



Republic of Kenya

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Sessional Paper No. 9 of 2005

on

Forest Policy

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FOREWORD

The Forest Sector plays vital roles in the livelihood of the Kenyan population through provision of invaluable forest related goods and services. The most significant contribution is in the energy supply for domestic and industrial processes, provision of timber for construction and trees for regulation of water flow. It is estimated that 80% of the population use biomass energy while urban development and hydro energy rely heavily on water. Forests will continue to provide essential goods and services such as timber, poles, fuel-wood, food, medicines, fodder and other non-wood forest products. Forest resources and forestry development activities also contribute significantly to the national economy by supplying raw materials for industrial use and creating substantial employment opportunities and livelihoods.

As important as our forests are to the national economy, their sustainable development and management continues to be hampered by a number of factors, including inadequate financial resources and the lack of an enabling policy and legislation. In addition, the increasing population and poverty continue to exert pressure on the country's forest resources. This pressure is witnessed in the current rampant illegal logging, illegal charcoal making and encroachment for agriculture and settlement. These challenges have undermined the Government's efforts in achieving sustainable forest management.

Kenya is internationally considered to be a Low Forest Cover country as it has less than 10% of its total land area classified as forest. The Government will therefore put in place measures to significantly increase the area under forest cover, with the aim of attaining at least 10% within the next decade. To attain this level of forest cover, the Government will promote farm forestry, intensify dryland forest management, involve the private sector in the management of industrial plantations and also promote community participation in forest management and conservation.

The key elements of the new policy are:

1. A new forest legislation to implement the policy.
2. Expanded mandate in the management of all types of forests.
3. Involvement of forest adjacent communities and other stakeholders in forest management and conservation.

4. Forest management planning will be based on an eco-system approach.
5. Appropriate incentives will be provided to promote sustainable use and management of forest resources.
6. Proposed institutional transformation of the Forest Department into a semi-autonomous Kenya Forest Service.

This policy will address local and global forestry issues and challenges to ensure fair contribution of the forestry sector in economic development. The implementation of this policy is expected to improve the social welfare of the Kenyan population without compromising environmental conservation.

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INTRODUCTION

Kenya's forests are important for economic development, environmental services, social and cultural values. They provide utility products such as timber, pulp and paper, poles and fuel wood both for industrial and domestic use. Forests are important for conservation of biological diversity, regulation of water supplies, carbon dioxide sequestration and are a major habitat for wildlife. In addition, forests also provide a wide range of non-wood forest products.

The last authoritative statement of Kenya's forest policy is contained in Sessional Paper No.1 of 1968. Since then significant changes have taken place in the country. These changes include an increase in the country's population and a rise in forest related activities. According to the 1999 population census, Kenya's population stood at 28.6 million people and is projected to reach 37.5 million by the year 2010. This increase in population will continue to exert pressure on the forest resources through a growing demand for forest products, services and land for alternative uses. The need to conserve the soil, water, wildlife habitats, and biological diversity will become even greater.

Further, since 1968, the country has experienced a major decrease in forest cover, which has resulted in reduced water catchment, biodiversity, supply of forest products and habitats for wildlife. At the same time, the forest sector has been beset by conflicts between forest managers and forest adjacent communities over access to forest resources.

Consequently, it is necessary to prepare a new Forest Policy to guide the development of the forestry sector. The broad objective of this new Forest Policy is to provide continuous guidance to all Kenyans on the sustainable management of forests. The Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1968 did not provide for adequate harmonisation between resource policies. This policy has taken cognizance of other existing policies relating to land and land use, tenure, agriculture, energy, environment, mining, wildlife and water. Further, this policy stresses the need for greater cooperation and linkage among resource owners, users, and resource planners. The policy incorporates the present forest-related values of the people of Kenya, international concerns, and represents the national will.

The new Forest Policy will address indigenous forest management, farm forestry, industrial forest development, dryland forestry, forest health and protection, private sector involvement and participatory forest management. It recognizes that there are benefits arising from

involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in forest management. The new policy will mainstream the forestry sector in economic recovery and enable it to contribute significantly to poverty alleviation strategies.

