



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 2015

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FOREWORD

Forest resources in our country are valuable natural endowment that must be sustainably managed for present and future generations. Forest resources offer a range of benefits and opportunities for local and national economic development, improved livelihoods and provision of environmental goods and services such as watershed protection and carbon sequestration.

Kenya's forest sector has experienced poor performance in the past, and improving forest governance has been an implicit objective in forest sector reforms over the past ten years. The Forests Act (2005) introduced participatory forest management, through the engagement of local communities, and the promotion of the private sector investment in gazetted forest reserves, accompanied by concomitant institutional and organization change, notably the establishment of the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and the formation of Community Forest Associations.

Compliant with the objectives of the national development agenda and the constitution, the forest sector will explore new measures to halt, and reverse the pace of deforestation and forest degradation in the country and increase forest cover. There are emerging opportunities for sustainable forest financing both at national and international level which the country needs to take advantage of and maximize the rate of social and economic development and secure optimum welfare of all citizens. In addition, the Civil Society Organizations, the local communities and county governments are more organized and informed to be mainstreamed into the forestry sector decision-making and resource management processes. A revised policy is therefore necessary.

The forest conservation and management continues to face a number of challenges. The increasing demand for land and forest resources, inadequate funding that constrains the provision of public services has undermined the efforts of forest institutions to operationalise sustainable forest management.

This Policy proposes a broad range of measures and actions responding to the challenges faced by the forest sector. It is based upon the views and expert opinion of those participants drawn from the public and private sector, and civil society organizations. A number of strategic initiatives have been introduced to improve and develop the forest resource base; integrate good governance, transparency, and accountability, equity and poverty reduction into the forest. It also presents the issues and the policy recommendations that have been identified, analyzed and debated by the stakeholders. It will provide the basis upon which the on-going governance, administrative and legislative reform process will be continued. It seeks to balance the needs of the people of Kenya with opportunities for sustainable forest conservation, management and utilization. It is also particularly informed by the Constitution, national land policy, Transition to Devolved Government Act, 2012, Inter-governmental Relations Act, 2012, Land Act, 2012 as well as the National Climate Change Response Strategy, which underscores forestry's unique role in both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The main features of the revised policy framework for forest conservation and sustainable management include:

- (a) The enactment of a revised forests law to implement this policy.
- (b) The mainstreaming of forest conservation and management into national land use systems.

- (c) Clear division of responsibilities between public sector institutions where Ministry responsible for forestry provides an oversight role in national forest policy formulation, and oversight function of the sector, thereby allowing the implementing agencies to focus on the management of forests on public and community lands; and the role of the County governments in implementing national policies, County forest programmes including the delivery of forest extension services to communities, farmers and private land owners, and management of forests other than those under state agencies.
- (d) The devolution of community forest conservation and management, implementation of national forest policies and strategies, deepening the community participation in forest management through elaborate strategies of strengthening of community forestry associations, and the introduction of benefit-sharing arrangements.
- (e) The preparation of a national strategy to increase and maintain forest and tree cover to at least 10% of the total land area and for the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, and the establishment of a national forest resource monitoring system. *Status of the Forests* and *Forest Resource Assessment* reports will be published on a regular basis.
- (f) The adoption of an ecosystem approach for the management of forests, and recognition of customary rights, the vulnerable and marginalized groups, and user rights that support sustainable forest management and conservation.
- (g) The establishment of national programmes to support community forest management and afforestation/reforestation on community and private land.
- (h) The preparation of national standards for forest management and utilization, and the development of codes of conduct for professional forestry associations.
- (i) The introduction of a chain-of-custody system for timber and wood products, and legal origin and compliance certificates for exporters of timber and wood products.

This Forest Policy provides a framework for improved forest governance, resource allocation, partnerships and collaboration with the state and non state actors to enable the sector contribute in meeting the country's growth and poverty alleviation goals within a sustainable environment.

Formulating policy is not sufficient to bring about the envisaged forestry reforms. There is need for commitment from all citizens to ensure that reforms are implemented and the necessary institutional changes carried through with success. The National and County governments have to play their part in providing enabling environment, effective extension service, forestry research and allocation of funds to the sector.

Meaningful participation of stakeholders will continue to be sought through regular consultation and discussions, as we strive together to attain the most efficient, sustainable and equitable use of our forest resources.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Kenya is endowed with a wide range of forest ecosystems ranging from montane rainforests, savannah woodlands; dry forests and coastal forests and mangroves. The current forest cover of 6.99% of the land area of the country is still below the constitutional requirement of 10%. These forests have high species richness and endemism, which has made the country be classified as mega diverse. They rank high as the country's natural asset, due to their environmental, life supporting functions, and the provision of diverse good and services.

