



# Contribution of agroforestry to climate change mitigation and livelihoods in Western Kenya

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**Abstract** We test the hypothesis that agroforestry improves livelihoods and mitigates climate change in smallholder farming systems simultaneously. Data were collected using household surveys and standard biomass assessment approaches using locally relevant allometric equations. Summary statistics and regression analyses reveal linkages between on-farm carbon stocks and farm- and household characteristics. With an average of  $4.07 \pm 0.68 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  and Shannon diversity index of 3.06, farm carbon stocks were significantly associated with farm size ( $r = 0.453$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), tree density ( $r = -0.58$ ,  $p = 0.05$ ) and the average size of trees on farm ( $r = -0.42$ ,  $p = 0.05$ ), but not by Shannon diversity index ( $r = 0.36$ ,  $p = 0.080$ ), species richness ( $r = -0.044$ ,  $p = 0.833$ ) or the number of land use categories ( $r = -0.192$ ,  $p = 0.356$ ). Timber was considered the most important use of on-farm trees before firewood

and construction material. The results suggest that gaining self-sufficiency in firewood is the most important benefit with on-farm carbon accumulation. The focus on exotic species for timber production presents a considerable trade-off between livelihood options and environmental goals. Heterogeneity in local environmental conditions over very short distances, less than 12 km, significantly determine livelihood strategies and on-farm carbon stocks. These results ostensibly contradict that carbon storage in smallholder farms is determined by diversity of tree species, suggest that livelihood strategy can equally drive carbon storage and demonstrate the diversity of livelihood and environmental benefits derived from trees on farms.

**Keywords** Aboveground biomass · Carbon stocks · On-farm trees · Species diversity · Trade-off

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## Introduction

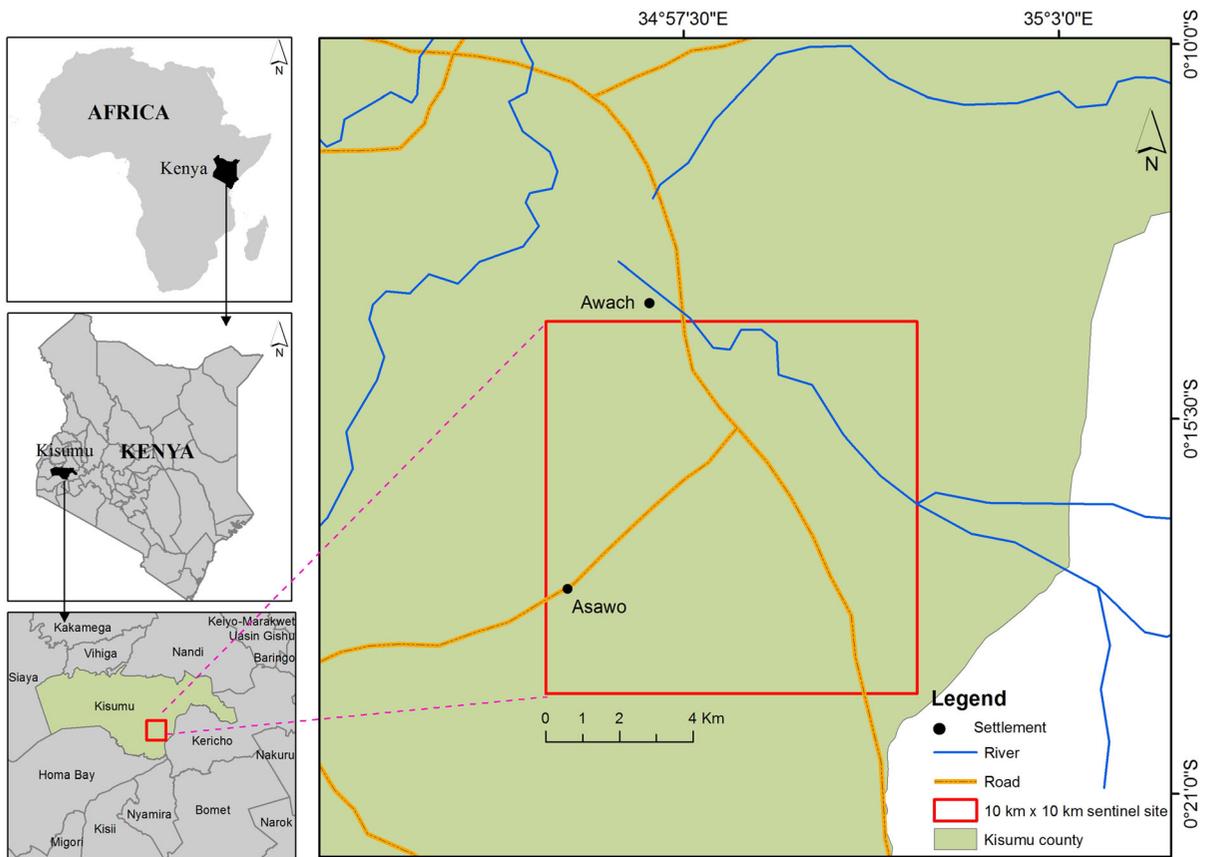
Climate change may significantly reduce the productivity of farms globally (Harvey et al. 2014). Throughout the tropics, the effects of changes in temperature and precipitation patterns are predicted to be particularly negative with declines of crop yields, increased environmental suitability of agricultural pests and diseases and decreasing livestock pasture (feed) quality (Porter et al. 2014). Potential impact of climate change on farm productivity is a significant concern given that agriculture represents the primary livelihood strategy for the vast majority of rural poor in tropical developing countries; this group typically has limited access to additional financial or biophysical resources to adapt to the predicted less hospitable weather patterns (Morton 2007; Bryan et al. 2013a). While climate change threatens agriculture, it also contributes to events such as increased temperatures described by global warming. Greenhouse gas emissions due to agriculture are estimated to be between 5 and 7 GtCO<sub>2</sub>/year (Scholes et al. 2014), equivalent to 14% of the total anthropogenic emissions (IPCC 2014). Agriculture, however, can help mitigate climate change. Agricultural mitigation can be realized through a variety of practices that increase carbon sequestration in soils and biomass (Scholes et al. 2014).

Agroforestry is an often named solution for the dual climate and food security challenges (Dinesh et al. 2017). Agroforestry practices, such as the integration of leguminous trees into fallow periods between two cropping seasons (improved fallow), or intercropping short- and long-term trees with crops (dispersed intercropping), can lead to higher crop yields in many parts of the tropics (Hall et al. 2005), and increased well-being (Thorlakson and Neufeldt 2012). Meanwhile, agroforestry can mitigate climate change through creating and enhancing carbon sinks by capturing carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and storing it in biomass and soil (Albrecht and Kandji 2003). Considering only the tree component of agroforestry systems, estimates based on growth rates and wood production from a limited number of studies show an average carbon stock in agroforestry systems between 9 and 63 Mg C ha year<sup>-1</sup> depending on the climate (semi-arid to temperate) (Montagnini and Nair 2004). However, carbon stocks in agroforestry systems of the tropics vary even for similar types of

agroforestry systems (Nair and Nair 2014) due to the diversity of agroforestry practices (e.g., homegardens, windbreaks, intercropping, woodlots, etc.) and the impact of environmental (e.g., access to soil moisture, light and nutrients) and management (e.g., pruning and felling) factors suggesting the potential for agroforestry to be a low emission development strategy may be site specific.

