

JULY. DECEMBER 2021

Issue # 2

THE KENYAN FORESTRY

A publication of Forestry Society of
Kenya (FSK)



Background

Forestry Society of Kenya (FSK) is the sole professional association of foresters in Kenya with the mandate of advising and assisting its members, the government, and the larger public on professional forestry practice and sustainable management of forest resources.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Our Vision is to be an internationally recognized Society that promotes quality and robust forestry professional practice and scientific principles in the management of forest resources.

Our Mission is to empower the forestry profession with quality member services to advance sustainable management of forest resources for the benefit of the current and future generations.

In its endeavor to enhance a strong professional culture and reinforce its vision and mission, FSK has adopted the following **core values**:

- Professionalism and scientific principles
- Integrity and ethics
- Teamwork
- Learning and growth

Objectives

- Create public awareness of sound forest management practices.
- Build capacity of the general public and private practitioners on best forestry practices
- Strengthen professionalism in forestry
- Strengthen forestry practices and community development

FSK Membership

- **Full Membership:** Any person possessing a degree or its equivalent in forestry, or allied sciences (Registration Kshs. 5,000 and an annual subscription of Kshs. 5,000)
- **Associate Membership:** Any person possessing at least a diploma or certificate in forestry or in allied fields (Registration Kshs. 3,000 and annual subscription of Kshs. 3,000)
- **Corporate Membership:** Open to supporting organizations, which subscribe to the policies and aspirations of the Society (Registration Kshs. 50,000, 25,000, or 10,000 and annual subscription of similar amount)

- **Student Membership:** forestry students who are enrolled in a forestry program at a recognized university or college awarding a degree or a diploma (Registration Kshs. 1,000 and annual subscription of Kshs. 1,000)
- **Life Membership:** distinguished career foresters approved by the council (registration fee Kshs. 50,000)

Capacity Building Activities

- FSK develops programs for strengthening the professional capacity in enabling Kenyan foresters and researchers to fully participate in defining and implementing priority forestry programmes. Activities include conferences and policy dialogues, webinars, trainings and workshops.

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Welcome to Issue 2 of the Kenyan Forestry, a newsletter of the Forestry Society of Kenya. The newsletter provides a platform for foresters and forestry practitioners to share information on forestry and allied natural resources. It gives highlights topical issues in forestry both nationally and at the global level. It has a section on emerging issues to ensure members are able to facilitate society and mitigate any challenges facing forestry.

I appreciate and extend my gratitude to my co-editor, editorial team members, and the contributing authors for creating this issue.

Members are encouraged to share their contributions. The next issue will focus on “Partnerships in Forest Management to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change”.

Please share your manuscripts by 15th May 2022 with the secretariat through the office email address; fsk@fsk.or.ke



**Benjamin Wamugunda,
FSK, National Chairman**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 2nd issue of the Kenyan Forestry Newsletter, the voice of the forestry professionals in Kenya. I promised members a vibrant society and we have been moving steadily towards revitalizing our society. Our newsletter plays a pivotal role in having a vibrant society through enhanced visibility and branding of our society. The newsletter provides members and the society with topical issues on the forest at global, regional, and national issues as well as being a networking forum for the members who are spread across the entire country.

This is indeed an exciting time for society. It has continued to play its role in different capacities to contribute towards the government efforts to enable the country to attain 10% tree cover. It has focused on the capacity building of members and the public through projects and partnerships in the country. Increased visibility has enabled society to contribute to forest management decisions at all levels of government.

I am grateful to all the authors for their excellent works and remarkable contributions. I encourage members, partners, and other stakeholders to submit manuscripts on forestry management, research, development, and emerging forestry and related issues. We are looking forward to receiving extraordinary manuscripts and promoting the development of forestry. Each issue will be focusing on a key topical issue, bring out key national and global issues as well as focus on social issues to ensure continued growth and enhanced growth of our society. I call upon the forestry fraternity to support our newsletter to be able to have quarterly issues.

Let us join hands to ensure forestry contributes to wealth creation and sustainable utilization of forestry and allied resources.



Participants of the 2021 National Dialogue

Professional bodies in Kenya have many functions among them promoting professional standards and integrity amongst its members, advising the government and safeguarding the interests and welfare of the members. Professional bodies also coordinate activities and provide forums for members to interact and address issues related to or affecting their profession.

Like any professional body, Forestry Society of Kenya (FSK) coordinates conferences, policy dialogues and scientific conferences annually. During these interactive sessions, members interact and engage in discussions on topical issues affecting the forestry sector. The conferences provide a platform for the FSK members to network and share ideas on ways to enhance and ensure professionalism in the forest sector and also FSK management.

The 2021 FSK National Dialogue was held on 29th September 2021 through a hybrid format. Some members, specifically the guest of honor among other dignitaries and executive members converged at Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) Headquarters, Muguga while the larger FSK membership joined virtually. Participants were drawn from various government, NGOs, and private sector players and also from learning and research institutions.

The dialogue themed, “Professional Forestry Practice and Standards; Successes and Missed steps” aimed at providing members with a platform to reflect on professional forestry practice and standards in national and global context. The dialogue also aimed at highlighting the steps the society has missed and guide on the way forward to ensure professionalism in the sector.

FSK National Chairman started off the meeting with his opening remarks where he appreciated the diversity of the forestry sector and encouraged foresters to enhance their professional activities in creating impact. He also challenged the forestry professionals to be confident and embrace teamwork and define the role of professionals in the sector. The chairman noted efforts made by various professionals among them the late Dr. Jeff Odera who transformed the forestry research program at Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) presently Kenya Agricultural Research and Livestock Research Organization (KARLO) to KEFRI. Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo welcomed the participants to KEFRI and noted that FSK, as a professional body, is in a position to deal with challenges facing the sector by ensuring foresters are guided by a code of ethics.

The Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Julius Kamau, noted that FSK is greatly placed to ensure good forest governance and sustainable forest management by ensuring professionalism amongst the members.

The event was graced by Cabinet Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Hon. Mohammed Elmi was the chief guest. In his opening speech, the CAS noted that the forest sector has been underperforming for years and this has been attributed to poor governance in the sector and also a lack of enforceable standards noting the importance of legal backing.