1.1.2 Forests play critical ecological, social, cultural, and economic functions. They contribute directly and indirectly to the national and local economies through revenue generation and wealth creation, and it is estimated that forestry contributes to 3.6% of Kenya's GDP, excluding charcoal and Direct Subsistence Uses. Forests also support most productive and service sectors in the country, particularly agriculture, fisheries, livestock, energy, wildlife, water, tourism, trade and industry that contributes between 33% to 39 % of the country's GDP. Biomass comprises about 80% of all energy used in the country, while they also provide a variety of goods, which support subsistence livelihoods of many communities.

1.1.3 The forestry services provided by the water towers include local climate regulation, water regulation, water purification and waste treatment and water pollution sinks. Other services provided include erosion control, natural hazard and disease regulation. Forest adjacent communities benefit directly through subsistence utilization of the forests.

1.1.4 Forests comprise the country's water towers and catchments, where over 75% of the country's renewable surface water originate, and therefore serve critical water regulation roles which are important for human livelihoods, irrigated agriculture, and production of hydro electric power. At the same time, deforestation in Kenya is estimated at 50,000 hectares annually, with a consequent yearly loss to the economy of over USD 19 million.

1.1.5 The first formal forest policy was prepared in 1957, and revised in 1968 as Sessional paper No 1 of 1968. This policy focused on management and conservation of forests on public land, and also did not provide for the participation of stakeholders in forest management. Implementation of the policy was supported by the Forest Act Cap 385 of 1969. Due to emergent challenges facing the sector, a revised policy and legislation was prepared in the mid nineties, which led to enactment of the Forests Act No 7 of 2005, but the policy was not debated. The Forests Act 2005 provided for management of forests outside public land, and also for community and private sector participation in forest management.

1.1.6 The Forests Act 2005 has been implementation since 2007, but the sector is now faced with various challenges, which necessitate review of both the policy and legislative framework. These include decreasing forest cover arising from unsustainable utilization and conversion of forest land to other land uses, re-aligning to the Constitution of Kenya 2010 which brought in new structures and requirements for natural resource management, entrenching stakeholder participation and benefit sharing that the sector must be cognizant of emerging issues such as climate change, governance and development of mechanisms to encourage partnership with communities and private sector.

1.1.7 The Kenya constitution and economic blueprint Vision 2030 requires the country to work towards achieving a forest cover of at least 10% of the land area to ensure sustainable

resource use, growth and employment creation. Due to population pressure in high potential areas, realizing these targets will require mobilizing communities and the private sector to invest in commercial forestry, expansion of forestry development to arid and semi arid areas, investment in industry for enhanced processing efficiency and value addition, strengthening of forest governance policies and institutions, and greater consideration of forestry in development programmes such as in agriculture, energy, tourism, and water programmes. Further, the constitution requires that international environmental agreements, protocols and conventions to which Kenya is a signatory be domesticated and implemented within sectoral policies and laws.

1.1.8 The contribution of forests to the national economy has been grossly undervalued, leading to low level of resource allocation to the sector. There is need to promote appreciation of the value of forests to the economy, and the concomitant need for adequate resource allocation to the sector through public intervention and other innovative funding mechanisms.

1.1.9 This Forest Policy provides a framework for improved forest governance, resource allocation, partnerships and collaboration with the state and non state actors to enable the sector contribute in meeting the country's growth and poverty alleviation goals within a sustainable environment.

1.2 Historical perspective

1.2.1 In the colonial period large areas of the country's indigenous hardwood forests were cleared. Although attempts were made to grow indigenous trees in plantations, it was found that they took too long to mature in comparison with exotic tree species. Consequently, large areas of indigenous and bamboo forest were cleared and replaced with pine, cypress and eucalyptus plantations. In the post-independence period additional large areas of indigenous forest were allocated to farmers and communities for subsistence and cash crops such as tea and livestock grazing. Other areas were lost due to illegal excisions. The unequal pattern of land ownership and the expansion of agriculture into marginal areas and forests have been among the major driving forces behind land and natural resource degradation, and the loss of large areas of water catchment and wildlife habitat.

1.2.2 Land is one of the most emotive issues in the country. Indeed, some forestland use changes have resulted in conflicts, illegal allocation and insecure property rights and contributed to deforestation and forestland degradation. Forestlands provide an important resource base for rural people's livelihoods. However, rapidly increasing populations, poverty, demand for fuel wood and grazing have put pressure on land forcing large segments of the rural poor to resort to poor land use practices.

1.3 Justification and Rationale

1.3.1 The current constitution has necessitated formulation a new Forest Policy, which is cognizant of the new dispensation. The Constitution is based upon a set of national values, such as integrity, good governance, sustainable development, and social justice, and the bill of the rights of all citizens. The Constitution also introduces a two-tier system of government and the decentralization of services.