The contributions of agroforestry practices to the livelihoods of farmers are determined by local biophysical and socio-economic factors and need to be examined from their perspective (Dumont et al. 2017). The global benefit of regulating climate through carbon sequestration cannot be considered a motivating argument for smallholder farmers to invest in new farming practices (Bryan et al. 2013b). Therefore, mitigation efforts at smallholder farm level need to produce tangible and direct livelihood benefits for farmers, such as being a source of food, fuel or fodder with mitigation being a co-benefit of the improved agricultural practice (Ogle et al. 2014). The majority of studies only quantify either the amount of carbon stocks in smallholder systems (e.g. Henry et al. 2009) or the role of agroforestry in building resilience to climate-related hazards (e.g. Thorlakson and Neufeldt 2012). Further, recent studies assessing carbon stocks often focus on particular agroforestry practices such as natural or planted fallows, agroforestry parkland and rangeland (Marone et al. 2017), or particular species such as coffee agroforestry (Guillemot et al. 2018) or cocoa agroforestry (Middendorp et al. 2018). On the other hand, studies assessing livelihoods rarely monitor carbon stocks, for example Nath et al. (2016) in Western Ghats, India and Quandt et al. (2017) in western Kenya. This study is different from a simple biomass assessment in that it provides additional information about other benefits that farmers obtain from trees. By assessing benefits of on-farm trees from both the climate and farmers' point of view, this study connects carbon stocks, species diversity and agroforestry practices and thereby identifies common household- and farm characteristics that can drive on-farm carbon storage. This leads to a nuanced and locally relevant understanding of farmers' choices and possibilities of how to mitigate climate change and improve livelihoods concurrently.

In this study, we applied a mixed method approach to quantify carbon stocks and livelihoods benefits of



**Fig. 1** Location of the study site within the Nyando River basin in Kisumu County, western Kenya

trees on smallholder farms in Western Kenya. Our hypotheses were (1) the land use type, on-farm tree diversity and farm size drive the amount of above-ground biomass carbon on smallholder farms, (2) on-farm trees in smallholder farming systems provide an important contribution to livelihoods, and (3) household- and farm demographic and socio-economic characteristics explain carbon stocks on smallholder farms.

**Materials and methods**

**Study site**

The study site is located in Kisumu County, formerly Nyanza Province, Western Kenya. The sampled farms lie within the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS) ‘Lower Nyando’ benchmark site, a 10 km × 10 km

research site situated in the Nyando River Basin (Fig. 1). The climate in the Nyando River basin varies from semi-arid to sub-humid. Precipitation falls in a bimodal pattern with a cumulative annual average of 1000 mm; long rains occur between March and May, while short rains occur between October and November (Boye et al. 2008). The mean annual minimum and the maximum temperature ranges between 12–16 °C and 29–31 °C. Elevation ranges between 1170 and 1750 m above sea level (Boye et al. 2008). Topography varies with slopes ranging between 1.1% in the lowland in the Southern part of the site to 9.6% in the Northern areas. The dominant soil types in Lower Nyando are Luvisols and Gleysols (Boye et al. 2008).

Nyando is densely populated, with over 250 people per km<sup>2</sup>. Farms operate three major types of farming systems whose distribution is determined by topography and micro-climates in highlands, mid-slope, and lowland areas. In all systems, cereal crops, livestock, and fuel wood production play an important role as a

livelihood source for consumption and commercialization (Mango et al. 2011). Maize, sorghum and beans are the major field crops grown in Lower Nyando (Mango et al. 2011). Fruit trees common in the area include *Mangifera indica* (mango), *Musa* spp. (banana) and *Psidium guajava* (guava). Livestock production entails mixtures of indigenous and cross-bred cattle raised under free range or semi zero-grazing systems. The higher elevated areas have dense vegetation with sparse settlements. Besides food (maize) and cash (tea) crops, perennial grasses, including Napier grass make up the dominant vegetation in higher elevated areas. The mid-slope area is characterized by lower population density, slightly larger farm sizes with sugarcane production and cross-bred livestock. In the lowlands, agricultural production uses local breeds of free-grazing cattle, sorghum and maize.

#### Farm selection

Farms surveyed in this study were a subset of 200 households previously selected and surveyed for household assets and farming system (Rufino et al. 2012). We used a two-step process to select the households to sample. First, a cluster analysis of the 200 households based on altitude, farming systems and environmental resource use patterns was conducted and 60 households randomly selected (20 per farming system). Second, 28 households were then randomly selected from the 60 sampled households for tree inventory and biomass assessment. Random selection of the households eliminated the likelihood of convenience sampling and allowed to capture the typical mix of plant species, livelihood strategies and farming systems in the area. Two farms were removed from the sample since they were commercial large-scale operations and thus did not meet study objectives of sampling smallholder farming systems (< 2 ha); therefore, the biomass assessment was based on 26 farms.

#### Tree inventory and biomass assessment

Tree inventory and biomass assessment was conducted for the 26 selected farms by recording species names, diameter at breast height (DBH) of trees, and farm characteristics. Total farm size, tree size and location and land use type were mapped by GPS

tracking (eTrex Legend and Oregon 600, Garmin). A total of six land use categories were identified for the analysis; each individual tree was assigned to one of the eight land use types as follows. (1) Homestead: Trees (mostly shade- or fruit trees) scattered within the area around the house, occasionally including animal shelter but no cropland. It also includes trees planted along the boundary of the compound with protective and aesthetic purpose. (2) Cropland: Trees scattered within land for crop production. (3) Grazing area: Trees scattered in fields used for grazing livestock. (4) Boundary: Trees planted along the outer boundary of the entire farms for demarcation and protection, as well as rows of trees separating different land use categories within the farm. (5) Shrub land: Trees within land that is unmanaged and covered with bushes and shrubs, sometimes used to let goats browse. (6) Woodlot: Area with trees planted in high density, mostly monocultures, mainly for timber and fuelwood production.

For all trees within each land use in the farm, aboveground biomass was assessed by non-destructive methods consistent with guidelines used in smallholder systems (Rosenstock et al. 2013; Kuyah and Rosenstock 2015). DBH was measured at a height of 1.3 m above the ground level and over-bark. The stems of trees forking below 1.3 m were measured separately and identified as multi-stemmed trees. DBH of multi-stemmed trees was calculated as the square root of the sum of squares of diameter measurements of individual stems. Trees that forked just above the ground were measured separately and identified as separate trees. When trees had dead or missing branches just above breast height, DBH was measured above the missing branch. On heavily deformed stems, the clearest and smoothest point for measuring DBH was selected right above or below 1.3 m. The species name of all measured trees was also recorded. Only living trees with a diameter greater than 2.5 cm (8 cm circumference) found on farmers' owned land were measured.

#### Household survey

A survey was designed to collect information about household uses and benefits of on-farm trees and their role as a livelihood source in terms of household consumption and commercialization. The survey consisted mainly of open-ended qualitative questions

administered to the random sample of 60 households. One member of the selected household was interviewed, among others, about the tree species in their farm and their uses and benefits. The survey was conducted in November 2014 by trained enumerators in two local languages.

