

NGO-meeting in Nairobi February 2012

The meeting was organised by the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development. Friends of the Earth Norway chaired the meeting on behalf of the Norwegian ForUM.

WWF Kenya, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) East Africa and the Energy+ secretariat attended the meeting. WWF USA participated as the key player of Energy+`s «Technical Working Group» for Energy+.

The Energy+ secretariat made a presentation of the Energy+ concept and highlighted the intention of establish a cooperation with the Government of Kenya on supporting implementation og programs for replacing kerosene lamps with solar lanterns and for distribution of improved cookstoves. The long-term ambition is to develop an Energy+ cooperation encompassing the total energy sector. According to the Energy+ Guiding Principles the key roles of the NGO's are to contribute as policy innovators and watchdogs for social and environmental safeguards, organizers of community participation, capacity builders at the local level and promoters of transparency and accountability.

Friends of the Earth Norway referred from the discussions between the Energy+ secretariat and the Norwegian NGO's. Clarifying of roles and responsibilities of the NGO's is important. As watchdogs NGO's should ensure that best practice on social and environmental safeguards are applied. Many NGO's are also service providers.

The Energy+ concept was met with interest from WWF Kenya and NCA East Africa. The NGO's appreciated the approach of targeting the needs of the poor, and that climate change and other environmental issues were addressed.