coordinated (Grant, 1991). The resource-based view (RBV) offers critical and fundamental insights into why firms with valuable, rare, inimitable, and well organized resources may enjoy superior performance.

This theory is relevant to this study since it informs donors as a stakeholder on the effective implementation of wind power project, donors play a greater role in providing resources in terms of funds and thus sustainability of the wind power project implementation. However, the International Budget Partnership (2010) notes that, up to 45% of infrastructural projects fail annually in the devolved units in various countries due to the fact that the management in these units have no good will in projects implementation but have only the dream of embezzling funds, limiting spending so that they can pocket something at the end of the day and at times fasten the rates of completion of projects so that they can spend less, and this finally affects the quality and success of projects. Lohr (2009) notes that, in Africa, managers are never loyal

to their electorate and therefore do less in implementing development projects. In Mombasa County for example, some project managers like those operating the Kongowea-Kisauni road have failed to be complete since the year 2010 just because the project managers are not ready to spend despite the fact that they were allocated the finances by both the county and national government (Kenya Republic of Kenya, 2014).

2.2 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework delineates the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The donor funding serves as the independent variable, while the effective implementation of wind power projects in Kenya stands as the dependent variable. The relationship between these two variables is graphically represented in Figure 1

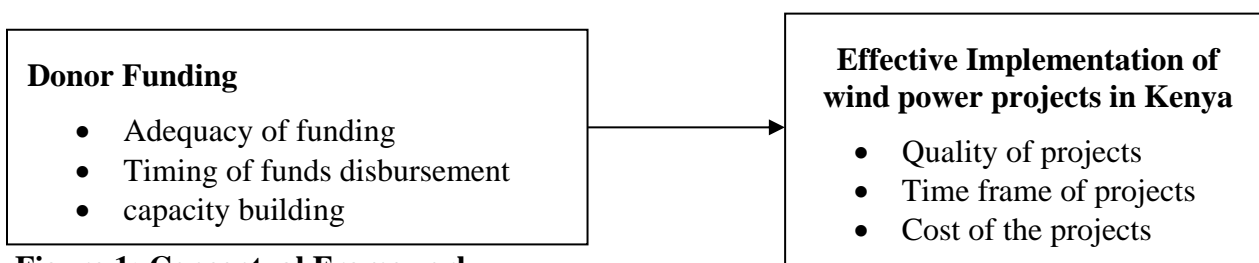


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

2.3 Empirical Review

Boenigk and Helmig (2013) examined the effects of organizational identification and identity salience on the relationships among satisfaction, loyalty, and donation behavior. In the context of fundraising, they suggest that donor satisfaction with the quality of the service they are provided with (as donors) drives subsequent loyalty, but the strength of this impact may vary by the profile of the donors in question. The position for nonprofits, however, is further complicated by the agency role that they play and it is probable that both donor service quality and the perceived quality of service delivered to the beneficiary group may be at issue, since donors are in fact purchasing both. Donor funding, or foreign aid for the purposes of this study, refers only to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Donor funding is a loan or a grant administered with the objective of promoting sustainable social and economic development and welfare of the recipient country. It comprises both bilateral aid that flows directly from donor to recipient governments and multilateral aid that is channeled through an intermediary lending institution like the World Bank (Abuzeid, 2009). Organizations frequently require resources in order to pursue their objectives. Organizations are resource insufficient and rely on external stakeholders who control resources and make certain demands (Brass, 2012).

Donor funding involves: adequacy of funding; timing of funds disbursement; capacity building for staff of the donor agencies; use of local staff to overcome language and other socio-cultural factors; sensitization and training of beneficiaries; timely auditing of implementing agencies to ensure accountability; timely programme reports from project officers; frequent meetings with key stakeholders; adequate collaboration and networking of all development partners (Abou-Assi, 2013). Burnett (1992) suggested that donor fundraising was the way forward for increasing fundraising revenues. Burnett proposed that by focusing on and developing

relationships with donors, fundraising revenues would increase over the longer term. Kamakura (2001) suggests that in the context of fundraising, donor satisfaction with the quality of the service they are provided with (as donors) would drive subsequent loyalty, but the strength of this impact may vary by the profile of the donors in question.

A study to address donor satisfaction by Sargeant (2011) identified a positive correlation with loyalty. More recent work by Sargeant (2001) and Sargeant and Woodliffe (2006) have confirmed this relationship, while in the latter case simultaneously identifying a link between satisfaction and commitment to the organization. Oduor (2009) points out that Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) has significantly reduced poverty in Kenya. However, his results show that disbursements had stronger impacts on the poorest of the poor more than those who are less poor. Too (2015) conducted a study on the influence of donor funds disbursement procedures on project implementation in Kenya. The study found out that periodic donor program reporting contributes the most towards project implementation, followed by donor financial reporting, then audit requirements, grant budgets, and lastly, the bank facilities. The study further found that project accounts information is regularly updated and that statutory audits are carried out every year by a qualified external auditor.