1.3.2 A new forest policy and accompanying revised Forests legislation need to be aligned with the Constitution. It must be harmonized with Kenya Vision 2030, the framework land and environmental policies and law, transition to devolved government and other natural resource policies. The forest policy needs to strengthen governance, public and private sector

participation and to mainstream the forestry in sustainable development.

1.4 The Formulation process

1.4.1 In developing this Policy, the Ministry pursued a consultative approach that involved a series of discussions and workshops in order to reach a consensus on a number of issues and themes which included the following:-

- (a) identification of key areas and issues in the Constitution against which the Policy must be aligned
- (b) definition of the Policy Goal and the Objectives for national forest management and conservation;
- (c) determination of synergies and areas of complementarity with other relevant sectoral policies to ensure consideration of cross-cutting issues; and
- (d) identification of relevant national, regional and international policies and laws in order to incorporate them in the revised policy.

2. KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

The forestry sector plays a central role in supporting other productive sectors of the economy. A review of the current status revealed the following as key issues and challenges in the sector which policy needs to address:-

2.1 Governance

2.1.1 The sector has been characterized by ineffective regulatory mechanisms and inadequate law enforcement. The Forests Act 2005 that became effective in 2007 was a milestone in forest governance and brought about considerable change.. Further the promulgation of the Constitution brought new requirements for natural resource management such as public participation, community and gender rights, equity in benefit sharing, devolution and the need to achieve 10% forest cover among others. These challenges are compounded by dwindling public land meaning that forestry development has to expand into private and community land, which need incentives and clear methods of engagement to encourage investments in commercial forestry on private land.

2.1.2 The need to enact supporting legislation following the promulgation of the constitution is required to minimize conflicts between industry, communities and governments at both national and county levels over resource management and benefit sharing. In addition, forest governance needs to take into account emerging issues and best practices at global, regional and national level.

2.2 Forest research and education

2.2.1 The forest sector has to contend with low productivity of tree crops, low conversion efficiency and weak value addition schemes. These arise from climate change, small genetic base of crops, emerging pests and diseases, low investments in technology development, and poor investment in forest based industry. There is need therefore for research and development to refocus on basic forestry disciplines such as productivity, health, crop diversification, processing, value addition, intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge. Further, global needs for certification require research in suitable criteria and indicators.

2.2.2 The sector also faces challenges in building capacity for sustainable utilization and management. Forestry curricula have not adequately responded to emerging issues and technologies in the sector while practitioners require continuous professional development to take advantage of these technologies to further forestry development. The role of professional bodies in advancing professionalism in forestry practice and standards cannot be gainsaid.

2.2.3 Further there is great need to build the capacity of county governments to undertake forestry development on community and private lands. Mechanisms for engaging county governments in forestry research and development should also be developed.

2.3 Trade and industry

2.3.1 Information on long-term supply and demand of the various forest products including wood processing and value addition is not readily available. This has hindered planning and investments for long term growth. The decade long ban on timber and bamboo harvesting, and other policy decisions have had long-term effects, which are still being felt in the sector. The first is a great decline in investment in forest products processing, which is partly the reason for low processing efficiency. Further, the harvesting ban led to closure of industries, which in turn resulted in a mass exodus of workers to other sectors. Hence industry is now facing serious shortage in skilled workforce, to enable increased productive efficiency and value addition. There is need for a system of incentives to attract investments in forestry.

2.3.2 It is important that the timber industry and commercial tree growers are encouraged to enter into long term partnership arrangements for supply and marketing forest products. The area under public plantation forests remains static and yet there is an increasing dependence on imports, which must be addressed.

2.3.3 Given the developments in international trade in forestry products, Kenya has to develop globally acceptable indicators, and adopt international standards for certification of Sustainable Forest Management to enhance access to export markets.

2.4 Resource mobilization

2.4.1 Forest goods and services are largely public in nature and therefore depend to a large extent on public funding. However, prioritization of public investment and incentives to the private sector for forestry development has been low partly as a result of low valuation of forestry goods and services leading to very slow growth of the sector. Since forests ecosystems play a key role in supporting various productive sectors of the economy, their contribution to the GDP needs to be revaluated. To leverage resources for forestry development, there is need for greater integration of forestry issues into other sectoral development programmes.

2.5 Contribution of the sector to soil and water conservation

2.5.1 Forests conserve and enhance the soil's ability to sustain diverse ecosystems by conserving the productive capacity of the land through reduced soil and nutrient loss. The forest vegetation and surface litter shelter the soil surface from wind and reduce surface water evaporation while increasing water percolation. Forests play an important role in production of clean water on a sustainable basis and reduce the severity of floods. Today, there is a better appreciation of the benefits that forests provide to soil and water conservation.