The CAS challenged the professionals to step-up and articulate forestry issues ailing the sector in a professional manner through factual evidence which will aid in enacting change within the sector. He also emphasized on the need for clear dissemination channels for forestry research to ensure sectoral growth. He commended efforts made by FSK in transforming the society urging the society to have activities at the county levels to increase visibility.

The following were some of the key highlights from the dialogue;

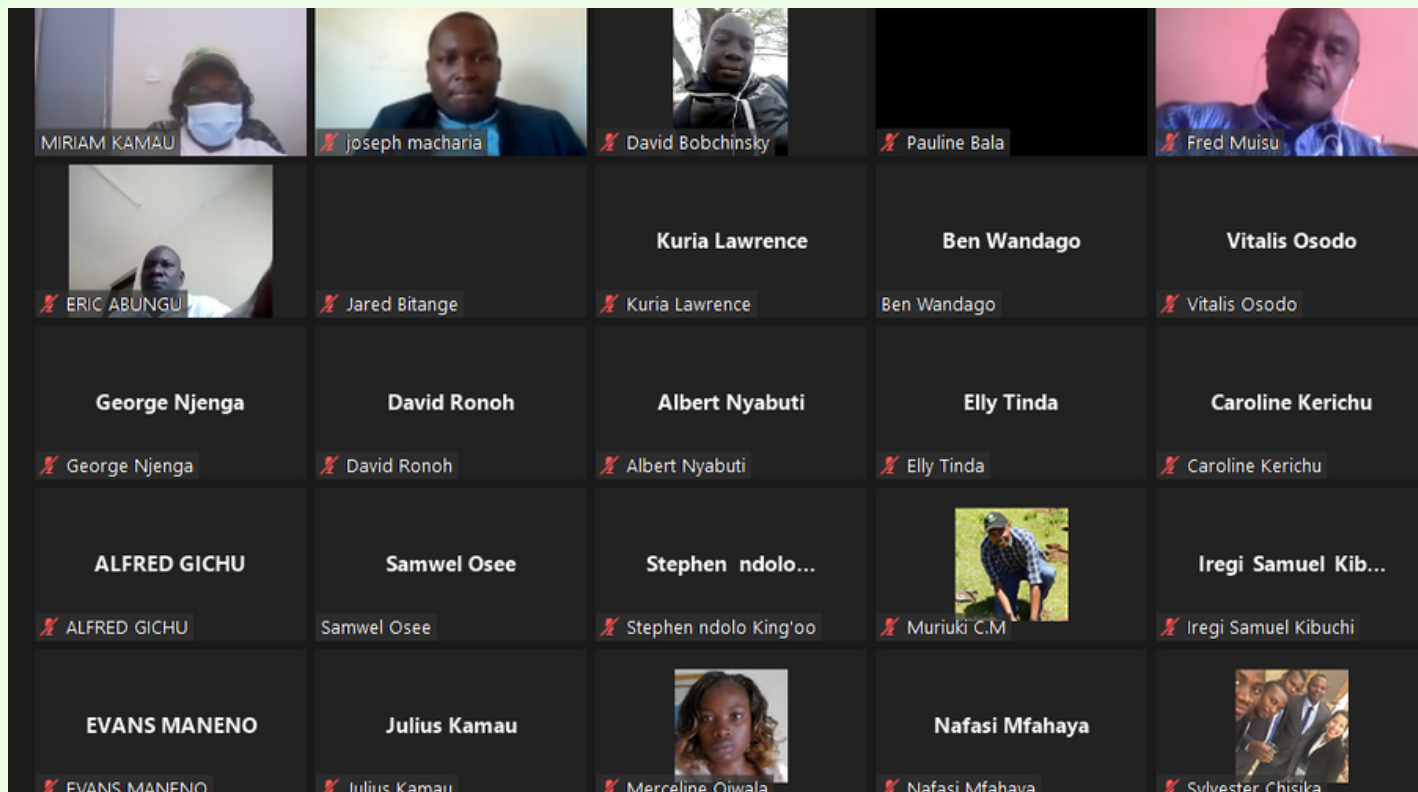
- FSK is well placed to ensure good forest governance by ensuring professionalism amongst the members guided by a code of ethics
- The success of a professional body is dependent on the membership
- Foresters should conduct business in a professional way to make forestry a more attractive profession among the
- Foresters should have the moral authority to pay an annual subscription if they are earning from the profession
- Foresters should encourage the younger generations into enrolling in forestry programs and provide mentorship to the young foresters
- FSK should strive for autonomous freedom to ensure the society's stand is not biased
- Having legal backing is critical for a professional body
- Forestry research should be disseminated through a clear channel to ensure sectoral growth