Most importantly, the new policy emphasises the importance of forests for water and biodiversity conservation and for the provision of woodfuel, cost and benefit sharing.

POLICY GOAL

The goal of this Policy is to: enhance the contribution of the forest sector in the provision of economic, social and environmental goods and services.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this policy are to:

1. Contribute to poverty reduction, employment creation and improvement of livelihoods through sustainable use, conservation and management of forests and trees.
2. Contribute to sustainable land use through soil, water and biodiversity conservation, and tree planting through the sustainable management of forests and trees.
3. Promote the participation of the private sector, communities and other stakeholders in forest management to conserve water catchment areas, create employment, reduce poverty and ensure the sustainability of the forest sector.
4. Promote farm forestry to produce timber, woodfuel and other forest products.
5. Promote dryland forestry to produce woodfuel and to supply wood and non-wood forest products.
6. Promote forest extension to enable farmers and other forest stakeholders to benefit from forest management approaches and technologies.
7. Promote forest research, training and education to ensure a vibrant forest sector.

CHAPTER 1

1. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES

1.1 General Management Challenges

Forests and trees are renewable resources, which if managed sustainably can meet the demand for raw materials for wood-based industries, fuel wood and a wide range of non-wood forest products. In addition, they are important for ecological and social-cultural values.

Forest management has previously emphasized utilization with little regard to sustainability particularly with regard to indigenous forests. Industrial forest plantations, trees on farms, and forests on local authority lands are also inadequately managed. A general challenge is the acquisition of information and creation of standards that will enable sustainable forest management to be monitored over time.

Similarly, valuation of resources and products has not reflected the whole range of associated production and replacement costs and the benefits foregone. This is key in providing the necessary data for rational resource allocation and planning in the forestry sector. As a management tool, it has largely been ignored to the detriment of sustainable forest management, particularly against land-use changes. While the potential sustainable yields of wood and other forest products and services have not been achieved in various types of forests, the demand for various forest-based products keeps on increasing, especially fuel wood.

Indigenous forests are among the most complex ecosystems that need efficient management. Likewise, challenges presented by fragile and threatened ecosystems, including forests and other woody vegetation types in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALS), bamboo forests, and mangroves, require special attention. Forest protection against pests, diseases, fires, and illegal human activities have been of concern and this will require to be addressed.

Forest management techniques for sustainable production of wood and other tree-based products and services, and the scientific basis underlying them, are well known, especially for plantation and farm forestry. Efficient application of existing knowledge has the potential to enhance forest production. Appropriate planning, management, and conservation measures require reliable databases on forest resources and their utilization. Aspects of wildlife management need to be incorporated into forestry management by establishing and strengthening appropriate inter-

Sustainably managed indigenous forests can supply goods and services to meet the demand of the growing population. These forests will be put under efficient and sustainable multipurpose management, which combines biodiversity conservation and water-catchment functions together with the production of tangible benefits for forest adjacent communities. In doing so, forest principles will be employed to ensure application of science in forest management. Revenues accrued through commercial forest activities will support the management and conservation of indigenous forests. The indigenous forests multiple functions in biodiversity conservation and provision of goods and services requires that;

Policy statement 1.2.1: *All existing indigenous forest reserves on public lands remain reserved.*

Policy statement 1.2.2: *The status of indigenous forests will be determined and appropriate restoration measures taken.*

Policy statement 1.2.3: *All reserved forests will be managed on the basis of approved management plans, guided by sound forest management principles.*

Policy statement 1.2.4: *Participatory forest management approaches be promoted to ensure the participation of communities and other stakeholders in the management of indigenous forests.*

Policy statement 1.2.5: *Users of benefits derived from these forests contribute to their conservation and management through the user pay principle.*

Policy statement 1.2.6: *Insect farming and other sustainable uses of biodiversity will be promoted.*

1.3 Farm Forestry

Trees are an essential part of diversified farm production, providing both subsistence products and incomes while contributing to soil and water conservation, and soil fertility. 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. The alternative sources of these products are expected to come from farmlands. Closer linkages between industry and tree farmers could increase earnings from tree products, harvesting, transport and processing.