### Data analysis

Biomass and carbon stocks were calculated for each farm and for each land use category. A two-step approach was used to determine allometric equations appropriate for trees measured. First, species-specific and relevant general allometric equations were identified from literature for species that contributed most individuals (above 0.5%) to the total number of trees recorded (“Appendix 1”). Species-specific equations were only considered if they were: (1) developed from at least 30 destructively sampled trees spanning diameter-range covered by individuals of the species of interest, (2) power-law function with diameter-only as the predictor variable, and (3) developed from trees sampled from agricultural landscapes, excluding plantations or natural ecosystems. General allometric equations were required to meet the second criteria and to have been developed with data that include species that contributed most individuals recorded in Lower Nyando. Second, appropriateness of allometric equations that met this criteria i.e. species-specific equations for *Eucalyptus* spp. and *Acacia* spp. (Paul et al. 2013) and the general equations reported by FAO (Brown 1997) was determined by calculating the relative error (%) between predicted and actual biomass of species of interest using a dataset of trees harvested in western Kenya (Kuyah et al. 2012, 2013). Relative errors for validated species-specific and general equation are presented in “Appendix 2”. Guidelines for selecting appropriate equations were applied (Sileshi 2014; Kuyah and Rosenstock 2015).

Equation 1 (Kuyah et al. 2012) was used to convert DBH to aboveground biomass, being the most regionally and climate-relevant multi-species allometric equation for trees in agricultural landscapes in western Kenya.

$$AGB = 0.0905 \times DBH^{2.4718} \quad (1)$$

Biomass estimates obtained were converted to carbon stocks using the default carbon fraction value

of 0.47 from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2006). Aboveground carbon stocks of trees within the same land use in the farm were divided by the area of the land use type to obtain land use level carbon stocks. Aboveground carbon stock at farm level was obtained by summing carbon stocks of all the trees in the entire farm divided by farm size. For trees on farm boundary and those separating different land use within farms, the length of the boundary and a width of 2 m was used to calculate carbon stocks per unit area. Each measured tree was identified with its species name (scientific and local) and categorized into one of the identified land use type. A complete list of recorded tree species with local and scientific names can be found in “Appendix 1”.

The Shannon Index ( $H'$ ) was used to describe tree diversity across the study area, for the farms and land use type using Eq. 2:

$$H' = - \sum_{i=1}^s p_i \ln p_i \quad (2)$$

where  $p$  is the proportion ( $n/N$ ) of individuals of a particular species ( $n$ ) divided by the total number of individuals ( $N$ ),  $\ln$  is the natural log,  $\Sigma$  is the sum of the calculations, and  $s$  is the number of species. Shannon diversity index considers species richness (total number of different species), tree abundance (total number of trees) and the relative species abundance or evenness (count of trees for each species). Chao, Bootstrap and first and second order Jackknife prediction methods were applied with BiodiversityR (Kindt and Coe 2005) to extrapolate total species richness, to estimate what proportion of the total species richness was captured in the sample.

Descriptive statistics were applied to analyse household survey data to reveal the uses and benefits of different tree species. Correlations between farm level carbon stocks and a subset biophysical farm and socio-economic household characteristics were conducted with a significance level of 95% to examine relationships between carbon stocks and household and farm characteristics. Multiple linear regression analysis was used to identify the strength of the effects of farm characteristics on farm level carbon. Associations (Kruskal–Walis, Mann–Whitney and Chi square) and differences between groups (analysis of variance: ANOVA) of various farm- and household characteristics were tested for significance ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 1** Stand structure, composition and diversity of tree species and carbon stocks for different land use type within households surveyed

Farm/land use	Households	Area (ha)	Tree density	Mean DBH (cm)	Species richness			Composition (%)		Shannon index	AGC (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )
					Overall	Exotic	Native	Exotic	Native		
Farm	26	34.94	249	7.1 ± 0.1	83	31	52	48.7	51.3	3.06	4.07 ± 0.68
Boundary	25	1.29	2211	7.3 ± 0.1	59	22	37	48.4	51.6	2.90	31.13 ± 5.85
Cropland	16	9.98	57	9.3 ± 0.3	43	17	26	48.0	51.5	3.12	6.36 ± 4.35
Grazing land	12	8.61	190	5.9 ± 0.1	37	12	25	19.8	80.2	2.13	2.08 ± 0.59
Homestead	24	3.41	518	8.5 ± 0.2	61	28	33	46.9	53.1	3.34	51.94 ± 40.65
Shrub land	4	0.65	448	5.5 ± 0.2	17	4	14	4.1	95.9	2.20	3.17 ± 2.226
Woodlot	9	0.56	2835	6.8 ± 0.1	24	11	13	89.5	10.5	1.19	39.40 ± 10.92

Tree density represents number of trees per ha. Values for diameter at breast height (DBH) and aboveground carbon (AGC) represent means and the standard error of the mean (SE). Species composition represents the percentage of individual trees of native or exotic origin

Prior to the analyses, we verified the data met assumptions of statistical models being used. Statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS 21 (IBM Corp 2011).

## Results

### On-farm trees and aboveground carbon stocks

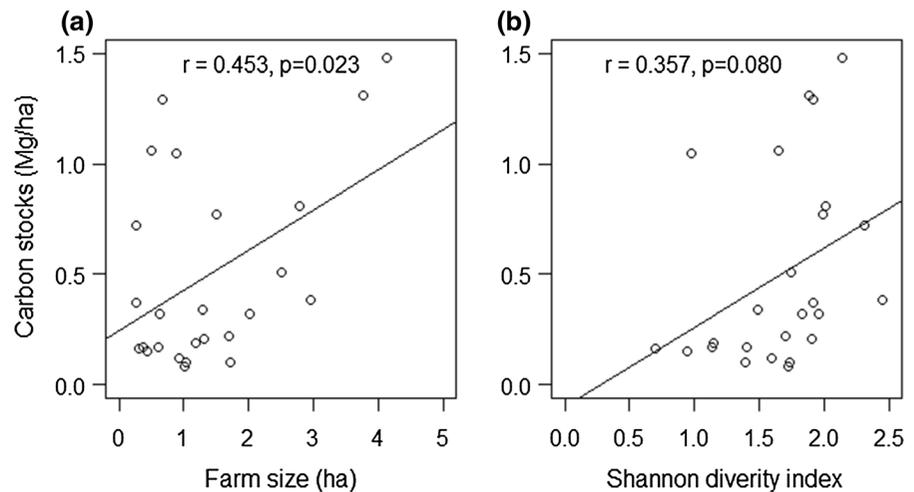
A total of 8712 trees belonging to 83 tree and shrub species were inventoried in 26 farms with a total area of 34.94 ha; average farm size was  $1.34 \pm 1.09$  ha (Table 1). An additional 48 individuals belonging to *Carica papaya* and 170 individuals of unknown identity were also documented. Individuals of *Carica papaya* and unknown species were not included in diversity analysis or estimation of biomass. About 51% of trees inventoried were native; the rest were exotic. In terms of abundance, *Eucalyptus* spp., *Euphorbia tirucalli*, *Acacia* spp., *G. robusta* and *Balanites aegyptiaca* accounted for 21.2%, 9.6, 7.6, 6.3 and 5.0%, respectively of the total number of trees found in Lower Nyando (“Appendix 1”). These five most dominant species accounted for about half of the trees documented. Thirty-eight rare species (those with less than 10 individuals per species) formed 1.5% of the trees recorded. Most of the rare species (25 species) were native to Africa while 13 were of exotic origin. *Eucalyptus* spp. was mainly planted in

woodlots; *Acacia* spp. was mainly found in grazing fields while *E. tirucalli* and *G. robusta* were mainly found on boundary.