3.0 Research Methodology

The research design for this study was a descriptive survey research design, aiming to describe and analyze the concerns related to the implementation of wind power projects in Kenya. The study utilized questionnaires to collect the data. The target population consisted of 128 community leaders, donors, project managers and government agents. A census approach was employed, with all 128 respondents being included in the sample. Data collection involved administering semi-structured questionnaires, and the validity and reliability of the instruments were ensured through a pilot testing process. The collected data were analyzed using quantitative techniques, such as descriptive analysis and inferential statistics, and presented using tables and charts.

4.0 Results and Discussions

The results and discussions are presented in sections.

4.1 Response Rate

A total of 128 questionnaires were distributed for the study. Out of these, 112 were correctly completed and returned, translating to a successful response rate of 87.5%, as depicted in Table 1. Scholars such as Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) and Kothari (2004) posit that a 50% response rate is sufficient for a descriptive survey study. Similarly, Babbie (2004) suggests that a 50% return rate is acceptable for analysis and publication, a 60% return rate is good, and a 70% return rate is considered very good. Therefore, given these scholarly assertions, the achieved response rate of 87.5% in this study is more than adequate.

Table 1: Response Rate

Response	Frequency	Percent
Returned	112	87.5%
Unreturned	16	12.5%
Total	128	100%

4.2 Reliability of Pilot Study

The reliability of an instrument refers to its ability to produce consistent and stable measurements. Bagozzi (1994) explains that reliability can be seen from two sides: reliability (the extent of accuracy) and unreliability (the extent of inaccuracy). The most common reliability coefficient is Cronbach’s alpha which estimates internal consistency by determining how all items on a test relate to all other items and to the total test- internal coherence of data. The reliability is expressed as a coefficient between 0 and 1.00. The higher the coefficient, the more reliable is the test. The cronbach alpha was calculated in a bid to measure the reliability of the questionnaire. This was done by subjecting the thirteen (13) questionnaires to respondents that were randomly selected. All the variables were reliable since their Cronbach alpha was above 0.7 which was used as a cut-off of reliability for the study. Table 2 shows the reliability results.

Table 2: Reliability

Variable	No of Items	Respondents	α =Alpha	Comment
Donor Funding	5	13	0.702	Reliable

4.3 Influence of Donor Funding on the Effective Implementation of Wind Power Projects in Kenya.

4.3.1 Descriptive statistics

This section presents the descriptive analysis of statements regarding donor funding. Descriptive statistics were obtained by running each objective statement through a descriptive custom table and are presented in percentages. The mean and standard deviations were calculated through running the descriptive statistics. In this study, the aspect of donor funding was assessed using five questions. The respondents were asked to give their opinion regarding donor funding specifically, they were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 1=Strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree and 5-Stronly agree. The highest of the mean was 5 while the lowest was 1. Therefore, a mean of 1=Strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree and 5-Stronly agree. According to results in Table 3, majority of the respondents who represented 42.00% of the respondents agreed that the donors take a very short time to release funds after a request. 40.20% strongly agreed, 8.90% were neutral, and 4.50% disagreed while only 4.50% strongly disagreed. In general, 82.20% agreed with the statement donors take a very short time to release funds after a request. Results also indicated that 76.90% agreed that The donor funds are adequate and sufficient enough to enhance effective implementation of the project, 71.40% agreed that the donors have been consistently contributing to the project implementation process, 68.70% of the respondents agreed that the donors have been assisting in capacity

building through training of employees, while 73.20% of the respondents agreed that disbursement and release of donor funds have been done on time to enhance effective implementation of wind project. On a five-point scale, the average mean of the responses was 3.44 which mean that majority of the respondents agreed with most of the statements; however, the answers were varied as shown by a standard deviation of 1.08. The highest of the mean was 5 while the lowest was 1. Therefore, a mean of 1=strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree and 5=Strongly agree. Therefore, average mean of the responses was 3.44 which mean that majority of the respondents agreed with most of the statements.