Tree cover on farms is increasing, especially in densely populated high potential areas. This demonstrates that rural communities and individual farmers have basic skills and willingness to improve their land-management practices through tree planting for their own benefit. In high potential areas, the preferred wood production methods are the various agro-forestry systems as well as woodlots. The challenge is to promote commercial forestry, improve farm forestry management, and enhance efficient utilization and marketing of forestry products by ensuring that: -

Policy statement 1.3.1: *Forests and trees on private lands are established and managed using sound business principles and according to landowners' priorities.*

Policy statement 1.3.2: *Landowners are supported through appropriate incentives including partnerships to have sufficient land under tree cover.*

Policy statement 1.3.3: *Landowners are encouraged and supported to sustainably manage natural and riverine forests in the farmlands, particularly for water and soil conservation.*

Policy statement 1.3.4: *There is a conducive environment for processing, pricing and marketing of farm forestry products.*

Policy statement 1.3.5: *Adequate information, education and training on conservation, management and tree planting is provided.*

Policy statement 1.3.6: *There is improvement of planting materials to improve quality and shorter growing rotations.*

1.4 Forest Plantations

All forest plantations on public lands shall be managed on a sustainable basis with the primary objective being the production of wood and other forest products and services for commercial purposes. The country has in the past used fast-growing exotic species for the production of industrial forest products. Reliance on a few exotic species is becoming unsustainable, largely because of the increasing occurrence of exotic pests and diseases. Some indigenous species have shown suitability for plantation establishment and often produce superior timbers as compared to exotic species. Sustainable utilization of forest resources can be enhanced by selecting the most suitable species for plantations and integrating the raw-material usage, applying appropriate technology, and by aligning wood production according to specific uses.

Indigenous species should be more widely used in plantation forestry, but the choice of species should be closely related to the various wood and non-wood products, as well as the indirect and intangible benefits, which they offer. There is need to improve mechanisms for interaction between plantation management and raw-material users in order to establish long-term raw material requirements. To enhance the productivity of industrial forest plantations and improve recovery of forest products, mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that:

Policy statement 1.4.1: *The private sector is encouraged to develop and manage plantations through appropriate incentives like land leases, agreements and concessions.*

Policy statement 1.4.2: *Forest plantations are efficiently managed and operated on a commercial basis.*

Policy statement 1.4.3: *The species base is broadened through special consideration of indigenous species as well as the requirement of the market.*

1.5 Dryland Forestry

The country's arid and semi-arid areas (ASALS), 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. Kenya's drylands, although rich in biodiversity are often stressed by frequent drought. Livestock keeping is the main economic activity of these drylands. However, due to population pressure in the high and medium potential areas, there is migration into the dryland areas resulting in depletion of grazing lands; the forest resource and tree cover degradation.

The drylands 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 and timber. These products can go a long way towards improving the livelihoods of Kenyans living in the drylands. In order to improve productivity:

Policy statement 1.5.1: *Forests and other types of woody vegetation in the drylands will be sustainably managed and conserved for the production of wood and non-wood forest products.*

Policy statement 1.5.2: *The establishment of forest based micro-enterprises and community forest associations will be supported.*

Policy statement 1.5.3: *Degraded and over-exploited areas will be rehabilitated by community forest associations with Government support.*

Policy statement 1.5.4: *Research, technology development, education and training in dryland forestry will be intensified*

Policy statement 1.5.5: *Tree planting in the drylands will be promoted.*

Policy statement 1.5.6: *Community forest associations will be supported to develop management plans and manage community forests.*

Policy statement 1.5.7: *Sustainable commercial production of charcoal will be promoted.*

1.6 Local Authority Forests

There exists substantial forest resources on land under local authorities, which if sustainably managed will support a wide range of livelihoods. In the case of urban areas, these forests could serve recreational and aesthetic purposes. However, the land and tree tenure regime in local authority forests does not encourage sustainable forest management. In addition, the local authorities do not have the capacities to effectively manage these forests, while the necessary information required for their sustainable management is lacking.