The land use type with the richest species diversity were homestead (61 species) and boundary (59 species) (Table 1). The lowest species richness was found in shrub land and woodlots, which were characterised by monospecific stands. A converse trend was observed for tree density, being highest for trees planted in boundaries and in woodlots (2211–2835 trees ha<sup>-1</sup>) compared to other land use types, where tree density ranged from 57 to 518 tree ha<sup>-1</sup> (Table 1). Shannon diversity index for the entire study area was 3.06 (Table 1) with an average  $H'$  of  $1.65 \pm 0.09$  per farm. The value of  $H'$  varied across different land uses, being highest for tree populations in homestead and cropland, and lowest in woodlots (Table 1). According to the Bootstrap, Chao and Jackknife I and II species richness prediction method, the tree inventory captured between 61 and 84% of the tree species richness in the study area.

Trees in Lower Nyando were estimated to store an average of  $4.07 \pm 0.68$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> per farm (Table 1). Total carbon stored in aboveground biomass within the 26 farms (34.94-ha) sampled was 105 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>. This amount is indicative of the carbon that can be lost if the farmland trees are cleared or die and decompose. Large trees (with DBH above 30 cm) were few in Lower Nyando, representing only 5% of the trees inventoried but over half (51%) of the

**Fig. 2** Aboveground farm carbon as function of **a** farm size and **b** Shannon diversity index



carbon stocks. Larger trees were mainly concentrated in homesteads and boundaries. Eighty percent (80%) of all trees inventoried had a DBH less than 10 cm and held about 16% of the total carbon. The mean carbon stocks per farm was  $2.2 \pm 2.2$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> for exotic trees and  $3.2 \pm 1.6$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> for native tree species. Carbon stocks within the farm differed among the land use types, being largest in homestead and lowest in shrub land and cropland (Table 1). Summing the average contributions of each land use, homestead (37.6%), woodlots (28.5%) and boundaries (22.5%) accounted for over 88.6% of the total carbon found in the farms.

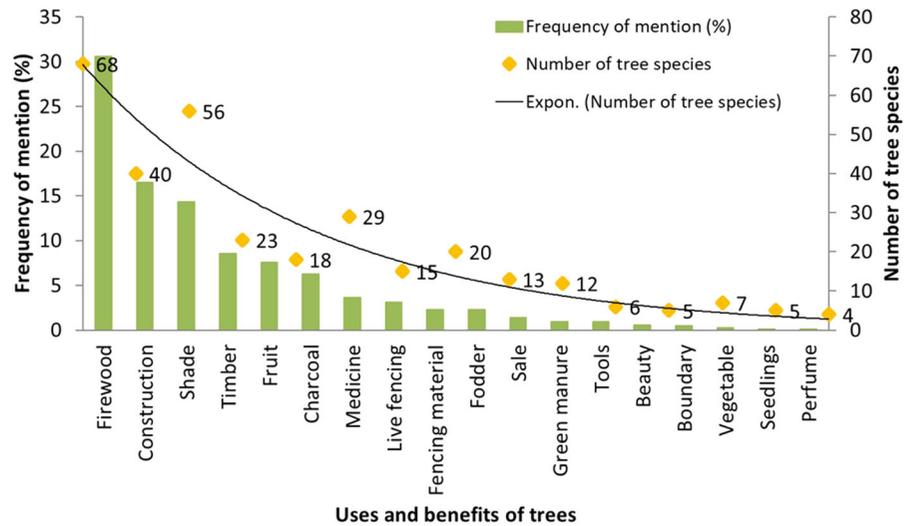
Mean carbon stocks per farm had a significant positive correlation with farm size (Fig. 2). There was a moderate and non-significant positive correlation between carbon stocks and the Shannon Index ( $r = 0.451$ ,  $p = 0.080$ ). However, the relationship between farm carbon and species richness was weak, negative and not significant ( $r = -0.044$ ,  $p = 0.833$ ). A weak negative correlation was found between farm level carbon stocks and the number of retained tree species ( $r = -0.261$ ,  $p = 0.198$ ), the number of land use types ( $r = -0.002$ ,  $p = 0.993$ ), and the number of benefits or uses of trees ( $r = -0.001$ ,  $p = 0.632$ ). There was, however, a moderate negative and significant association between farm level carbon stocks and tree density ( $-0.582$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) as well as average size of trees on the farm ( $r = -0.420$ ,  $p = 0.05$ ). No significant correlations were evident between carbon stocks and the measured socio-economic variables: off-farm income, household size, and access to off-

farm products. A negative (non-significant) correlation was evident between the total number of ruminant livestock and carbon stocks ( $r = -0.344$ ,  $p = 0.085$ ). However, ruminant number correlated significantly with tree use ( $r = -0.495$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), number of exotic species ( $r = 0.439$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and the number of timber trees ( $r = 0.432$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). There was a significant relationship between farms with a woodlot and their firewood self-sufficiency (Fisher's exact  $p = 0.009$ ,  $n = 26$ ). Seventy-eight percent of the farms with a woodlot were also self-sufficient in firewood while 82% of the farms without a woodlot were not self-sufficient in firewood.

#### Household uses of trees

A total of 18 uses and benefits of on-farm trees were documented for 68 tree species mentioned by farmers in Lower Nyando (Fig. 3). Trees provided benefits for household consumption and for sale. The most frequently mentioned use of trees was firewood, followed by construction material, shade, fruit and timber (Fig. 3). The bulk of these benefits were provided by *Eucalyptus* spp., *G. robusta*, *Vepris nobilis*, and *Terminalia brownii* (Table 2). Respondents ranked timber, firewood, construction material, fruits and shade as the foremost important benefits. Ten percent of the households mentioned other uses, such as aesthetic value, scent of trees, boundary demarcation, seedlings and food. On average each household extracted five (range between 1 and 9) unique benefits from all on-farm trees. A complete list

**Fig. 3** Common uses and benefits of trees. Green columns indicate proportion of total statements on use of trees for that purpose. Orange diamond indicates number of tree species associated with that use. As implication, diamonds above averaged trend-line suggest many species are used for that purpose, while diamonds below trend line, indicate specific trees for that use (more narrow selection of species). (Color figure online)



**Table 2** Farmers most frequently mentioned tree species ( $n = 60$ ), their measured abundance per farm ( $n = 26$ ) (mean  $\pm$  SD), their use variety and the three most frequently mentioned uses for each species, represented in a minimum of 20% of the households