Members of the executive committee during the AGM 2021

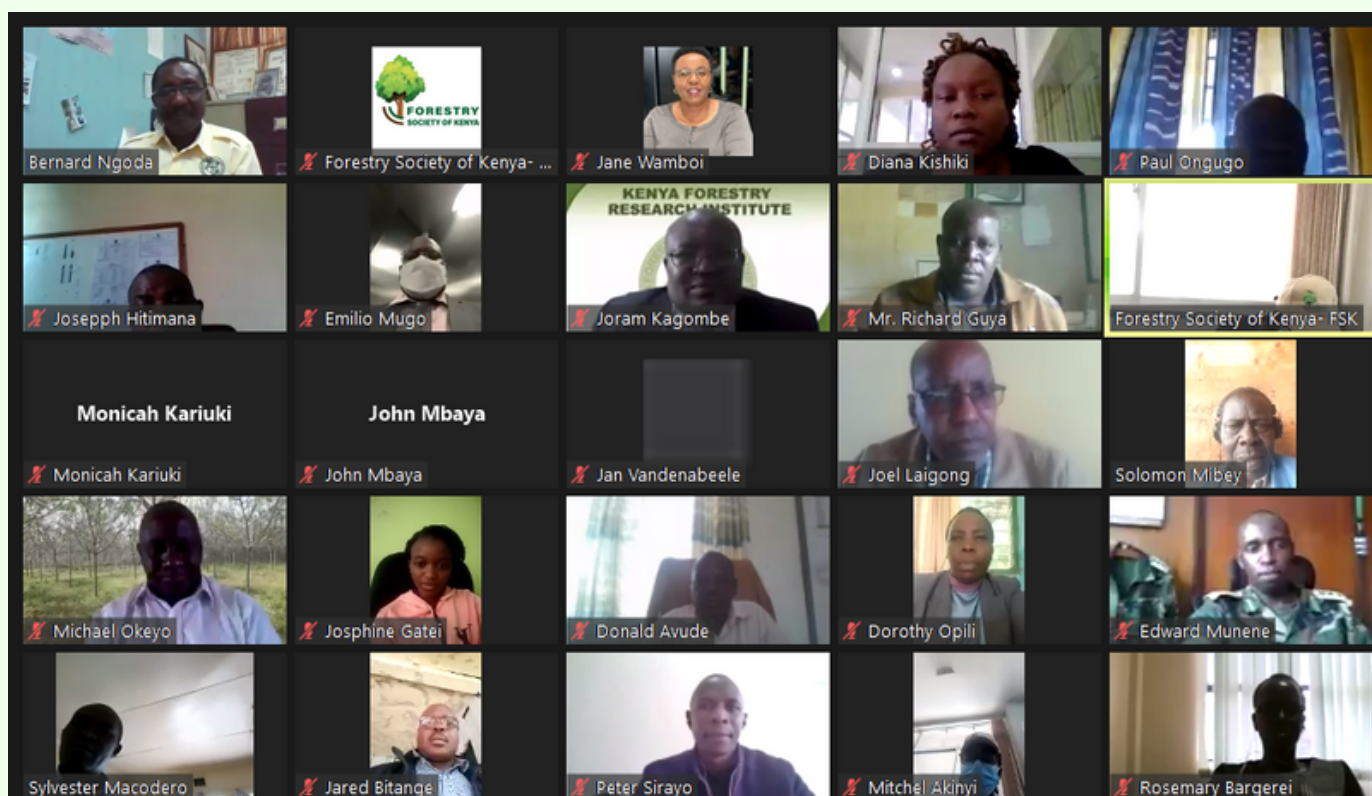
MAIN ARTICLES

FSK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Members of the society held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 30th September 2021. As per the FSK constitution, the meeting is conducted on or before 30th September every year. It provides a platform for the members to recap on the year's activities through the chairman's and the financial reports. During the meeting, members also deliberate on various issues affecting FSK and ways to effectively manage them.

Among the issues discussed included a recap of the dialogue conducted the previous day, FSK reforms, and the way forward for the Society. Expansion of the society's resource base was also emphasized through activities such as projects and training. Members were urged to be vigilant and support the society in every capacity to ensure the efficient running and success of the Society.



Professional management of forest resources in the context of competing demands

By: Dr. Harrison Kojwang, Regional Director, FSC Africa

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the trusted sustainable forest management solution that delivers positive impacts for the forests, markets, and the people and awards Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates for those trading in wood and wood products. Sustainable forest management is stewardship and use of forests and forests lands at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, and their potential to fulfill relevant ecological, economic, and social functions at local, regional, and global levels.

In Africa, only 9.1 million hectares of forested areas have been certified, against the global total of 216 million hectares. Attainment of a balance between the society's increasing demands for forest products and services and preservation of forest health and diversity is a major challenge that the sector faces. South Africa, for example, exclusively depends on industrial plantations that are certified. This is a good example of the role of forestry in economic development.

The forestry sector in most countries in Africa is underperforming. This is an opportunity for foresters to step up and profile the sector that has vast opportunities.

increased exports of forest products have spurred illegal logging in most countries. Most of the economies derive up to 80% economic value from value-added processing, but Africa relies more on primary production which reduced the share of global value.

There is a need for a professional service with a sense of urgency and justification for transformation addressing the country's interests first. The forest sector should lead its own change and build an inspiring vision for the sector. Professional bodies like FSK and other agencies in the sector should identify the must-win battles and work together towards a common goal for the good of the sector.

Outlook Approach

Professional management of the forest sector requires a proper mindset from the policymakers and the managers. This can be done through the use of a sector outlook approach for doing the background analysis. The outlook approach involves:

- Describing the current status and factors that drive the sector and also analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. FSK and key agencies should analyze the key drivers for the forest sector in Kenya and how this can be mitigated or used to strategically position the

sector for better performance

- Build possible scenarios for the forest sector once we know the drivers
- Position the forest sector to mitigate risks and utilize opportunities, enhance institutional reforms and capacity development and also use accounting tools to assess sector performance such as certification and criteria indicators
- Set performance indicators for the forestry sector.
- Use sector's drivers such as political, institutional, demographics, economic, technological, and environmental drivers that are likely to affect the forestry sector.
- Set performance indicators for the forestry sector.
- Use certification as a tool for sustainable forest management. Certification assures investments with clear standards, tools for verification of ecosystem services, professionalize forest management, conservation of biodiversity and could be a powerful investment criterion.

Conclusion

- The outlook approach can be used as a way of creating a forest sector where professionalism can flourish. Professionals need to understand the environment they are in and the threats to forestry from other sectors.

All parties contributing to forest resource management need to have a common vision for the sector. There is a need to know what should be mitigated to upscale sectoral performance. Kenya has all the necessary human resources and expertise needed to promote the sector.

FSK transformation- successes and missed steps in enhancing professional forestry practices and standards

By: Dr. Joram Kagombe, Deputy Director KEFRI, Social-Economics, Policy & Governance

Forestry Society of Kenya (FSK) was registered in 1979 to provide a forum for professional foresters to contribute to national development and environmental conservation issues. It is an autonomous, non-profit organization that collaborates with large- and small-scale farmers to increase the tree cover and disseminates knowledge about the diverse role trees play in human livelihood. The society also advances policies and practices that benefit livelihoods, the economy, and the environment.

FSK has had various successes and in the same measure, missed steps over the years. The sector has also encountered various challenges among them; low employability of forestry students leading to low enrolment in the learning institutions.