To maximize resource utilization, a planning system should be institutionalized to specifically address the related development needs in local authority forests. In addition, participatory forest management should be introduced to ensure that communities and especially the poor have a voice in the management of these forests. This therefore calls for a working mechanism between the local authorities, the Forest Service, and other key players in the forestry sector. In order to manage these forests;

Policy statement 1.6.1: *Forests and other types of woody vegetation on local authority land will be sustainably managed to satisfy local forest-based needs and conserve biological diversity.*

Policy statement 1.6.2: *Close working relationships among local authorities, the Forest Service, regional authorities, local communities, NGOs, and other stakeholders will be promoted.*

Policy statement 1.6.3: *Community forest associations will be supported to establish and manage community forests.*

Policy statement 1.6.4: *The capacity of local authorities in forest conservation and management will be enhanced.*

Policy statement 1.6.5: *Forests in urban areas will be promoted for aesthetic and recreational values.*

1.7 Private Forests

Forests under private ownership play a significant role in the provision of forest goods and services supplementing wood supply from state forests. The increasing demand for timber and wood products in the domestic and international markets can be tapped through involvement of the private sector in industrial wood production and supply. However, in the past, market forces have not been allowed to play their part in the marketing of timber, leading to a distortion of prices. The new policy will ensure that forest product markets function in a transparent manner. It will also endeavour to promote market forces in pricing of forest products for optimum resource allocation. This will in turn encourage long-term investment in private forests. This will be done through;

Policy statement 1.7.1: *Determining prices of forest products according to market forces.*

Policy statement 1.7.2: *Provision of technical advice to private forest owners on appropriate forestry practices and assessment procedures.*

Policy statement 1.7.3: *Establishment of funding mechanisms for investment in the sector.*

Policy statement 1.7.4: *Provision of tax incentives for acquisition of efficient processing technologies.*

1.8 Roadside tree planting

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 both sides of the road and also mark the boundaries between the road reserves and private lands to avoid encroachment into the road reserves. To achieve this, the responsible authorities shall in collaboration with landowners adjoining the road reserve:-

Policy statement 1.8.1: Establish an amenity belt of appropriate tree species on both sides of the road reserves.

CHAPTER 2

2. FOREST PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES

2.1 Timber and Wood Products

The production functions of forests, especially those managed for commercial utilization should be understood within the framework of a holistic view of national needs. Subsistence needs, especially those associated with domestic energy supplies, shelter, and fodder should be seen as priority issues in this Forest Policy. Forest resources, especially on-farm and industrial plantations, offer a basis for self reliance in forest products needs. While most of the timber is obtained from industrial plantations, the share of farm-grown wood is increasing. Strategies will be developed to realize;

Policy statement 2.1.1: *Efficient production and utilisation in wood-based industries.*

2.2 Woodfuel

A considerable portion of woodfuel, including charcoal, is obtained from indigenous forests, as well as from arid and semi-arid lands (ASALS). In terms of quantity, the most important forest product for the country is wood energy. However, since most woodfuel consumption is for subsistence use, its contribution to the country's economy has not been adequately reflected. The production and transportation of charcoal has remained unregulated yet large quantities are consumed annually. The challenge is to fully commercialise the production and marketing of woodfuel, including charcoal. Strategies will be developed to realize;

Policy statement 2.2.1: *Sustainable production and efficient utilization of woodfuel.*

Policy statement 2.2.2: *The promotion of efficient wood energy technologies and the use of alternative forms of energy.*

Policy statement 2.2.3: *The regulation of the production and marketing of charcoal.*

2.3 Non-wood Forest Products

Non-wood forest products are of critical importance particularly to the livelihoods of the rural communities and in some situations account for a significant share of household incomes. 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 some indigenous tree species and plants such as *Prunus africana* and *Aloe* have the potential to earn the country a high income from international markets. In times of drought and food scarcity, some non-wood products are the only source of nutrition for the rural communities. To ensure continuous supply of these products and community support in conservation there is a need to: -