2.6 Environmental functions of forests

2.6.1 Over 80% of Kenyans rely on wood biomass for their energy requirements, which exerts considerable pressure on the tree and forest resources. In addition, the wood conversion technologies for timber manufacturing and charcoal production are obsolete and wasteful leading to overharvesting of trees to meet the demand.

2.6.2 The key factors to accelerated loss of biodiversity are forest fires, deforestation and forest degradation, conversion of forests to other uses and game damage.

2.7 Decreasing and low quality water flows

2.7.1 Internationally, Kenya is considered as a water scarce country. One of the main benefits which forests bestow is their regulation of water flows, and in improving the quality of water. There is therefore great need to intensify management of water catchments to enhance the conservation of water, regulation of river flows, and to reduce siltation and sedimentation of water reservoirs.

2.8 High levels of erosion, siltation and land degradation

2.8.1 Soil erosion with consequent degradation of the fertility of the soil is a major challenge in the country. Further, siltation reduces water quality and the capacity of reservoirs particularly for hydroelectric power production. Forests guard against soil erosion, arrest it where it has started, and assists in creating conditions for restoring fertility to the soil where erosion has already caused a deterioration of fertility.

2.9 Climate change

2.9.1 Globally and nationally the climate is changing, and this is having a direct impact on forest resources and ecosystems and on people and their livelihoods - through flooding, landslides, and drought. Forestry can play an important role in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and towards green growth. However, there is at present inadequate data and a lack of research on the impacts of climate change on forest resources and biodiversity, and there is a need to strengthen the institutional linkages between research centers, universities and the public forest agencies.

2.10 Monitoring and Evaluation

2.10.1 A critical challenge in planning and managing forests in Kenya is the lack of information on changes in the types and area of forests, in demand and supply of wood products, and to account to the people of Kenya on advances towards achieving national forestry targets. To mitigate this requires a system of periodic resource inventories, which will enable frequent reporting on the state of forests to the public.

3. POLICY GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1 Overall goal of the Policy

The overall goal of this Policy is sustainable development, management, utilization and conservation of forest resources and equitable sharing of accrued benefits for the present and future generations of the people of Kenya.

3.2 Policy Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:-

- (a) Increase and maintain tree and forest cover of at least ten percent of the land area of Kenya.
- (b) Establish an enabling legislative and institutional framework for development of the forest sector.
- (c) Support forestry research, education, training, information generation and dissemination, and technology transfer for sustainable development.
- (d) Promote public, private and community participation and partnership in forest sector development.
- (e) Promote investment in commercial tree growing, forest industry and trade.
- (f) Enhance management of forest resources for conservation of soil, water biodiversity and environmental stability.

3.3 Guiding Principles

Implementation of this Policy will be guided by the following principles:-

- (a) **Public good:** Taking into consideration the multiple roles played by forests, all forests shall be taken to serve a common good interest irrespective of ownership. This implies that any action taken in any forest shall be regulated to safeguard public interest.
- (b) **Ecosystem approach:** An integrated ecosystem approach to conserving and managing forest resources will be adopted and enhanced to ensure that all forest ecosystems are managed in an integrated manner for the benefit of the people of Kenya.
- (c) **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM):** All forest resources shall be managed sustainably to yield social, economic and ecological goods and services for the current generation without compromising similar rights of future generations;
- (d) **Good governance:** The rule of law, effective institutions, access to information, transparency and accountability, professional ethics, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and the meaningful participation of citizens will be integrated in forest conservation and management.
- (e) **Public participation:** Participatory approaches in forest conservation and management will be enhanced to ensure that the relevant government agencies, county governments, private sector, civil society and communities are involved in planning, implementation and decision making processes.
- (f) **Polluter and User Pays:** The polluter and user of forest resources shall be responsible for paying for the full environmental and social costs of the damage done to the natural environment as a result of their activities.
- (g) **Commercialization of forestry activities:** Forestry operations shall be undertaken in a business manner focusing on result based management. The Government will therefore invite private sector to invest in tree growing, wood processing and value addition.

- (h) **Ecologically and fragile areas:** Special consideration shall be taken to conserve ecologically fragile areas in order to conserve biodiversity, soil and water.
- (i) **Research, education and knowledge:** Key decisions on forest management and conservation shall be informed by forestry science founded on appropriate knowledge derived from research, professionalism and international best practice.
- (j) **Livelihood enhancement:** Livelihood improvement with a focus on fighting poverty shall be a major consideration for all strategies and programmes in forest sector development.
- (k) **Indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights:** Indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights embodied in forest biodiversity and genetic resources will be harnessed and protected.
- (l) **International and regional cooperation:** Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other regional instruments will be domesticated and implemented for sustainable forest management in accordance with the Constitution and other established legal and regulatory mechanisms.

4. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

4.1 Indigenous forests

Indigenous forests represent some of the most diverse ecosystems found in the country. They supply important economic, environmental, recreational, scientific, social, cultural and spiritual benefits. However, many of these forests have been subjected to land use changes such as conversion to farmlands, urban centres and settlements, reducing their ability to supply forest products and serve as water catchments, biodiversity conservation reservoirs, wildlife habitats and carbon sinks.

The sustainable multiple use management and utilization of forests including biodiversity conservation, water-catchment functions together with ecotourism development and production of tangible benefits for forest adjacent communities is critical. Where appropriate, forest management should include adequate provisions for wildlife conservation.

Revenues accrued through commercial forest activities, wildlife conservation, ecotourism, climate change and other innovative financing should support the management and conservation of indigenous forests.

The Government will manage all indigenous forests for water and soil conservation, provision of forest goods, and services and for biodiversity conservation.

Policy Statements

The Government will:-

- (a) *sustainably conserve and manage all reserved forests for multiple use in accordance to approved management plans.*
- (b) *promote the rehabilitation and management of water catchment areas.*
- (c) *promote participatory management of indigenous forests with communities and other stakeholders.*

- (d) *monitor, assess and prepare periodic report on the integrity of forests including water towers.*
- (e) *promote ex-situ and in-situ conservation of forest genetic resources.*
- (f) *encourage and support land owners to sustainably manage natural and riverine forests.*
- (g) *rehabilitate, restore and protect degraded forest ecosystems, water towers, catchment areas and other ecologically fragile areas.*

4.2 Plantation forests

Forest plantations supply industrial wood and also play a crucial role in conserving biodiversity, providing habitat for wildlife, conserving soils and regulating water supplies and sequestering carbon dioxide. Apart from supplying wood products, forest plantations play an important role in reducing pressure on the indigenous forests.

All forest plantations on public lands are managed with the primary objective of production of high quality wood for industrial purposes. Private forest plantations also contribute to supply of industrial round wood and thus require a conducive environment for investment and business.

Recognizing the narrow species range in forest plantations today, there is need to diversify the species and genetic base to improve ecological resilience and product diversification. In addition, areas reserved for plantation development in public forest reserves shall be zoned and mapped. In order to encourage investments in public forest plantations, there is need to establish long-term management arrangements such as concessions and joint management agreements and promote public/private sector partnership in plantation development.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) *. promote private sector participation in establishment and management of plantations through appropriate forest management arrangements and incentives.*
- (b) *promote species diversification through planting of indigenous and exotic species with proven potential.*
- (c) *manage plantation forests on a commercial basis.*
- (d) *promote private sector and community participation in the establishment and management of commercial forests on public, private and community land.*

4.3 Dryland forests

The arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya are unique in nature and require special attention to strengthen not only the economic base of the inhabitants but also the national economy. Although frequently stressed by drought, they are rich in biodiversity and have the potential to supply marketable commodities on a sustainable basis such as gums and resins, aloe, charcoal, essential oils, silk, edible oil, fruits, honey and timber. However, due to population pressure in the high and medium potential areas, there is migration into the dryland areas resulting in degradation of the forest resources. Woody vegetation in the arid and semi-arid areas provides useful cover to the fragile and highly erodible soils, shelter for people and livestock in the harsh environment and habitats for wildlife.

The county's arid and semi-arid areas which cover about 80% of Kenya's total land surface and hold 25% of the human population, are unique in nature and require special attention to strengthen not only the economic base of the inhabitants but also the national economy. They also offer the greatest potential for intensified afforestation towards achieving the national objective of 10% tree cover.

As much as dryland forests have the potential to supply marketable commodities on a sustainable basis (such as gums and resins, aloe, charcoal, essential oils, silk, edible oil, commercial juices, frankincense, indigenous fruits, honey, thatching materials and timber), an improvement in the livelihoods of those people living in the ASALs will depend upon; clarification of tenure and property rights, development of processing technologies and markets for the non-wood forest products and the provision of sufficient economic incentives.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) promote sustainable management of dryland forests.*
- (b) promote commercial tree growing of suitable tree species.*
- (c) promote sustainable production of charcoal.*
- (d) create a conducive environment for establishment of forest based enterprises.*
- (e) support the rehabilitation of degraded dryland forests and encourage tree planting in the arid and semi-arid lands.*
- (f) promote conservation of genetic resources in dryland forests.*
- (g) promote the production of wood and non wood forest products.*

4.4 Urban forests and roadside tree planting

Establishment of arboreta, roadside tree planting, botanical gardens, urban forests, recreational parks and mini-forests enhances environmental, social, and economic values. Trees provide a cool and serene environment, act as natural filters and contribute to the general well being of society besides improving the microclimate of cities and towns.