No. of households	Tree species	Abundance	Use variety	Main uses
40	<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> (ex.)	106 $\pm$ 248**	10	FW, CM, Ti
34	<i>Grevillea robusta</i> (ex.)	21.2 $\pm$ 60.1	9	FW, Ti, CM
29	<i>Terminalia brownii</i> (nat.)	15 $\pm$ 26.5	10	FW, CM, Ti
24	<i>Vepris nobilis</i> (nat.)	9.3 $\pm$ 16.2	10	FW, CM, Ch
20	<i>Markhamia lutea</i> (nat.)	8.5 $\pm$ 15.2	7	FW, CM, Ch
16	<i>Mangifera indica</i> (ex.)*	2.2 $\pm$ 6.7	3	Fr, FW, Sh
16	<i>Croton megalocarpus</i> (nat.)	3.2 $\pm$ 8.8	6	FW, Sh, CM
15	<i>Persea americana</i> (ex.)*	1.7 $\pm$ 3.4	6	Fr, FW, Sh
15	<i>Thevetia peruviana</i> (ex.)	14.8 $\pm$ 43.8	6	FW, Sh, CM
14	<i>Euclea divinorum</i> (nat.)	14.1 $\pm$ 55.8	8	FW, Ch, Sh
14	<i>Rhus vulgaris</i> (nat.)	14.8 $\pm$ 31.1	9	FW, CM, Fr
13	<i>Psidium guajava</i> (ex.)*	5 $\pm$ 9.5	6	Fr, FW, Sh
13	<i>Acacia</i> spp. (nat.)	32 $\pm$ 105	5	FW, FM, CM
12	<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i> (ex.)	13.7 $\pm$ 38.7	8	CM, FW, Ti
12	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> (ex.)	1.9 $\pm$ 5.9	8	FW, CM + Sh

FW firewood, CM construction material, Ti timber, Ch charcoal, Fr fruit, Sh shade, FM fencing material

\*Fruit tree species

\*\*Extrapolated abundance

of most frequently mentioned uses and benefits of trees is presented in “Appendix 3”. There was a significant positive correlation between the mean uses and the absolute number of fruit trees per farm ( $r = 0.401$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), and between uses and the number of timber trees ( $r = 0.425$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

Trees were planted by the farmer, grown without farmer intervention, or deliberately retained in the farms. Fifty-four percent of all trees surveyed were planted by the farmer, 39% were retained, and data were not available for the seven percent. The majority of retained on-farm trees were native (77%), while the majority of planted on-farm trees were exotic (76%).

There was a significant positive correlation ( $r = 0.71$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) between the number of planted species and the number of exotic trees per farm, however no correlation was found between the number of planted species and the number of native trees. *Eucalyptus* (*E. camaldulensis*, *E. Saligna* and *E. grandis*) and *G. robusta* are the two most frequently planted tree species and also the two most frequently mentioned species in the entire study area. Fruit tree species (*M. indica*, *Persea americana*) are mainly planted, except *P. guajava*, which was mostly retained, as it tends to grow wildly in bush- and shrub land. *G. robusta*, *Eucalyptus* spp., *Cupressus lusitanica*, *M. indica*, *Citrus sinensis* and *P. americana* were cited as the six most preferred additional tree species that farmers would like to have on the farm. These species are desired because they grow fast and are tolerant to pests and diseases (*G. robusta* and *Eucalyptus*), have good quality of timber (*C. lusitanica*), and can improve soil fertility (*G. robusta*). The main purpose of timber production is to generate income and/or provide construction material for the household. *Calliandra calothyrsus* and *Leucaena leucocephala* were preferred for fodder while *Terminalia mantaly* was preferred for aesthetics and shade.

There was a significant difference in farm elevation between farmers that stated different uses as most important for the 60 survey households ( $p = 0.008$ ,  $n = 60$ ). Households on higher elevation farms reported the sale of whole trees (mean = 1643 m) and timber (mean = 1486 m) as most important, while households in lower elevation areas stated windbreak (mean = 1251 m) and construction material (mean = 1320 m) as most important. Farms that stated firewood as most important had a mean farm elevation of 1475 m. Moreover, there was a difference in the number of retained species on farm ( $p = 0.042$ ,  $n = 60$ ). Farms that stated firewood as the most important use have on average seven retained species. Farmers stating timber as most important have on average two retained species.

Tree products that cannot be obtained from the own farm were sourced off-farm. These are either bought in formal or in informal markets (e.g., from neighbours) or collected freely from nearby bush lands. Over one-third (38.3%) of all households access two products off-farm, more than half (52%) of all households access one product and 3.3% of all households access three products. Fruits were the major product accessed

off-farm and were both collected and bought from a market. Other products that were purchased include construction material, timber, seedlings, leaves of sisal (*Agave sisalana*) plant, furniture and wood for charcoal. Medicine was mainly collected from the wild. Women were mainly responsible for acquiring fruits off-farm while men sourced construction material and timber. The number of use and off-farm products were negatively correlated ( $r = -0.256$ ,  $p = 0.048$ ,  $n = 60$ ). Forty percent of households were self-sufficient in firewood, which means they meet household fuelwood consumption from their own farm and do not access firewood off-farm. Forty-three percent of the households collected firewood and 17% buy from off-farm. There were significant differences between means of uses of trees between households that were firewood self-sufficient and those that were not ( $p < 0.01$ ,  $n = 60$ ). Firewood self-sufficient households average seven uses of trees while those that are not had only five. Most of the farms that were firewood self-sufficient were located on higher elevations (mean = 1509 m) while farms without firewood self-sufficiency were located in lower areas (mean = 1358 m). In total, 68 different tree species were cited as a source of firewood. Yet, there was a low abundance of fruit trees; three fruit tree species (*M. indica*, *P. americana*, *P. guajava*) were represented among the 15 most frequently mentioned species.

## Discussion

### On-farm trees and carbon stocks

Tree species diversity on the farms in Lower Nyando was high, attributed to a long history of agroforestry in the area (Scherr 1995) and a series of agroforestry development projects (Thorlakson and Neufeldt 2012). Smallholder farmers in western Kenya have a long standing practice of maintaining trees on farms in diverse formations (Bradley 1988). Shannon diversity index in this study ( $H' = 3.06$ ) was greater than 2.0, which indicates high diversity (Magurran 2004). This value was higher than  $H' = 0.62$  and  $H' = 0.50$  determined for Siaya and Vihiga in western Kenya (Henry et al. 2009). Tree species richness of the area (83 species) was higher than 56 and 76 species reported by other studies in western Kenya (Henry et al. 2009; Kuyah et al. 2012). The variety of trees

species documented underscore the potential of agroforestry to enhance resilience of smallholders to present and future climate risks. For example, farmers in eastern and central Kenya maintain a variety of fodder tree and shrub species to provide livestock feed during the dry season (Gachuri et al. 2017), while majority of trees and shrub species maintained on farms in the Sahel support soil and water conservation (Faye et al. 2011).

The frequency of distribution of tree species on different land use types was variable. Higher tree species diversity was specially observed in homestead and cropland, where multipurpose trees are grown; woodlots had lower species diversity, featuring single species grown e.g. for timber. Tree species dominated the landscape based on use group, similar to patterns observed in previous surveys in western Kenya, for example high frequencies of *Eucalyptus* in woodlots, *M. indica*, *P. americana* and *P. guajava* in the homestead area, and *C. lusitanica* on boundaries (Bradley 1988; Kindt et al. 2006). Thus, tree species with higher economic value were widely spread across farms in Lower Nyando. A decrease in on-farm tree diversity through monoculture woodlots that were dominated by *Eucalyptus* can be considered as an important trade-off with carbon storage in climate change mitigation on smallholder farms. Nevertheless, the plantations of fast-growing timber species are important to achieve firewood self-sufficiency and to generate cash income. Self-sufficiency in firewood supply also can prevent the danger of deforestation of off-farm land or nearby forests (Iiyama et al. 2014). In fact, firewood self-sufficiency can be considered as the most prominent co-benefit with on-farm carbon stocks, and it can be obtained from almost all tree species from various land use types.