Policy statement 2.3.1: *Promote sustainable production and utilization of non-wood forest products.*

Policy statement 2.3.2: *Encourage rural communities to establish non-wood based forest product enterprises and processes.*

Policy statement 2.3.3: *Intensify research and training in non-wood forest products with the aim of domesticating commercially viable species and increasing their ecological range.*

2.4 Forests Industries

Forest industries contribute to the national economy in the provision of products such as construction timber, paper, transmission poles and fuel wood. They provide employment opportunities in the manufacturing, construction, transport and processing sectors thus contributing to improved livelihoods and incomes.

Wood processing technologies presently used are inefficient and wasteful. Appropriate technologies are available but there is low adoption due to the prohibitive investment costs. Training in industrial processes and low cost efficient technologies is needed to improve the use of raw materials, diversify products and to minimize waste.

In order to ensure increased efficiency and availability of forest products;

Policy statement 2.4.1: *Efficient forest-based industries will be promoted to guarantee high quality products so as to satisfy the domestic demand and contribute to export earnings.*

Policy statement 2.4.2: *Wood based industries will be encouraged to manufacture diverse finished products for local and export market to take advantage of the country's regional position and good infrastructure development.*

2.5 Forestry and Wealth Creation

Tree growing improves soil and water conservation, and soil fertility, which contribute to increased agricultural production. Wealth creation and employment opportunities for improvement of livelihoods are possible, not only from intensified farm production, but also through the development of forest-based industries and promotion of eco-tourism.

Intensified farm forestry, commercial production of non wood products and the promotion of out-grower tree schemes could support forest industries and enhance industrialization and employment creation. This will be enhanced by efficient use of raw materials, appropriate production technology and marketing support.

Further, intensified tree planting will result in increased demand for seedlings. This demand will be met through individual and private initiatives in seedling production. In turn, this will create employment for youth and women groups. To ensure that only good quality seedlings reach the market, appropriate quality control measures will be put in place.

Recognizing the contribution of forestry to socio-economic development and wealth creation;

Policy statement 2.5.1: *Forest-based industries that contribute to the national economy will be promoted.*

Policy statement 2.5.2: *Recreation and eco-tourism facilities will be developed.*

Policy statement 2.5.3: *The creation of out-grower tree schemes through appropriate funding mechanisms will be encouraged.*

Policy statement 2.5.4: *Industries will be developed through appropriate investment incentives that encourage efficient use of raw materials, efficient technologies, and protection of the environment.*

Policy statement 2.5.5: *The production of seedlings will be liberalised.*

2.6 Trade in Forest Products

Trading in forest products contributes significantly to the national economy. However, this trade is for the most part limited to the national level, and yet opportunities for the export of forest products exist. These products include timber, paper products, carvings, gums and resins, charcoal and medicines. At the international level, forest certification and

labelling is increasingly being used to enhance trade in forest products. To access these markets, it is necessary to adopt certification requirements.

Economic returns from trade in forest products will be enhanced through;

Policy statement 2.6.1: **Promotion of value added forest products.**

Policy statement 2.6.2: **Development of the necessary infrastructure for non-extractive uses of forests.**

Policy statement 2.6.3: **Promotion of forest products certification and labelling for wider market acceptability.**

CHAPTER 3

3. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Forest Sector Legal Reforms

In the past, the Forest Sector was faced with many constraints, which hampered its development. These constraints included a weak legal framework. The legal framework did not allow the participation of the private sector and communities in forest management. Further it did not allow the Forest Department to manage resources outside gazetted forests. Over the past few years, the Government undertook some limited reforms in the forestry sector and is now determined to put in place the necessary reforms to revitalise the sector. These reforms will provide for participation of other stakeholders including the private sector and communities in the management and conservation of forests. In addition, the reforms will provide for the proper management of tree resources outside gazetted forests.