Trees planted along the boundaries of road reserves are important for aesthetic and shade effects to travellers along the highways and other public roads. A belt of amenity trees planted at the interface of road and private lands will improve the scenery on road reserves contribute to carbon sequestration, mark the boundaries between the road reserves and private lands to avoid encroachment into the road reserves.

Policy Statements

The Government will:-

- (a) promote the establishment and management of amenity belts of appropriate tree species along road reserves.*
- (b) establish and maintain arboreta, green zones, botanical gardens, recreational parks and urban forests for aesthetic and recreational values*
- (c) strengthen capacity of County Governments to establish and manage amenity forests and trees*

- (d) *promote the planting of suitable tree species during development of private plots in urban areas*
- (e) *promote urban forestry and roadside tree planting.*

4.5 Farm forestry

Trees are an essential part of diversified farm production, providing both subsistence products and incomes while contributing to soil fertility and soil and water conservation. Products such as fuel wood or fodder from trees, shrubs or grass contribute significantly to the economies of the rural population. Given the growing population, it is not possible to meet all the demands of forest products from state forests and the main alternative source of these products is private lands.

Planting of trees on the farms has several positive environmental effects, which include watershed protection, enhancement of the microclimate and carbon sequestration. Forests under private ownership play a significant role in the provision of forest goods and services to supplement supply from state forests while also generating substantial incomes to the households.

To achieve the national forest cover target of 10% of land area, the major afforestation effort will have to be in community and private lands. At present tree cover on farms is increasing, especially in more densely populated with higher agricultural potential areas. This demonstrates that farmers recognize the benefits of tree growing in improving land productivity. While challenges in tree growing are greater in the lower rainfall areas a variety of species have the potential to make tree growing in these areas profitable.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) *promote partnerships with land owners to increase on-farm tree cover and to reduce pressure on reserved forests.*
- (b) *promote investment in farm forestry through provision of economic and non economic incentives.*
- (c) *promote on-farm species diversification.*
- (d) *promote development of forest based enterprises.*
- (e) *promote processing and marketing of farm forestry products.*
- (f) *promote forestry development through irrigation.*
- (g) *promote forestry extension and technical services.*

5. FOREST PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES

5.1 Wood products and industries

The forest products sub-sector plays an important role in national socio-economic development through provision of employment; supply of many industrial products, and also supports the subsistence needs of many households.

The wood industry includes pulp and paper, sawn timber, transmission poles, composite wood products, furniture and joinery, building and construction and many others. The major subsistence product is fuel wood on which over 80% of Kenyan households and institutions depend. Key industries such as tea, tobacco, edible oils, soap and most cottage industries increasingly rely on fuel wood for their energy needs due to the high cost of electricity and fossil fuel. Although 30% of all wood fuel is consumed as charcoal, its production and marketing is not adequately regulated.

While most of the industrial wood is obtained from state-owned industrial forest plantations, the share of private and farm-grown wood is increasing. Most of the wood fuel is obtained from plantations, woodlands and shrub lands on community and private land.

A key challenge facing the wood products sub-sector is unsustainable extraction, which exceeds production, leading to degradation of forests particularly in community and private lands. Other challenges include inefficient conversion, low value addition methods leading to waste and thereby exacerbating the unsustainable wood supply scenario. Therefore, there is need to invest in improving wood based technologies and capacity to diversify into high value products.

In order to address illegal trade in wood and wood products, a forest certification and a chain-of-custody system will be developed to ensure legal compliance and sustainability of the source of material.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) promote the sustainable supply of timber and wood for subsistence and industrial needs from all forests.*
- (b) promote investment in wood industry to enhance efficiency in wood conversion and value-addition.*
- (c) establish a chain-of-custody and certification system for trade in wood and wood products*
- (d) promote efficient production and utilization of wood fuel, and adoption of alternative forms of renewable energy.*
- (e) promote forest based value additions and integrated utilization of forest products.*
- (f) support efficient forest based enterprises for production and marketing of forest products for the local and export markets.*
- (g) develop and implement a national chain of custody system to track the movement of forest products for local and export markets.*
- (h) promote small, medium and large scale investments in diverse forest based industries and enterprises.*

5.2 Non wood forest products

Non-wood forest products are important to the livelihoods of the rural communities and account for a significant share of household incomes and expenditures. Some of the non-wood forest products that contribute to sustainable livelihoods include gums and resins, honey, essential oils, frankincense, myrrh, fibres, medicinal and aromatic plants, dying

and tanning materials. In addition, many of these products have high potential for export. In times of food scarcity, some non-wood products are the main source of nutrition for many communities.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) promote the sustainable production and utilization of non-wood forest products.*
- (b) support and build capacity in establishment and processing of non-wood forest product enterprises.*

6. FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

6.1 Forestry Education and Training

The forestry sector faces challenges in building capacity for sustainable utilization and management. Forestry curricula have not adequately responded to emerging issues and technologies in the sector while practitioners require continuous professional development to take advantage of these technologies to further forestry development. Further there is great need to build the capacity of county governments to undertake forestry development on community and private lands.