Carbon stocks on farms in this region of Kenya average  $4.07 \pm 0.68 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ . These estimates are in the range of aboveground carbon stocks of tropical agroforestry systems in Africa,  $1.0\text{--}18 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  (Nair and Nair 2014), and comparable to average aboveground carbon stocks of  $4.9 \pm 1.2 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  per farm (based on land use units where trees were inventoried) found in Siaya, Western Kenya (Henry et al. 2009). However, these stocks are less than that measured for the total aboveground carbon in perennial vegetation and in another site (Vihiga), where carbon stocks average  $9\text{--}11 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  per farm (Henry et al. 2009). First, the difference may be

attributed to the method of quantification; Henry et al. (2009) determined aboveground carbon using allometric equations developed from 26 individual trees of 5–32 cm DBH, which is a fairly small sample size and size range (Kuyah and Rosenstock 2015) given the variable structure and composition of trees in Lower Nyando. Previous studies show that estimates of carbon stocks can be greatly biased by the choice of allometric equation (Kuyah et al. 2012, 2014). We consider carbon stocks determined in this study as best estimates because of the appropriateness of the equation used. Second, the difference can be attributed to the carbon pools involved in the accounting. Here, we focused only on aboveground tree carbon while Henry et al. (2009) measured perennial shrubs, food and cash crops such as tea plantations and banana plants, and grassland stands. Food crops and pasture accounted for 15.1 and 18.5% of total farm-level carbon in Siaya and Vihiga, respectively in that study. Assuming the same proportions for these unmeasured pools, carbon stocks at the farms in Lower Nyando would have been more similar, but still lower likely due to the more extensive systems often found in Western Kenya versus the more intensive systems in Central Kenya. A time series assessment of carbon stocks for that range of environment is required to also reveal temporal heterogeneity in carbon stocks; whether agroforestry has helped maintain or increase stored carbon.

The effect of land use type was significant on carbon stocks at the farm level ( $p < 0.05$ ). Over 80% of aboveground carbon was found (collectively) in homestead, boundary, and woodlots, corresponding to higher tree density and the presence of large trees (DBH > 30 cm) in these land use types. Similar findings have been reported in western Kenya (Henry et al. 2009) and west African Sahel (Takimoto et al. 2008), where woodlots with mature trees stock higher carbon compared to other land use types within the farm. In agricultural landscapes, land use types with larger trees or higher number of trees often stock larger amount of carbon stocks than those without larger trees or with fewer number of trees (Kuyah et al. 2012, 2014). This suggests that anthropogenic activities with adverse effects on trees have significant implications on aboveground carbon stocks. For example, woodlots store considerable amount of carbon, however, trees in woodlots are harvested after a certain time-period. The stored carbon can be

released back into the atmosphere when harvested trees are used e.g. for fuelwood. Carbon storage can be prolonged by conversion of the harvested wood into durable products (IPCC 2006). It is therefore important to evaluate management practices of different land use types, as this influence the potential for long-term carbon storage. For example, the trees on boundaries and homestead are retained on farm for demarcation of boundary, protection, aesthetics, fruits and shade; they are sometimes pruned for firewood, but rarely cut down. The oldest and largest trees in the study area were mango trees, similar to results from Salima in Malawi, where mangoes are allowed to increase in size and number on crop farms because of sale and consumption (Kuyah et al. 2014). It therefore implies that coupling climate change mitigation with food security or livelihood objectives can support a long-term carbon storage. Farm size was a determinant of carbon stocks, which means farmers with larger landholdings can store more carbon per unit area than farmers with smaller landholdings. This is because larger farms are likely to have more land use types dedicated to trees compared to small farms where trees are restricted to the homestead or long boundaries. The shrinking farm sizes in the area can therefore lead to decreases in farm carbon stocks, although we do not have a time-dynamic in our data set. Consistent with previous results, species richness was found to have no significant correlation with carbon stocks (Henry et al. 2009). This supports the idea that changes in carbon stock does not always depend upon diversification of species. As such, measures to enhance carbon stocks through agroforestry cannot assure biodiversity conservation, and therefore programs aimed at carbon enhancement should include an objective on promotion of biodiversity.

#### Livelihood benefits of trees

Trees on smallholder farms in western Kenya are generally in high demand and serve specific purposes. Recorded uses of trees on farm were primarily fuelwood for household consumption and timber for income generation and household consumption. Fuelwood was ranked second in importance to timber despite the daily usage of firewood. Timber is considered the most important use due to the possibility of commercialisation with relatively good economic returns, compared to the returns from

fuelwood and fruits. The demand for firewood is high but selling firewood was considered less important because of very low income from this activity. Firewood was particularly ranked higher in lower elevated areas where it is not readily available and timber production is less practical with low economic rewards. This suggests that changes in local environmental conditions, even over short distances, can significantly determine farming systems and livelihood strategies. The use of trees for construction material was ranked third, presumably, because shelter is an existential need, and because of the high demand and ease of selling construction material. Buying construction material is a major expense for the household, which can be avoided if construction material is readily available on farm. Fruit trees, without considering banana, play an important role for household consumption and commercialization. Altogether, the benefits of trees recorded in this study reflect those documented in Western Kenya (Thorlakson and Neufeldt 2012) and Eastern Kenya (Quandt et al. 2017). The authors found that farmers derive a variety of livelihood and environmental benefits by integrating trees in their farms thereby improving food security, income, farm productivity and environmental sustainability (Thorlakson and Neufeldt 2012; Quandt et al. 2017). Only regulating and supporting ecosystem services identified in two previous studies were not captured in this study. Farmers did not mention “indirect benefits” such as flood regulation, wind regulation, soil erosion control etc. in the survey. The reason might lie in the formulation and translation of survey questions that did not specifically ask for “indirect benefits”.

The different tree species composition and diversity and their arrangement within the farm indicate possible extraction of different uses and benefits. Previously, studies have shown that socio-economic needs of households affect the diversity of perennial plants grown on farms in western Kenya (Scherr 1995; Henry et al. 2009). The list of the most frequently mentioned trees on-farm reflects farmers’ preference of species rather than abundance, as the list of the most abundant trees generated from the tree inventory did not reveal the same order of species. The investigation discovered that timber and fruit trees have a very high value for farmers since they are the most wanted species and correlate positively with use and are mentioned most frequently by farmers. A high variety of different uses

per tree species is important, since correlation analysis confirmed that less off-farm products need to be accessed when on-farm use is high. Interestingly, farmers in western Kenya seem to prefer exotics to native species. A similar trend was reported from the coffee agroforestry landscape of the Western Ghats, India where farmer's preference to *G. robusta* is driven by economic and legal advantages conferred to it (Nath et al. 2016).