The reforms in the forest sector should not leave out forest professionals. In the past, professional foresters have not had a professional association to enable them carry out self regulation. A foresters' professional association would enhance the image of the forest sector as a whole.

To achieve these reforms in the forest sector:

Policy statement 3.1.1: *The Government will enact an appropriate legislation to regulate the forest sector on a sustainable basis.*

Policy statement 3.1.2: *The Government will monitor and ensure the implementation of the new Forest Policy.*

Policy statement 3.1.3: *The Government will encourage forest professionals to form an association to self regulate the profession.*

3.2 Institutional Arrangements

Since its establishment, the Forest Department has always been an organ of the central government and hence has been characterized by centralized decision-making and inadequate financing. This has led to ineffective management, which is best illustrated by the poor condition of the industrial plantations and degradation of indigenous forests. Current thinking and practice is that sustainable forest management would be better carried out by a semi-autonomous entity, the Kenya Forest Service. This new institution will be charged with forest administration, policy

development, forest regulation, training, extension and protection of natural forests. In addition, the Service will work closely with the following sectors; agriculture, water, land, energy and tourism. For efficient management of the forest sector;

Policy statement 3.2.1: ***The Government will put in place appropriate institutional arrangements to coordinate and support the forest sector.***

Policy statement 3.2.2: ***The Government will establish the Kenya Forest Service.***

3.3 Funding for Forestry Development

The funding of forestry activities has mainly been from the central Government (Treasury) and from development partners. This funding has been inadequate for the efficient management and conservation of the country's forest resource. With the establishment of the Kenya Forest Service it will be necessary to broaden the funding base, including putting in place forest conservation and development trust fund. Existing internal and external funding opportunities will be explored and put into maximum use where available. Sources of funds to support forestry activities will be through;

Policy statement 3.3.1: ***Revenue generated from improved management of plantation forests.***

Policy statement 3.3.2: ***Levies and royalties imposed on services such as water catchment conservation, land leases and concessions.***

Policy statement 3.3.3: ***Funds from the Government.***

Policy statement 3.3.4: ***Funds from development partners and other agencies***

Policy statement 3.3.5: ***Funds available at the international level for the sequestration of greenhouse gases, conservation of biological diversity, protection of water catchments, and combating desertification.***

CHAPTER 4

4. LINKAGES WITH OTHER SECTORS

4.1 Co-ordination with Related Policies

Pressures and demands imposed on forest ecosystems and resources are often caused or influenced by factors outside the forest sector. Forests serve as water catchment areas, are sources of wood fuel, habitats for wildlife, may contain mineral deposits and impinge on agricultural activities. For this reason, the policies in these sectors (Water, Energy, Mining, Lands, Wildlife and Agriculture) should have a clear linkage to the Forest Policy. Further, forests are also found on local authority lands and are under pressure for settlement. There is a need to create synergies between the policies that govern local authorities as well as land use. Appropriate mechanisms for achieving harmonization of the various sectoral policies that touch on forestry should be put in place through;

Policy statement 4.1.1: *Establishment of an inter-ministerial committee bringing together forest related sectors.*

4.2 Forestry Research and Education

Research and education are essential for forestry development. The main areas of focus for research and education will be indigenous forest management, farm forestry, dryland forestry, and commercial forestry development. The current institutional linkage between forestry research, education, administration, resource owners and users is weak. In particular, forestry research and education should be demand driven. Therefore, the private sector will be encouraged to participate actively in forestry research. Forestry research and education will be in line with the national priorities and development programmes. To promote research and education in forestry for sustainable development;

Policy statement 4.2.1: *The Government will support forestry research and education through provision of incentives in priority areas.*

Policy statement 4.2.2: *The private sector will be encouraged to participate in forestry research.*

Policy statement 4.2.3: *An effective mechanism linking forestry research and users will be developed.*

Policy statement 4.2.4: *Indigenous knowledge in forest conservation and management will be tapped and incorporated into forestry research and education.*