Sufficient, highly trained manpower is essential to achieving the sectoral goals. The manpower is required at different levels from afforestation, management, utilization, protection, research and training. The effective participation of communities and other stakeholders in forestry conservation and management also requires awareness and information. A robust forestry extension, communication, information and awareness strategy to educate and share information with the public on forest technologies, potentials, opportunities and management techniques is also critical for the sector.

The Government will:

- (a) support formal forest sector education programmes at different skill levels which are regularly reviewed to encompass emerging issues and challenges.*
- (b) support forestry education and training institutions to offer responsive curricula and training to build capacity for development of the sector.*
- (c) strengthen the capacity of the forestry education and training institutions to offer diverse vocational forestry training in the sector.*
- (d) promote establishment and recognition of continuing training programmes for forestry professionals to enhance sector standards.*
- (e) establish linkages between forestry education and training institutions and forestry industry to enhance practical skills of forestry graduates.*
- (f) establish a strong forest extension network to disseminate information on forestry across the country*
- (g) support and strengthen universities and technical colleges to facilitate the development of requisite professional, technical and managerial skills to drive the sector operations.*
- (h) support forestry education and training institutions in promoting forest sector development.*

- (i) *strengthen capacity of training institutions to develop and implement education and training programmes on forestry.*
- (j) *establish forestry vocational training and continuing education programmes.*
- (k) *design appropriate capacity development plans through continuous assessment of professional and technical capacity needs for achievement of the objectives of this plan.*

6.2 Forestry Research and Development

Forestry in Kenya currently suffers from low productivity of crops, low conversion efficiency and poor value addition. These arise from climate change, small genetic base of crops, emerging pests and diseases, low investments in technology development, and low investment in industry. This calls for research and development to refocus on basic forestry disciplines such as productivity, health, crop diversification, processing, value addition, intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge. Further, global needs for certification require research in suitable criteria and indicators. Mechanisms for engaging county governments in forestry research and development should also be developed.

A vibrant and proactive forest sector requires a strong forestry research strategy for technology development and transfer. Appropriate tree technologies will be generated for different sites across the country and production of sufficient planting materials, efficient technologies for conversion and processing of forest products, methods of value addition and best management practices among others. This will ensure that sectoral activities are premised on a strong scientific base.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) *support forestry research in critical areas to ensure generation of appropriate technologies for forestry development*
- (b) *develop mechanisms to link forest research findings to users, and encourage private sector participation, and the incorporation of indigenous knowledge systems.*
- (c) *promote research in alternative species including indigenous trees to meet market requirements.*
- (d) *intensify research, technology development, training and education in dryland forestry.*
- (e) *promote research and training to improve uptake of wood processing technologies.*
- (f) *promote research and training in non-wood products.*
- (g) *develop the capacity of research institutions to disseminate information and forest technologies.*
- (h) *promote investment in research and innovation in order to attain high productivity and meet national and international standards.*

7. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

7.1 Forest Sector Legal Reforms

The constitution provides for the conservation and protection of ecologically sensitive areas, utilization of the environment and natural resources for the benefit of the people of

Kenya, the right to a clean and a healthy environment including the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of the present and future generation through legislative and working towards achieving and maintaining at least 10% tree cover and its maintenance.

Over the years, the forest sector has undergone continuous reforms leading to the establishment of a semi-autonomous agency responsible for forest administration, development and management following the enactment of the Forests Act, 2005. In order to address emerging issues and challenges, there is need to continuously review relevant legislations.

A review of the Forests Act 2005 will ensure that forest laws conform to constitutional requirements and its continued relevance to sectoral needs.

Policy Statements

The Government will:-

- (a) enact legislation to implement this policy*
- (b) regularly review forest legislation to ensure conformance with the Constitution of Kenya and to enhance sustainable management of forest and tree resources.*
- (c) harmonise the forest law and other sectoral legislations in order to achieve national development objectives.*
- (d) reserve and/or acquire land for forestry.*
- (e) create awareness on forest policy and legislation amongst stakeholders.*
- (f) harmonise sectoral legislations on sustainable forest management between various sectors, and the two levels of government.*

7.2 Institutional Arrangements

The Constitution of Kenya classifies forests into three categories namely public, community and private forests. Public forests include all forests on public land; forestland lawfully held, used or occupied by any State organ; forestland transferred to the State by way of sale, reversion or surrender and forestland in respect of which no individual or community ownership can be established by any legal process. The national and county governments are responsible for all forests on public land.