A professional body has various functions including setting and assessing professional exams, providing support for continuous professional development, publishing journals or magazines, and providing networks for the professionals among others. These are key in retaining and recruiting more members to join the society.

FSK SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Legal recognition and independence as foresters' professional body.
- Linkages with key relevant state and non-state actors i.e. KFS, KEFRI, Universities, African Forest Forum (AFF).
- Uniqueness and innovation in the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) system.
- National coverage in forestry issues through regional chapters.
- A pool of experienced resource persons who are mentors.
- Broad representation and diversity of expertise within the membership.
- Knowledge generation, packaging, and dissemination in matters forestry

Weaknesses

- Poor visibility and awareness at the community level.
- Weak regional chapters
- Low commitment by some members, which negatively impacts income from subscriptions
- Weak role of non-state actors e.g. private sector in FSK programs.
- Weak communication strategy and brand identity.

- Weak linkages, affiliations, and benchmarking with other professional bodies of high standing in the forest and other sectors locally and internationally.
- Weak financial base.
- Slow response to topical and emerging issues in forestry and related fields in the public domain.
- Membership benefits are not clearly articulated.

Opportunities

- Provision by the new constitution to achieve the 10% tree cover and Vision 2030
- Devolution presents an opportunity for FSK to work with county governments to help them effectively manage devolved forestry functions.
- Formalization and commercialization of wood and non-wood products:
- Growing place of forestry in green economy/climate change and poverty alleviation.
- Potential to engage in development of criteria, indicators and certification standards in SFM.
- Leveraging cutting edge technology for knowledge management.
- Opportunity for public awareness and advisory

- services on technical knowledge on forest products supply chain.
- Strengthening regional forestry professional associations in East Africa.

Threats

- Interference by competing stakeholders in forest practice and management.
- Conflicting policies and institutions in forestry matters.
- Infiltration by non-professionals in the management of forest sector because of poor regulation by local authorities.
- Politicizing critical decisions in the management of forests.
- Inability of county governments to implement devolved forestry functions effectively.
- Unsustainable funding sources due to Donor fatigue and changing donor landscape

FSK has, over the years, had several successes and in the same measure, missed steps as summarized below;

Successes

- FSK is recognized in the FCMA 2016 in section 9 (1g) and in section 59 (1 &2).
- In the last five (5) years, the society has registered 166 members
- FSK has held AGMs, dialogues, and scientific conferences for the last 5 years without fail
- The society has carried out several capacity building training on certification

- The society has a pool of experienced and diverse resource persons with expertise in various fields in forestry.

Missed Steps

- The membership database has about 1000 members, with most of them being inactive members.
- FSK has a weak finance base with low membership recruitment and retention.
- The membership benefits are not clearly articulated.
- Lack of implementation of the strategic plan activities
- The society has poor visibility to the general public
- The society has weak linkages locally and internationally
- The regional chapters of the society are not well empowered
- FSK lacks proper legal backing

Way Forward

- Revive the CPD platform as a way of membership evaluation.
- Expand the secretariat with interns and students for attachment
- Enhanced partnerships and networks
- Improve resource mobilization
- Develop and maintain strong networks with the seniors and retired members to engage them on needs basis
- Revive the FSK newsletter and encourage members to contribute by providing articles related to the sector.
- Mobilize for development of the FSK headquarters at Ngong Road Forest
- Fast track the process of a professional bill for foresters in Kenya
- Establish a mentorship program for the young professionals

Rebranding Forestry Society of Kenya

Periodically, organizations need to review their performance to ensure their relevance within the sector. These reforms are meant to guide and spearhead the organization in the right direction. Since its registration, FSK has not been able to comprehensively assess its performance and the changes needed to maintain its relevance in the sector. Effective communication, financial constraints, low commitment from the members, and inadequate legal framework are some bottlenecks facing Society.

In line with the above, the need for FSK rebranding arose and a number of activities were implemented as detailed below:

a) FSK Logo

For effective communication, presence and visibility is a critical component. The FSK Strategic Plan 2017-2021, gives provision for the review of the logo and tagline. Following consultations with the FSK membership, a new logo and tag line was approved and adopted as the new image of the Society.

The adopted tagline is 'The Voice of Forestry Professionals' replacing the old tagline 'Promoting Professional Forestry in Kenya'. The approved Logo has green and brown colors which represent nature and growth in the forest sector.

The meaning of each color of shade in the logo is as shown below:



The three shades of green depict:

- Dark - symbolizes maturity
- Lime - symbolizes dynamism and growth
- Emerald - symbolizes progressive

The two shades of brown depict:

- Saddle Brown- symbolizes, earth, productivity, stability
- Light Brown- symbolizes strength

b) Upgrade the FSK Website

Websites are essential tools for communication, dissemination of information, and knowledge management. The FSK website was upgraded to ensure it was up-to-date, and dynamic to enhance user experience.

The access credential to the website is <https://fsk.or.ke/>





Front view of the office block

c) FSK Headquarters development

The FSK offices have been housed at KFS since its registration. The members saw it fit to have a space for the FSK Headquarters and approached KFS to provide the needed land. FSK officially gained the license to develop the 0.98-acre land at Ngong Road Forest in 2021.

This was a big milestone for the society further engaging an architect to develop plans for the land provided. The architectural plans were developed for eco-friendly and sustainable development and the project is estimated to cost Kshs 43,898,500. Funds will be raised from members' contributions and also partnerships and donations from other organizations.



Reception area of the Proposed FSK Headquarters with a view of the shop and upper floor

Workshop to Review the Draft REDD+ Strategy



Participants during the workshop in Elemntaita

REDD+ is an international framework that aims to mitigate climate change by incentivizing efforts by developing country that address deforestation and forest degradation and those that promote conservation, sustainable forest management and afforestation and reforestation efforts. Additionally, REDD+ also generates other co-benefits other than climate change mitigation such as enhancing biodiversity, conservation of water catchment areas, and strengthening livelihoods.