Although the results suggest that measured socio-economic factors do not determine on-farm carbon stocks, it is evident farmers' choices influence carbon stocks. It was evident, that also trees, similar to livestock, can serve the purpose as an investment and resource for the future, for example to pay school fees or to have construction material available for household expansion. The landscape of the study area has been greatly modified by farming practices and livelihood strategies. Native species are replaced by intentional planting of exotic species which grow fast and serve very specific on-farm uses such as timber, construction material, fruits or fodder. Further, grazing livestock probably influence tree growth and ultimately carbon stocks. We found that high on-farm carbon stocks are determined by the existence of woodlots but also influenced by farm elevation. Farms in higher elevated areas have fewer livestock and more carbon, while farms in lower areas have more livestock and less carbon. Livestock affect the structure and composition of trees through browsing and trampling. Protracted browsing eliminates palatable species, allowing those species that are less palatable to dominate the landscape.

## Conclusions

Farmers of Kisumu County in Western Kenya practice six main types of agroforestry by maintaining and planting a diverse array of tree species for various uses and benefits; the trees support climate protection

through carbon sequestration. Similar to previous work on carbon sequestration in similar smallholder farming systems, we found that the type of agroforestry practice (e.g. on-farm land use) and farm size, not species diversity, determines total farm carbon stock and benefits derived for the household. Carbon stocks are also driven by the number and the average size of trees on farm. Exotic timber species, mainly *Eucalyptus*, are the most abundant trees, suggesting a shift in landscape where native species are being replaced by exotics because of quick economic benefits. Understanding the drivers of tree selection can help meet both local food and fuel and global climate regulation needs. We recommend valorisation of the benefits provided by trees in agroforestry to determine perceived market benefits or realized economic benefits of native compared to exotic species. This will help establish general trade-offs or co-benefits of on-farm carbon stocks from economic values of benefits derived from trees.

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**Appendix 1: Tree species documented on farms in Lower Nyando, Western Kenya**

Species	NO	DBH (cm)	Carbon (Mg)	Abundance (%)
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	1849	7.74 ± 6.16	29.638	21.22
<i>Vachellia</i> spp.*	833	5.61 ± 3.51	4.779	9.56
<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>	660	5.88 ± 3.64	4.123	7.58
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	550	9.17 ± 6.04	10.486	6.31
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	435	9.41 ± 6.39	9.300	4.99
<i>Terminalia brownii</i>	389	8.88 ± 6.00	7.038	4.47
<i>Rhus vulgaris</i>	385	5.46 ± 3.37	1.964	4.42
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>	385	4.66 ± 2.69	1.313	4.42
<i>Euclea divinorum</i>	367	4.56 ± 2.34	1.028	4.21
<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i>	356	10.43 ± 6.03	8.232	4.09
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	342	6.41 ± 4.03	2.638	3.93
<i>Vepris nobilis</i>	242	5.96 ± 4.09	1.738	2.78
<i>Grewia mollis</i>	211	6.83 ± 4.24	1.850	2.42
<i>Markhamia lutea</i>	211	6.07 ± 4.00	1.497	2.42
<i>Senna siamea</i>	170	6.77 ± 3.96	1.383	1.95
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	131	5.07 ± 2.36	0.438	1.50
<i>Sesbania sesban</i>	90	5.04 ± 2.61	0.321	1.03
<i>Croton megalocarpus</i>	84	6.75 ± 3.67	0.631	0.96
<i>Combretum molle</i>	79	5.68 ± 3.81	0.485	0.91
<i>Croton macrostachyus</i>	74	10.45 ± 8.05	2.306	0.85
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	62	9.19 ± 7.66	1.628	0.71
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	57	21.26 ± 10.80	6.898	0.65
<i>Vangueria madagascariensis</i>	55	4.47 ± 2.03	0.134	0.63
<i>Bridelia micrantha</i>	50	12.60 ± 6.99	1.747	0.57
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	50	8.29 ± 7.50	1.117	0.57
<i>Rhus natalensis</i>	44	4.18 ± 1.74	0.086	0.51
<i>Persea americana</i>	43	9.17 ± 8.61	1.270	0.49
<i>Citrus lemon</i>	39	4.93 ± 2.17	0.117	0.45
<i>Combretum collinum</i>	33	6.87 ± 3.55	0.247	0.38
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	31	14.63 ± 8.89	1.646	0.36
<i>Ficus sur</i>	30	14.46 ± 12.41	2.330	0.34
<i>Solanecio manii</i>	28	6.36 ± 2.04	0.137	0.32
<i>Dovyalis caffra</i>	23	5.54 ± 2.55	0.092	0.26
<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	22	5.12 ± 2.24	0.071	0.25
<i>Turraea robusta</i>	22	4.11 ± 1.02	0.034	0.25
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	20	9.07 ± 5.64	0.337	0.23
<i>Combretum fragrans</i>	19	5.10 ± 3.19	0.081	0.22
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	19	6.36 ± 2.63	0.103	0.22
<i>Albizia coriaria</i>	17	13.30 ± 8.35	0.746	0.20
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	16	10.03 ± 6.08	0.360	0.18
<i>Carissa spinarum</i>	14	3.77 ± 1.18	0.019	0.16
<i>Albizia gumifera</i>	11	9.25 ± 5.85	0.197	0.13
<i>Annona squamosa</i>	10	4.83 ± 1.78	0.026	0.11
<i>Olea europaea</i>	10	11.51 ± 8.12	0.330	0.11

Species	NO	DBH (cm)	Carbon (Mg)	Abundance (%)
<i>Vangueria infausta</i>	10	5.83 ± 3.05	0.049	0.11
<i>Catha edulis</i>	9	12.16 ± 9.69	0.388	0.10
<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>	9	6.51 ± 0.63	0.040	0.10
<i>Terminalia mantaly</i>	7	24.05 ± 7.17	0.880	0.08
<i>Harrisonia abyssinica</i>	6	5.11 ± 1.96	0.018	0.07
<i>Jatropha</i> spp.	6	3.96 ± 1.36	0.009	0.07
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	6	6.30 ± 2.38	0.030	0.07
<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i>	6	5.68 ± 3.37	0.029	0.07
<i>Ziziphus mucronata</i>	6	4.52 ± 2.00	0.014	0.07
<i>Calliandra calothyrsus</i>	5	3.40 ± 0.74	0.005	0.06
<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	5	6.74 ± 7.25	0.071	0.06
<i>Zanthoxylum gillettii</i>	5	9.86 ± 4.71	0.081	0.06
<i>Albizia zygia</i>	4	3.72 ± 0.90	0.005	0.05
<i>Aningeria adolfi-friderici</i>	4	4.98 ± 1.05	0.010	0.05
<i>Dovyalis abyssinica</i>	4	7.12 ± 4.96	0.036	0.05
<i>Lantana camara</i>	4	3.38 ± 0.73	0.004	0.05
<i>Morus alba</i>	4	6.00 ± 2.03	0.017	0.05
<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	4	14.14 ± 3.93	0.132	0.05
<i>Tarchonanthus camphoratus</i>	4	5.59 ± 2.24	0.015	0.05
<i>Cordia monoica</i>	3	3.49 ± 0.54	0.003	0.03
<i>Erythrina abyssinica</i>	3	35.87 ± 30.66	1.636	0.03
<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	3	5.96 ± 3.70	0.016	0.03
<i>Oncoba routledgei</i>	3	8.09 ± 3.95	0.029	0.03
<i>Punica granatum</i>	3	10.15 ± 3.39	0.045	0.03
<i>Casimiroa edulis</i>	2	18.86 ± 2.81	0.123	0.02
<i>Commiphora africana</i>	2	6.75 ± 1.89	0.010	0.02
<i>Cussonia holstii</i>	2	21.96 ± 25.21	0.384	0.02
<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	2	17.97 ± 1.91	0.108	0.02
<i>Syzygium guineense</i>	2	71.31 ± 7.07	3.268	0.02
<i>Vitex doniana</i>	2	9.61 ± 3.69	0.026	0.02
<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	1	24.76	0.119	0.01
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	1	7.00	0.005	0.01
<i>Cissus rotundifolia</i>	1	4.01	0.001	0.01
<i>Ficus thonningii</i>	1	3.37	0.001	0.01
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	1	5.54	0.003	0.01
<i>Manihot esculenta</i> (wild)	1	15.28	0.036	0.01
<i>Prunus africana</i>	1	7.00	0.005	0.01
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	1	5.32	0.003	0.01
<i>Senna septemtrionalis</i>	1	7.68	0.007	0.01