Policy statement 4.2.5: *Forestry research programmes and education curricula will be reviewed and updated from time to time in consultation with stakeholders.*

Policy statement 4.2.6: *Public awareness-creation with regard to forest conservation, management and utilization will be supported.*

4.3 Forest User Rights and Livelihoods

Forest adjacent communities derive both spiritual and material benefits from forests. Material benefits include water, medicinal herbs, honey, fuel wood, construction material and fodder. The government recognizes the important role that these benefits play in the livelihoods of forest adjacent communities. However, it is important to note that forest benefits are not limited to forest adjacent communities. For example, some forests are sources of major rivers, which serve populations and are important for economic activities far away from the forests. In order to improve the livelihoods of all communities who depend on forests;

Policy statement 4.3.1: *The Government will encourage sustainable use of forest resources by communities.*

Policy statement 4.3.3: *The traditional interests of local communities customarily resident within or around a forest will be protected.*

Policy statement 4.3.4: *Cultural practices that are compatible with sustainable forest management will be respected.*

4.4 International Obligations

A number of international agreements, protocols, and conventions impact on forestry. These include the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Kenya appreciates their positive impacts on sustainable forestry management and will continue to play an active role in their development and implementation. The global implications of forests should therefore be considered in accordance with the regional and international agreements, conventions, protocols and other instruments in which the country has interest. The positive role of natural forests and plantations as carbon sinks is an added asset for the maintenance and increase of tree cover. To recognise the

multiple roles of forestry and tap further investment in the sector from new international arrangements;

Policy statement 4.4.1: The Government will promote tree planting and land rehabilitation for carbon sequestration.

Policy statement 4.4.2: The Government will explore opportunities available in carbon trade for conservation and management of forests.

Policy statement 4.4.3: The Government will endeavour to domesticate as appropriate international forestry related instruments and agreements.

Policy statement 4.4.4: The Government will foster close collaboration with neighbouring countries to ensure sustainable management of cross-border forests.

4.5 Gender and youth Issues

Traditional gender roles have inhibited the participation of women and youth in forestry development. In particular, the role of women and youth in forest and tree resource utilization and management, has not been fully recognised. Initiatives by women and youth have convincingly demonstrated the necessary and potential value of their participation in forestry development, especially at the community level. In order to ensure women and youth are effectively involved in forest management;

Policy statement 4.5.1: More opportunities for women and youth will be enhanced in forest training and education.

Policy statement 4.5.2: The Government will endeavour to deliberately involve women and youth in participatory forest management.

Policy statement 4.5.3: The youth will be encouraged to take on more responsibility in the management of forests to ensure that future generations are catered for when decisions affecting forests are made.

4.6 Non-State Actors

Some Non-State Actors, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), professional associations and the private sector have in-depth experience in forest-related matters. Their experiences will be fully utilized through mechanisms to be jointly developed with the government.

Collaboration between these actors, government agencies, and local authorities will be developed.

Participatory forestry management will be enhanced, by involving concerned non-state actors and local communities in planning and implementation of forest management activities. This approach will be used to plan and implement forestry development plans. To bring on board other stakeholders in forestry management;

Policy statement 4.6.1: The Government will support non-state actors and local communities to undertake forest-related development activities.

4.7 HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has had far reaching impacts on forestry development. The pandemic has caused a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour thereby undermining forestry activities. It has also resulted in a drastic decline in resources, both human and financial leaving less for long-term investment such as tree planting. The increased cost on account of absenteeism and higher bills for treatment results in reduced investment in forestry as more resources are devoted to health care in combating HIV/AIDS.

The fight against HIV/Aids will be mainstreamed in all forest programmes and projects. This will entail an evaluation of how the pandemic will affect the implementation of this policy, for example through labour and skill shortages.

To fight the HIV/Aids pandemic in the forest sector;

Policy statement 4.7.1: Forest programmes and projects will mainstream the fight against HIV/Aids as it impacts on their activities.

Policy statement 4.7.2: Workplace initiatives will be adapted for people with HIV/Aids.