As a requirement for countries engaging in REDD+ activities, Kenya sort a process of developing a National Strategy. The society was engaged by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to review the draft REDD+ strategy. The two-day workshop saw FSK members, led by the chairman, Mr. Benjamin Wamugunda,

critically review the document, specifically from the forester's point of view.

The members were guided through an overview of REDD+ in Kenya by an FSK member of the scientific committee, Peter Sirayo. In his presentation, he informed members of the activities linked to REDD+ including, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Members were also informed of the four elements required for a country to be considered for REDD+ activities namely, a national REDD+ strategy (NRS), national forest monitoring system (NFMS), national forest reference levels (FRLs), and a safeguard information system (SIS). The NRS is considered as a measure to curb deforestation

and degradation of forest resources, cross-sectoral initiatives and should be done by the participation of key stakeholders.

The NFMS deals with forest monitoring and how the inventory of the forest resources is conducted. The monitoring system also helps in the detection of changes in the resources. The system should be robust and transparent. Kenya submitted the FRLs to the UNFCC with a key focus on four out of the five activities involved in REDD+. Conservation of forest carbon stocks was not considered in the development of the FRLs.

The safeguards identified for implementation in Kenya include; transparency and effective governance structures, respect of knowledge and rights of indigenous people, effective participation of relevant stakeholders, actions consistent with conservation of natural

forests, addressing risks of reversals, and reducing displacement of emissions related to leakage REDD+ implementation are undertaken in three phases namely; REDD+ readiness, implementation, and full implementation.

Sirayo noted that Kenya is still in the readiness stage unlike other countries such as Nigeria and Rwanda who were progressing remarkably. All the key elements are yet to be finalized to enable Kenya move to the next step of implementation. Forestry sector in Kenya is lagging behind in the aspect of finances.

Dr. Mwangi Kinyanjui, the key consultant for the REDD+ strategy, presented the strategy, starting with the development process.

In his presentation, he noted that Kenya is cited as one of the countries with a higher capability for the implementation of REDD+ due to the vast forest ecosystems in the country, ranging from montane rain forests to mangroves, plantations, and dryland forests. He noted that during the process, one of the main challenges encountered was inadequacy and inconsistent data. To deal with this Nesting is recommended to work with smaller areas for better recording of forestry data.

The consultant noted that a reduction of 5 million MtCo2e per year could attract 10 USD per ton amounting to 5 billion

Kenya Shillings which could help finance the implementation of the strategy. Dr. Kinyanjui noted that the forestry sector has the capacity to sequester up to 52 million MtCo2e of Carbon annually, making these resources crucial in mitigating against climate change.

Following the discussions, lack of consistency in forestry data in Kenya was fronted as one of the major constraints. Recommendations were made including; establishing a monitoring body with specific systems and standards that defines the methodologies and standards used in Kenya. This will ensure some common definitions and systems are regulated and standardized. Private sector should give clear compartments and information on plantations for them to be well considered in the strategy.

There is a need to get a national classification according to the law to have a uniform classification in Kenya and System for Land-Based Emission Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) project maps are to be used to do the mapping. Lastly, concerns on who are the custodians of the strategy were raised pointing to the need for more consultation, coordination, and research for inclusivity, plantation should also be included in the strategy.

The REDD+ Strategy proposed five strategic areas to help reverse forest deforestation and degradation, as well as enhance sustainable forest management. These options include;

- Scaling up afforestation, reforestation, and landscape restoration programs
- Enhance governance and policy implementation to reduce the conversion of forests to other lands, uses
- Increase productivity of public plantation forests
- Enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and skills throughout forest-related value chains
- Mobilize Finance for implementation of REDD+ in Kenya.

The participants reviewed the various strategic options and shared their views.

FSK Northrift Chapter Meeting at Embobut Forest



Northrift chapter members during the AGM

By: Richard Guya and Johnson Anyumba

Embobut forest block covers an area of 21,933.09 Hectares of indigenous trees mainly *Juniperus procera* and *Hagenia abyssinica*. Other tree species in the forest are; *Syzygium guineense*, *Olea africana*, *Podocarpus latifolias*, *Prunus africana* among others. The Forest also boast of remnant Lebanese cedar (*Cedrus libani*). The block comprises of two forest stations Kapyego and Chesoi.

This significant water tower supplies water to Eldoret township and its environs. It is also the source of several rivers including Nzoia, Morum, Kapolet, Saiwa, Embobut, Siga and Weiwei. The communities living around the forest are mainly Sengwer and Marakwet. Some of the challenges in Embobut include; the forest being a hideout for armed bandits, overstocking by the local communities and low KFS staff capacity for its protection.

Nevertheless, Embobut forest ecosystem has had various successes such as having a vibrant Community Forestry Association (CFA), signing of Transitional Implementation Plans (TIPs) by Elgeyo Marakwet county, and having used a multi-agency approach in the forest protection. Conserving Embobut is a collective social, economic, political, and inherent responsibility of all government institutions, the local communities, and other stakeholders. Conflicts arising within this valuable resource require all the parties to come together and deliberate on amicable solutions.

The Embobut conservation agenda ought to have a compensation mechanism for those who play key roles in its restoration and protection. Moreover, learning institutions around these areas need to inculcate a culture of tree

growing and forest conservation among the learners.

RSK North Rift chapter held its 2021 annual general meeting at Kapyego, with members from Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Trans - Nzoia, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot, and Turkana counties. The membership was drawn from various organizations including KFS, WWF, the County government of Elgeyo Marakwet, the University of Eldoret (UoE), and the local CFA. The team had a tree planting session at the Kapyego forest station office compound, then a brief tour of the forest landscape before converging for the meeting.

Various presentations were made including; climate change and mitigative measures that can be employed locally within the region, the types of forests in the North rift region, and an overview of forest conservation status in Northrift.

Resolutions

- Supported multi-stakeholders approach to the management of the forest.
- Proposed for forest boundary alignment and use of more visible boundary beacons as currently used in Mau to curtail encroachment
- Promote livelihood improvement activities within the communities around the forest.
- Inculcate conservation-friendly cultural issues and indigenous knowledge in the management of the forest.
- Employ all available conflict resolution mechanisms
- Resolved to strengthen the Chapter through participation in all FSK activities
- Supported the idea of FSK Headquarters development on Ngong road Forest.
- Proposed for the review of CPD platform.
- Proposed for devolved short professional trainings in Chapters yearly to sharpen members skills and competence.

Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference and Expo

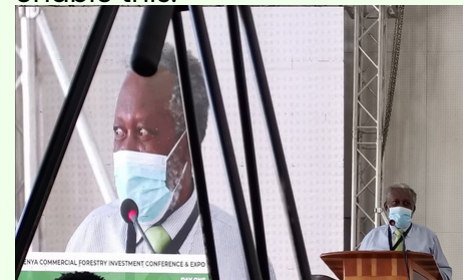
The Kenyan population is increasing and as of 2019, according to KNBS, the total population in the country is 47.6 million. As the population increases, so is the increase in demand for forest products. The increase in demand for these products calls for an increase in availability and supply of the same. Commercial forestry has the potential to not only bridge the wood deficit in the country but also increase tree cover and reduce over-reliance on natural forests for the production of wood products.

KEFRI organized the 1st Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference and Expo between 23rd- 26th November 2021. The 4-day workshop attracted participants from the government, non-governmental organizations, development partners, private sector, farmers and tree growers, academia, students, and researchers in the forestry sector. The main objective of the conference and expo was to provide a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and the potential of commercial forestry investment in Kenya.

In his opening remarks, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Hon. Keriako Tobiko noted that conservation and wealth creation are not contradictory and there is a need to balance the two. He also pointed out the call to halt deforestation in

COP26 which has been a menace in the country as demand for wood products increases. Hon. Tobiko emphasized the need to link science, research, development, and policies in the sector.

The FSK National Chairman, Mr. Benjamin Wamugunda, acknowledged that the conference was what the forestry and the foresters have been missing. He pointed out the increased imports of sub-standard wood products from other countries stating that Kenya has the potential to not only provide for the local wood demand but also tap into the exports. He noted that Kenya needs a sustainable forestry sector and commercial forestry is one approach that can enable this.



The conference was also graced by the Sweden Ambassador who in her remarks noted that the demand for proper housing in Kenya is set to increase with the increasing population. She noted that forests can offer solutions through the provision of wood and laminated timber.

She, however, noted that Kenya's building code does not recognize timber as a construction material, noting that this should be amended.

She concluded by noting that Kenya has the potential to develop a strong and sustainable forestry sector and urged the practitioners to make the forest sector bankable to increase investments.

Various presentations were carried out through the 4-day workshop. One of the objectives was to enlighten participants on ways on unlocking the potential of commercial forestry in Kenya. Among the approaches suggested included, emphasizing site-species matching, use of improved genetic material for target markets, efficient harvesting, use of remote sensing and GIS technologies, public-private partnerships land-lease models, and standardization of prices and policies.

During the conference period, various organizations in the forestry sector participated in the Expo that saw various parties in the entire forest value chain showcase their products and work. Among the exhibitions were KEFRI with wood products, KFS showcasing their technology, Timbeter, Gatsby Africa showcasing the Site Species Matching Tool (SSMT), Plantech, among others. FSK was involved in the expo where the participants were informed of the existence and importance and benefits of being an FSK member.

Some of the key highlights from the conference included:

- A competitive and inclusive commercial forestry sector is central in realizing Kenya's environmental, social, and development agendas
- Inclusivity of the private sector is paramount to commercial forestry excellence in Kenya through various approaches such as co-financing
- Embrace and upscale use of innovations and technologies that can enhance sectoral growth and potential
- There is need to have secure markets to ensure future flows of private financing in commercial forestry in Kenya
- There is potential for commercial timber production in the dry lands through species such as *Melia volkensii*



Commercializing Tree Growing in Kenya



By: Mercy Njane & George Tarus

The global forest cover is estimated at 4.06 billion hectares according to Global Forest Resources Assessment Report 2020. The plantation forests cover approximately 131 million hectares which is just 3% of the total global forest area. At the same time, 420 million hectares of forests have been lost globally since 1990. According to UN-REDD, the global annual forest plantation production capacity should be at 1.8 billion m² by 2020 to meet the growing wood demand.

In Kenya, the forest sector plays a key role in socio-economic development, contributing to approximately 3.6% of the country's GDP which is exclusive of the environmental services. It further supports the urban and rural population through the provision of charcoal and wood fuel. The sector has also provided jobs for approximately 18,000–50,000 people directly and 300,000– 600,000 indirectly.

The wood deficit in the country is increasing as the demand for wood and wood products increases. This has led to increased imports of these products from countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and China some of which are from illegal logging sites. Some of the wood imported are of poor quality which ultimately leads to the production of sub-standard material. The wood supply deficit spiked following the logging ban in public and community forests in 2018, which are the main sources of wood products in the country.

As Kenya experiences a wood deficit, commercial forestry is one approach that will bridge this gap. It will further lead to an increase in forest cover and reduce the pressure on the natural forests. Commercial forestry entails tree growing for the purpose of sale and wealth creation.

Private lands, rangelands, and suitable grasslands are some of the potential areas for commercial forestry in Kenya. Similarly, public and community forests also have the potential for commercial plantation either by the government or by private entities through concessions.

The establishment of 150,000 hectares of commercial private forests plantations is one of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Adaptation Actions for the period 2020–2030. This is expected to give impetus to the aspiration to have a sustainable wood supply within the country. Though the opinion is divided on where these hectares for commercial forestry will come from, consensus exists on the immense opportunity of the ASAL areas which constitute up to 80% of the total land in Kenya and can be utilized for commercial forestry.

Therefore, the need for more research and development of commercial tree species adaptable to the climatic conditions of the ASAL regions cannot be overemphasized. Concessions in public plantations is another possible approach that can be adopted. Section 44 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016, provides for concessions of public forest.

This approach is expected to attract capital and investment from the private sector and revitalize the public plantation, which has received a fair share of criticism from many quotas.