The number of individuals for each species (NO), mean diameter at breast height (DBH) ± the standard error of the mean, total carbon per species, and the relative abundance (%) is presented. Carbon was determined from biomass using a factor of 0.47 (IPCC 2006). Aboveground biomass (AGB) was estimated using the equation,  $AGB = 0.0905 * DBH^{2.4718}$  (Kuyah et al. 2012)

\* The following species of the genus *Vachellia* (formerly under the genus *Acacia*) were recorded in Lower Nyando: *Vachellia abyssinica* (*Acacia abyssinica*), *Vachellia drepanolobium* (*Acacia drepanolobium*), *Vachellia elatior* (*Acacia elatior*), *Vachellia lahai* (*Acacia lahai*), *Vachellia nilotica* (*Acacia nilotica*), *Vachellia seyal* (*Acacia seyal*), and *Vachellia xanthophloea* (*Acacia xanthophloea*). All these species are native to Africa

**Appendix 2: Validation of allometric equations**

Species	No	Allometric equation	RE1	RE2	References
<i>Acacia</i> spp.	8	$\exp(-1.59) * D^{2.19}$	5.5	30.2	Paul et al. (2013)
<i>Bridelia Micrantha</i>	2	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	1.0	22.7	Brown (1997)
<i>Combretum molle</i>	1	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	18.0	- 4.5	Brown (1997)
<i>Croton Macrostachyus</i>	2	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	- 6.4	- 57.4	Brown (1997)
<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i>	5	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	- 4.8	- 11.8	Brown (1997)
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	45	$\exp(-1.71) * D^{2.21}$	6.3	- 5.5	Paul et al. (2013)
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	1	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	43.9	- 53.8	Brown (1997)
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	5	$1.384 * D^{1.665}$	35.9	43.4	Owate et al. (2018)
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	2	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	22.9	11.2	Brown (1997)
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	7	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	12.3	13.5	Brown (1997)
<i>Markhamia lutea</i>	9	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	2.3	- 61.4	Brown (1997)
<i>Persia americana</i>	2	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	2.2	- 12.6	Brown (1997)
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	1	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	- 18.0	- 131.4	Brown (1997)
<i>Syzygium cordatum</i>	4	$\exp(-1.996 + 2.32 * \text{LN}(D))$	17.2	18.8	Brown (1997)

Allometric equations for estimating biomass were tested using destructively sampled data from western Kenya. NO represents the number of trees used to validate the equation. The relative error (RE, %) for the regional equation by Kuyah et al. (2012),  $AGB = 0.0905 * D^{2.4718}$  (RE1) and for species specific equations (RE2) was calculated as:  $RE (\%) = [(predicted\ biomass - actual\ biomass) / actual\ biomass] * 100$ . The equation for Brown (1997) for dry tropics was used when species specific equations were lacking. Only equations that met the criteria listed in the methods (see data analysis section) were selected. Emphasis was given to species that contributed most of individuals to the total number of trees recorded. Harvest data was not available to validate some species

**Appendix 3: List of the most frequently mentioned uses and benefits in the household (HH) survey**

Rank	Uses and benefits	Description	Tree species	HH mentions	Main species
1	Firewood (FW)	Obtained either by pruning and drying harvested branches, by collecting dry fallen-off branches, or selectively harvesting trees from woodlots	68	57	Euc., Gre., Ter., Vep., Rhu.
2	Construction material (CM)	Parts such as poles obtained from the entire stem of young trees or from cut-offs from the stems of bigger trees. Small branches and twigs are also used for house construction (walling)	40	52	Euc., Ter., Vep., Gre., Cup.
3	Shade (Sh)	Trees that create shade are mostly appreciated on the compound but also on other farm components	56	36	Gre., The., Vep., Cro., Aza.
4	Timber (Ti)	Timber is usually the processed wood often sold to a customer at the farm or at a market. Usually the owner of the tree is responsible for harvesting, cutting and transportation	23	33	Euc., Gre., Ter., Cup., Cro.
5	Fruits (Fr)	Fruits from trees are valuable for home consumption and for sale	18	33	Man., Psi., Per., Cit., Car.
6	Charcoal (Ch)	Woodfuel is used for charcoal burning	29	18	Vep., Eucl., Ter., Cari., Psi.

Rank	Uses and benefits	Description	Tree species	HH mentions	Main species
7	Medicine (Me)	Trees with medicinal values	15	23	Aza., Mel., Vep., Eucl., Cro.
8	Live fencing (LF)	Trees are planted and managed to act as a live fence around animal shelters and homesteads for protection	20	13	The., Fre., Mel., Vep., Cro.
9	Fencing material (FM)	Material from trees useful for fencing. This can be twigs, thorns, small sticks and branches, very often for constructing animal shelters or for reinforcing or building fences along boundaries	13	12	Aca., Grew., Ter., Bal., Mar.
9	Fodder (Fo)	Leaves and branches, can be used as fodder	12	15	Leu., Vep., Eucl., Grew., Rhu.
10	Sale (Sa)	Trade involving a whole tree sale. The customer, rather than the owner, is responsible for harvesting and transportation	6	7	Euc., Ter., Gre., Cas., Cup.
11	Green manure (GM)	Leaves are used as green manure	5	7	Gre.
11	Tools (To)	Stems, branches or leaves are used for tools such as walking stick, toothbrush, hand plough and brooms	7	7	Cup.

Description, total number of tree species mentioned, the number of households citing the tree species and the five main species that deliver the use/benefit is presented

Euc: *Eucalyptus saligna*, Gre: *Grevillea robusta*, Ter: *Terminalia brownii*, Vep: *Vepris nobilis*, Rhu: *Rhus vulgaris*, Cup: *Cupressus lusitanica*, The: *Thevetia peruviana*, Cro: *Croton megalocarpus*, Aza: *Azadirachta indica*, Man: *Mangifera indica*, Psi: *Psidium guajava*, Per: *Persea americana*, Cit: *Citrus lemon*, Car: *Carica papaya*, Eucl: *Euclea divinorum*, Cari: *Carissa spinarum*, Mel: *Melia azedarach*, Cro: *Croton macrostachyus*, Aca: *Acacia* spp. Grew: *Grewia mollis*, Bal: *Balanites egyptica*, Mar: *Markhamia lutea*, Leu: *Leucaena leucocephala*, Cas: *Casuarina equisetifolia*

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