Table 3: Donor Funding

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
The donors take a very short time to release funds after a request.	4.5%	4.5%	8.9%	42.0%	40.2%	4.09	1.04
The donor funds are adequate and sufficient enough to enhance effective implementation of the project	10.2%	10.1%	3.0%	41.8%	35.1%	3.52	0.50
The donors have been consistently contributing to the project implementation process	6.2%	17.9%	4.5%	31.2%	40.2%	3.81	1.31
The donors have been assisting in capacity building through training of employees.	10.7%	11.6%	8.9%	22.3%	46.4%	3.82	1.40
Disbursement and release of donor funds have been done on time to enhance effective implementation of wind project	6.2%	4.5%	16.1%	34.8%	38.4%	3.95	1.14
Average						3.44	1.08

4.3.2 Relationship between Donor Funding and implementation of Wind Power Projects

Regression analysis was performed by using the composites of the two variables. The data was input to the SPSS software. Results were then presented in Tables 4, 5 and 6. The results presented in Table 4 present the fitness of model used in the regression model in explaining the study phenomena. Donor Funding was found to be satisfactory variable in implementation of wind power projects. This is supported by coefficient of determination also known as the R square of 17.4%. This means that donor funding explains 17.4% of the variations in the dependent variable which is implementation of wind power projects. This results further means that the model applied to link the relationship of the variables was satisfactory.

Table 4: Model Fitness

Indicators	Coefficients
R	0.417
R Square	0.174
Adjusted R Square	0.166
Std. Error of the Estimate	0.255

Table 5 provides the results on the analysis of the variance (ANOVA). The results indicate that the model was statistically significant. Further, the results imply that the independent variable, donor funding, is a good predictor of implementation of wind power projects. This was supported by an F statistic of 23.151 and the reported $p=0.000$ which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level.

Table 5: Analysis of Variance

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1.51	1	1.51	23.151	0.000
Residual	7.174	110	0.065		
Total	8.684	111			

Regression of coefficients results in Table 6 shows that implementation of wind power projects and donor funding are positively and significant related ($r=0.220$, $p<0.05$). This find is consistent with that of Bennett and Barkensjo (2005) that there is a significant and positive relationship between donor funding, satisfaction and project implementation. Sargeant (2011) identified a positive correlation with loyalty, donors indicating that they were ‘very satisfied’ with the quality of service provided being twice as likely to offer a second or subsequent gift than those who identified themselves as merely satisfied. The specific model was; Implementation of wind power Projects= $2.812+0.22X1$

Where $X1$ is donor funding.

Table 6: Regression of Coefficients

	B	Std. Error	t	Sig
(Constant)	2.812	0.159	17.697	0.000
Donor Funding	0.220	0.046	4.812	0.000

4.4 Correlation Analysis

The correlation analysis results presented in Table 7 indicate a positive and statistically significant relationship between Donor Funding and the implementation of wind power projects ($r = 0.417$, $p = 0.000$). The finding suggests that higher levels of donor funding are associated with increased effectiveness in implementing wind power projects in the studied context. The positive correlation implies that as the amount of donor funding increases, there is a corresponding improvement in the implementation of wind power projects. The statistical significance of the correlation coefficient (p -value = 0.000) indicates that this relationship is

unlikely to have occurred by chance. These results provide empirical evidence supporting the notion that donor funding plays a crucial role in facilitating the successful implementation of wind power projects, emphasizing the importance of financial support in overcoming implementation challenges and achieving project goals.

Table 7: Correlation analysis

Variables		Implementation	Donor Funding
Implementation	Pearson Correlation	1.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
Donor Funding	Pearson Correlation	0.417**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
 * Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

5.0 Conclusion

The study concludes that donor funding has a positive and significant relationship with the effective implementation of wind power projects in Kenya. This suggests that an increase in donor funding leads to an enhancement in the effective implementation of these projects. This finding is corroborated by the donor funding questionnaire results. On a five-point scale, the average response was 3.44, indicating that the majority of respondents agreed with most statements related to donor funding. It's suggested that to maintain and enhance donor satisfaction, project account information should be updated regularly, and statutory audits should be performed annually by a qualified external auditor. Furthermore, periodic donor program reporting was found to significantly contribute to project implementation, followed by donor financial reporting and audit requirements.

6.0 Recommendations

To enhance the utilization of donor funds, the study recommends several strategies. Kenya should strive to show improved performance to encourage policy reform incentives, stemming from the perspective that aid should be used to motivate policy refinement by recipients. Donor-funded projects should be managed efficiently and transparently, ensuring donor satisfaction. This involves comprehensive and periodic program reporting, timely financial reporting, and rigorous adherence to audit requirements. Regular updates to project account information and annual audits by qualified external auditors should be carried out for accountability. The agencies managing donor funds should improve their capacity, with training for beneficiaries and implementing agencies to better manage funds. The government should invest in improving socio-economic conditions for those living just below the poverty

line, balancing the impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA) across all regions. Developing strong, sustained relationships with donors, communicating how contributions make a difference, could encourage more donations. Lastly, increased collaboration and networking among development partners could lead to a more integrated approach, thereby increasing the overall effectiveness of donor funding.

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