Incentivizing tree growing is an approach that can help attract more individuals and private entities to the commercial forestry business. Commercial forestry needs to be a lucrative and bankable business to attract more investors. Incentives on products like seeds or taxes incentives or disincentives can impact the supply and demand of wood products from the local sources.

There is a need to streamline the chain of custody including licenses/permits required for one to own, harvest, transport, and produce wood and wood products in Kenya. There is a significant number of players who feel the current chain of custody is too bureaucratic and costly for a smallholder farmer and could be seen as a disincentive to tree growing.

Innovations and developments in forestry should be embraced

to upscale commercial forestry in Kenya. Species-site matching tools, for example, should be mainstreamed to enable growers to know the right species they should plant. The Species Site Matching Tool developed by Gatsby Africa KEFRIApp by KEFRI, MitiCalc by the University of Eldoret and Nursery Registration Portal by KFS are examples of tools that help growers make informed choices and gain the requisite guidance on tree growing in Kenya.

There is also a need for effective market linkages between tree growers and consumers, both locally and beyond the Kenyan borders. Inadequate market linkages are one of the main hindrances to investment in commercial forestry. If these linkages are well developed and a transparent pricing mechanism developed, most investors and individuals would invest in commercial forestry as a business venture which ultimately benefits the nation's economy.

In conclusion, commercial forestry is a business venture that investors need to look at. This is informed by the fact that wood demand is set to increase as the population increases. Partnerships between the public and the private sector are also paramount in spearheading commercial forestry in Kenya. The need to embrace, improved technologies and quality germplasm are not only vital but urgent if a sustainable supply of wood products in Kenya is to be achieved.

Summary of the COP26 Forests and Land Use Event

By: Mercy Njane

It is estimated that 420 million ha of forests have been lost globally since 1990. A forest resource assessment report by FAO further indicated that between 2015–2020, the annual deforestation rate was estimated to be 10 million hectares. Despite the role played by forests in carbon sequestration, deforestation and forest degradation lead to massive emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

This increasing rate of deforestation and forest degradation globally formed the basis of discussion during the COP26 World Leaders Summit on, 'Action on Forests and Land Use'. The event led to alliances and commitments from various governments, private institutions and companies, and development and financial actors. During the event, various declarations, agreements, and pledges were made as highlighted below.

Reducing Forest Deforestation and Degradation

The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use was endorsed by 133 nations who committed to collectively halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting inclusive rural transformation.

Kenya is among the 133 countries that endorsed the declaration.

The leaders committed to conserving forest and terrestrial ecosystems and accelerating restoration; reducing vulnerability; build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods; reaffirm international financial commitments for various efforts including forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management, and also facilitate the alignment of finances with goals to reverse forest degradation and loss.

The Lowering Emissions to Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition mobilized 1 billion USD in 2021 for the nations committed to reducing deforestation and protecting tropical and sub-tropical forests. LEAF brings together both public and private sector entities to provide finances for the conservation and protection of tropical and sub-tropical forests. 23 jurisdictions, including Kenya, have submitted eligible proposals to LEAF.

The Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) launched a joint nature statement with a commitment to mainstream nature in policies, investments, analysis and assessments, and operations in line with mandates and operating models. The 9 MDBs also committed to continuing to support public and private sector clients to participate and benefit from the global carbon markets.

The banks also committed to supporting countries in the implementation of nature-based solutions and plans and strategies such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Land-use change from forest lands to agricultural lands has been a major challenge in the forestry sector. As part of their commitment to addressing climate change, investors committed to eliminating agricultural commodity-driven deforestation at their respective companies and their financing activities by 2025. Additionally, the Forest, Agriculture, and Commodity Trade (FACT) Statement was signed as part of a roadmap of actions to deliver sustainable trade and reduce pressure on forests.

Resource Mobilization

Donor countries have shown interest and commitment towards financing forest-related efforts in curbing climate change. At the summit, a Global Forest Finance Pledge was established to finance the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of forests. In this pledge, 12 donor nations pledge to collectively mobilize 12 billion USD for forest-related climate finance between 2021 to 2025.

Furthermore, the Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement was developed with 12 countries and philanthropic donors making an initial collective pledge of at least 1.5 billion USD between 2021 and 2025 to protect the Congo Basin Forest,

the second-largest tropical rainforest globally.

The Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) are some of the key stakeholders in forest conservation and management. The IPLCs provide guardianship in protecting tropical forests and preserving the vast ecosystem services.

The IPLC lacks land tenure rights and also access to the resources they have protected over the years. During the summit, 14 countries and donors pledged 1.7 billion USD from 2021- 2025 to support IPLCs through capacity building, sustainable livelihoods, financial support for group activities; and also, activities to secure, strengthen and protect IPLCs' land and resource rights. Leaders are also committed to promoting effective participation and inclusion of IPLCs in decision-making.

As nations work towards increasing tree cover and keeping global temperatures below 1.50C as per the Paris Agreement in COP21, halting deforestation should be one of the strategies used. Forests provide a wide range of services including the much-needed carbon sequestration, air purification, water catchment areas, cultural variety, and other ecosystem services.

As Kenya targets a 10% tree cover, halting deforestation and reversing the lost forest resources is key to meeting this target.

Practices such as farm forestry and farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) should be adopted to not only help increase the tree cover and reduce pressure on natural forests but also improve livelihoods. There is a need for a collective effort between both government and the private sector to protect, restore, conserve and manage forest resources in Kenya.

Kenya's Climate Action

By: Mercy Njane

According to Sixth Assessment Report 2021 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global temperatures will hit 1.5 degrees C by the early 2030s. Another report by the World Meteorological Organization 2021 indicated that the global mean temperature for 2021 was approximately 1.090C above the 1850-1900 average. The report also noted the increase in intensity and frequency of extreme weather such as heatwaves, wildfires, drought, and floods as the greenhouse gases emissions also increased.

Over the past decade, the impacts of climate change have been ravaging Kenya. From increased intensity and frequency of drought to floods to the rising sea and lake/rivers levels, the impacts of climate change are being felt in the country. Like many countries in Africa, Kenya contributes less than 1% of the global total emissions, yet bears the brunt

of the climate change impacts. This has led to great socio-economic losses and impedes development in the region.

