**Researching the Impact of the ICA approach (ToP methods) in Kenya**

One of the weaknesses of the ICA network globally is the absence of clear evidence that points to the effectiveness of our approach and methods. This is as true of Kenya as other countries in Africa and elsewhere. This paper explores how that gap might be filled and really stems from three main drivers:

1. The need of all organisations and movements concerned with facilitation to understand better the impact of their work
2. The prioritisation of “the impact of facilitation” amongst ICA:UK’s current activities
3. The successful use of Village Volunteers’ funds to support impact assessments of previous work by the Tujiendeleze Youth Trust Fund, ICA Benin and ICA Uganda. The report from the latter will, in particular complement any research carried out in Kenya

We see the output of the research being useful for:

1. ICA, IAF and others concerned with facilitation
2. Supporting proposals/funding applications of Kenya-based organisations (inc CAPI) using the methods by providing evidence that the approach is viable and effective in the Kenyan context

Initial thoughts on what the project might look like:

1. Selection of research sites: These could include a selection from

* Long established projects such as Kawangware, Kabiro, Kamweleni
* Other project sites from the 1980/90s
* More recent (1990s/2000s) programme sites such as Kwale/Kilifi, Siaya, Murang’a, Kitui, Nairobi (Health)

It could include projects that were regarded as successful as well as those who were less so.

1. The work would be clarified by us (ICA:UK plus partners) but carried out by an external researcher (this is the approach we have used in the previous 3 cases, as they bring the specialist expertise and detachment needed for more robust research).
2. We already have some connections with researchers in Kenya and may be able to make an academic connection as well (with the University of Nairobi) which would boost the credibility of the report.
3. The main cost will be paying the consultant, with possibly some publication/ dissemination costs on top. We have not developed a full budget yet, but it is unlikely that Village Volunteers will be able to cover all the costs. Given its international value, it may be worth asking for support from other pro-Africa ICAs or the IAF (via John Cornwell).

This report will not provide all the information that CAPI will need to establish its niche and decide on its focus and priorities, but it will provide powerful evidence of the effectiveness of the ICA approach.