Community forests include forestland that is lawfully held, managed or used by specific communities, forestland lawfully held as trust land by the county governments and ancestral forestland traditionally occupied by hunter-gatherer communities. Private forests on the other hand include forestland held by any person under any freehold or leasehold tenure and any forest owned privately by an individual, institution or body corporate for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) *establish and support forestry management institutions at national, conservancy and ecosystem levels including local communities, landowners and other stakeholders.*
- (b) *strengthen the capacity of forest management, research and training institutions in the forestry sector to achieve their objectives.*
- (c) *establish an institutional framework to take into account national and county government arrangements.*

7.3 Funding Mechanisms

Sustainable forest management and conservation requires adequate financial resources. Funding of forest activities has mainly been from the central government and development partners. Forestry development is an investment involving the establishment of trees, conservation and protection of forest ecosystems over long periods of time. This requires long-term funding.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) *provide adequate funds for the development, management and conservation of forests through annual budgetary allocations.*
- (b) *explore and adopt alternative innovative sources of funding to complement public funding*
- (c) *contribute financial resources for the Forest Management and Conservation Trust Fund*
- (d) *mobilise resources from multilateral development agencies, development partners, private sector, and foundations to support forestry development.*
- (e) *promote investments in the forest sector by providing appropriate fiscal and economic incentives.*
- (f) *enhance resource mobilization strategies through carbon financing, payment for environmental services and other appropriate mechanisms.*

8. LINKAGES WITH OTHER SECTORS

8.1 Mainstreaming forestry into sectoral policies

Pressures and demands imposed on forest ecosystems and resources are often caused or influenced by factors outside the forest sector, regional and international agreements and treaties. The forest sector is closely linked to wildlife, agriculture, housing, national security, water, tourism, industry, energy, education among others. In addition, the sector is closely influenced by private sector, communities and the civil society.

To achieve the goals of sustainable forest management and conservation, a framework of public policies and strategies which incorporate national forest objectives in-order to mainstream forestry in the national accounts system.

Cross-sectoral linkages between the forest sector and other related sectors need to be continuously strengthened to generate synergy in the broad environment sector for growth and development including stakeholder participation.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) create a Forest Resource Account that accurately values the contribution of the forestry sector for inclusion in the National Accounts system.*
- (b) coordinate and promote collaboration among relevant institutions in exercising their mandates.*
- (c) eliminate overlaps and conflicting roles in the various sectors related to forestry development.*
- (d) mainstream cross-cutting issues the forest sector.*

8.2 Partnership and Stakeholder Involvement

The private sector, civil society, communities and other non-state actors will continue to play a vital role in forest management and conservation. Non-state actors have the advantage of being more independent of political pressures than governmental agencies and play a leading role in agenda setting, policy development and resolution of resource conflicts at the local level.

Professional societies established to advance the science, technology, education and practice of professional forestry will enhance the professionalism and the formulation and implementation of forestry policies and practices.

Participatory forest management and sound conservation practice has potential to improve forest protection, management and growth by involving relevant non-state actors and local communities in planning and implementation.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) support non-state actors and local communities to undertake forest-related development activities and investments.*
- (b) promote stakeholders participation at all levels in forest sector planning, implementation and decision making.*
- (c) develop and implement strategies for forest resource conflict resolution and management.*
- (d) strengthen linkages between forest research, education, industry and management institutions.*
- (e) develop institutional framework and mechanisms for effective participation of stakeholders in forest management.*
- (f) develop and implement an equitable benefits sharing scheme in the forest sector.*
- (g) Support communities, commercial tree growers and land owners to invest in forestry as a viable land use option.*

- (h) *promote partnerships in afforestation and reforestation programmes on public, private and community lands.*
- (i) *provide incentives to communities, commercial tree growers and landowners for forest management and conservation, and encourage voluntary conservation easements.*

8.3 Regional and International Obligations

The effective management of trans-boundary environmental resources including forestry necessitates regional and international cooperation. Kenya is a party to a number of multilateral and regional agreements, protocols, and conventions that impact on forestry. Aspects of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other regional instruments and protocols need to be integrated into forestry programmes, strategies and plans.

Policy Statements

The Government will:

- (a) *ensure integration and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other regional instruments and protocols into forestry programmes, strategies and plans.*
- (b) *support the harmonization of regional forest resource policies, including trade in forest products.*
- (c) *promote the establishment of trans-boundary forest resource management agreements.*

9. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Government shall develop an Implementation Plan for the Policy, with the participation of forest sector stakeholders. The Implementation Plan will designate the roles and responsibility of all parties.

The Implementation Plan will also include a set of performance indicators and measures to assess progress towards the effective conservation and management of forest resources in Kenya.