Kenya has various policies and legislations in place in line with international and regional commitments. These laws are geared towards enabling the country to deal with climate change through mitigation and adaptation strategies. Some of the policies in place include Climate Change Act, 2016, National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-2022.

Some such as the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) helps in delivering adaptation benefits to the counties.

Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions

Kenya has updated and submitted the country's First NDC with a commitment to reduce emissions by 32% by 2030. The cost estimate for the implementation of the mitigation and adaptation actions is approximately US\$62 billion with Kenya financing 13% of the total cost and 87% from international support. The forestry sector has a major role in ensuring the country's commitment and targets are fully achieved as stated in the action plan.

In October 2021, the World Bank approved a US\$150 million loan to Kenya to enhance the country's capacity to combat climate change effects. Strengthening local resilience to climate change impacts and

increasing the adaptive capacity of the communities and the countries at large is key. The US\$150 Million Credit will aid in the implementation of strategies in line with the NCCAP 2018-2022 and help Kenya meet the NDCs targets.

Role of the forestry sector under the NDCs

Kenya is cognizant of the potential that the forestry sector has in mitigating against climate change and has set aside strategies and actions to scale- up this potential.

One of the activities under mitigation is making progress towards achieving 10% tree cover done through various campaigns and projects. The National Tree Planting Campaign (NTPC) Project is one of the government's initiatives to implement the help achieve at least 10% tree cover.

Scale- up of nature-based solution is another activity under the mitigation strategies. Nature-based solutions to addressing climate change are some of the most cost-effective actions to deal with the menace. The Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is one approach in forestry that has been used as a nature-based solution to restore degraded areas.

Enhancement of REDD+ is another activity under the mitigation efforts. This involves reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest

conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon sinks. REDD+ project in Chyulu Hills is among the successful projects in the country. There is need to enhance and expand these projects to reduce deforestation and ensure forest conservation.

Kenya also targets to rehabilitate and conserve degraded forests, establish 150,000ha of commercial private forests plantations and plant 350,000 agroforestry trees on farmlands in the adaptation strategies. In the fight against climate change, forestry can help through providing a safety net for income and livelihood enhancement.

This can be done through sale of wood and non-wood forest products (NWFP) such as gums, raisins and honey and planting of fruit trees on farmlands.

Conclusion

Like many countries in Africa, Kenya has shown its commitment in fighting climate change. As a developing nation, the country needs financial support to implement the mitigation and adaptation strategies. In line with the Paris Agreement, 2015, developed nations need to honor their commitments and pledges towards climate financing to help cushion developing nations such as Kenya from climate change impacts which are escalating.

The Conference of Parties (COP26), is therefore, seen as the last opportunities for the world leaders to make sound decisions and actions to control the escalating global temperatures before the impact is irreversible.

The summit offers nations an opportunity to renew their commitments, honor the pledges made and set new targets towards significantly reducing emissions. All nations need to have clear actions and commitments to reducing emissions. It is time for all nations across the globe to take action.



Chairman addressing the members at the dialogue



Hon. Elmi, Dr. Cheboiwo and CCF, Julius Kamau at Dialogue



Participats during the REDD+ review workshop



Council members after a meeting at Elementaita



FSK Northrift Chapter members undertaking tree planting and AGM





PS. Dr. Kiptoo at the FSK tent during the KCFIC conference



Sweden Ambassador and Deputy Ambassador of Columbia at the FSK tent during the KCFIC Conference



FSK Chairman with the CS during the commercial conference and expo



LIST OF AGM PARTICIPANTS

1. ALBERT NYABUTI
 2. ALFRED GICHU
 3. BEN WANDAGO
 4. BENJAMIN KINYILI
 5. BENJAMIN WAMUGUNDA
 6. BERNARD NGODA
 7. BONIFACE MULWA
 8. BRIAN MURUATETU
 9. CAROLINE KERICHU
 10. CHARLES KURIA
 11. DAVID BOBCHINSKY
 12. DAVID RONO
 13. DIANA KISHIKI
 14. DONALD AVUDE
 15. DOROTHY OPILI
 16. EDWARD MUNENE
 17. ELLY TINDA
 18. EMILIO MUGO
 19. ERIC ABUNGU
 20. ESTHER WANG'OMBE
 21. EVANS MANENO
 22. FRED MUISU
 23. GEORGE NJENGA
 24. GEORGE TARUS
 25. HENRY KOMU
 26. HUMPHERY OSORO
 27. JACINTA KIMITI
 28. JAMLECK NDAMBIRI
 29. JAN VANDENABEELE
 30. JANE WAMBOI
 31. JARED BITANGE
 32. JENIFFER RONO
 33. JOEL LAIGONG
 34. JOHN MBAYA
 35. JOHN NJUE
 36. JORAM KAGOMBE
 37. JOSEPH HITIMANA
 38. JOSEPH KAMAU
 39. JOSEPH MACHARIA
 40. JOSEPH MACHUA
 41. JOSEPHINE GATEI
 42. JULIUS KAMAU
 43. LAWRENCE KURIA
 44. LUKE NJUGUNA
 45. MARGARET MUGURE
 46. MCO OGILO
 47. MERCELINE OJWALA
 48. MICHAEL OKEYO
 49. MIRIAM KAMAU
 50. MITCHEL AKINYI
 51. MONICAH KARIUKI
 52. MOSES CHESEBE
 53. MUGO MWARE
 54. MURIUKI CM
 55. NAFASI MFAHAYA
 56. NOOR HUSSEIN
 57. PAUL ONGUGO
 58. PAUL OPANGA
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 60. PETER SIRAYO
 61. RICHARD GUYA
 62. ROBINSON NG'ETHE
 63. ROSEMARY BARGEREI
 64. SAMUEL IREGI
 65. SAMWEL OSEE
 66. SOLOMOM MIBEY
 67. STEPHEN KIN'GOO
 68. STEPHEN OTIENO
 69. SYLVESTER CHISIKA
 70. SYLVESTER MACODERO
 71. VITALIS OSODO
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