



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

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

**FOREST POLICY, 2014**

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## **FOREWORD**

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

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

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

The forest conservation and management continues to face a number of challenges. Pressure on land and forest resources is unrelenting, whilst funding for the adequate provision of public services is constrained, which has undermined the efforts of forest institutions to operationalise sustainable forest management.

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

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

- a) The enactment of a revised forests law to implement this policy.

- b) The mainstreaming of forest conservation and management into national land use systems.
- c) The clear division of responsibilities between public sector institutions: through the Ministry responsible for forestry to provide an oversight role in national forest policy formulation, and regulatory function of the sector, thereby allowing KFS to focus on the management of forests on public land, and the role of the County governments in implementing national and County forest programmes including the delivery of forest extension services to communities, farmers and private land owners.
- d) The devolution of community forest conservation and management, implementation of national forest policies and strategies the County government and the deepening of community participation in forest through the strengthening of community forestry associations, and the introduction of benefit-sharing arrangements.
- e) The preparation of a national strategy to increase and maintain forest and tree cover to at least 10% of the total land area and for the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, and the establishment of a national forest resource monitoring system. A *State of the Forest* report will be published on a regular basis.
- f) The adoption of an ecosystem approach for the management of forests, and recognition of customary rights and user rights to support sustainable forest management and conservation.
- g) The establishment of national programmes to support community forest management and afforestation/reforestation on community and private land.
- h) The preparation of national standards for forest management and utilization, and the development of codes of conduct for professional forestry associations.
- i) The introduction of a chain-of-custody system for timber and wood products, and legal origin and compliance certificates for exporters of timber and wood products.

Formulating a Policy is insufficient, on its own to bring about the envisaged forestry reforms. There is a need for commitment from all citizens for the reforms to be implemented and the necessary institutional changes carried through with success. The National Government and County governments has to play their its part, and will be judged on ability to provide an enabling policy environment, an effective public forest management and extension service, forestry research and to allocation of funding to the sector. Participation of stakeholders will continue to be sought through regular consultation and discussions, as we strive together to attain the most efficient, sustainable and equitable use of our forest resources.

**PROF. JUDI W. WAKHUNGU**

**CABINET SECRETARY**

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

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.1 Kenya is endowed with an array of natural resources and ecosystems, and due to its species' richness, endemism and ecosystem diversity, it is classified as a mega-diverse country under the Convention on Biological Diversity. A number of factors have combined to make Kenya so rich biologically. These include variability in climate, topography, ecosystem diversity and habitats, which range from mountain to semi-arid and arid areas to marine and freshwater. Each of these ecosystems requires different conservation priorities and measures.
- 1.1.2 Forestry plays critical ecological functions that are important for the interconnected web of life supporting systems. Significantly, the majority of state forests are located in the country's major water towers. Forestry resources also have socio-cultural and aesthetic values. Forest resources contribute directly and indirectly to the local and national economy through revenue generation and wealth creation. In addition, forest resources provide important environmental goods and services for the livelihood of the people and productive sectors particularly agriculture, fishing, livestock, water, energy, trade and industry.
- 1.1.3 However, both poor economic performance and periods of unsustainable growth have affected the state of the country's forests and the livelihoods of those who depend upon them. High rates of population growth, unsustainable consumption and production patterns and poverty have been contributing factors. A major consequence has been the loss of forest cover and biodiversity. The drivers of change include poor governance in the wider economy as well as the forest sector, inadequate policies, weak institutions, a low level of effective civil society and community participation, and poor public service delivery. *The task is to mainstream forestry into the wider economic policies and programmes of the country, to improve governance, to restore and increase forest cover, in order to ensure that sector can contribute to sustainable resource use, growth and employment.*
- 1.1.4 The challenge is to combine power of the market – whether for timber, charcoal or for other forest goods and services – to create income and employment, with embedded values of Kenyan society such as equality of opportunity, fairness, and social justice.
- 1.1.5 The level of public funding for the sector is also part of the larger public spending debate; the public policy framework is as important as direct government funding to attract private investment for forest-related activities. The emerging global environmental concerns about climate change and biodiversity loss, have enhanced the appreciation of the role of forestry in both climate change mitigation (through forest restoration) and adaptation strategies (through afforestation and reforestation programmes), and the concomitant need for new innovative national and international funding mechanisms.
- 1.1.6 The aim of the National Forest Policy is, therefore, to provide a participatory framework for improved governance and the mainstreaming of forest resource conservation, management and sustainable utilization into broader sectoral, as well as regional and international cooperation policies and programmes, in order that the country can meet its growth and poverty targets as set out in *Kenya Vision 2030*.

## **1.2 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

- 1.2.1 In the colonial period large areas of the country's indigenous hardwood forests were cleared. Although attempts were made to grow indigenous trees in plantations, it was found that they took too long to mature in comparison with exotic tree species. Consequently, large areas of indigenous and bamboo forest were cleared and replaced with pine, cypress and eucalyptus plantations. In the post-independence period additional large areas of indigenous forest were allocated to farmers and communities for subsistence and cash crops (such as tea) and livestock grazing. Other areas were lost due to illegal excisions. The unequal pattern of land ownership and the expansion of agriculture into marginal areas and forests have been among the major driving forces behind land and natural resource degradation, and the loss of large areas of water catchment and wildlife habitat.
- 1.2.2 Land is one of the most important and contested resources in the country. Many land use changes have resulted in conflict, and illegal allocation and insecure property rights have impacted negatively upon the forest sector contributing to deforestation and forest land degradation. Forest lands provide an important resource base for rural people's livelihoods. However, rapidly increasing populations, poverty, demand for fuel wood and grazing have put pressure on land forcing large segments of the rural poor to resort to poor land use practices.

## **1.3 CURRENT POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

- 1.3.1 The last authoritative statement of Kenya's forest policy is contained in Sessional Paper No.1 of 1968. This is now viewed as taking a restrictive approach in which the government assumed full management responsibility of gazetted forest reserves, and which did not allow the participation of the private sector and communities in forest management. Moreover, the policy did not allow the then Forest Department to manage resources outside gazetted forests. Since then wide-ranging structural changes have taken place in the country and the forest sector. These were reflected in the Kenya Forestry Master Plan, formulated in the early 1990s, which in turn guided the preparation of the Forests Bill and draft Forest policy in 2005.
- 1.3.2 Although the bill and draft policy were prepared together, only the bill was presented to Parliament. Consequently, the country has legislation on forestry without an approved enabling policy. The act was formally gazetted in February 2007.
- 1.3.3 The Forests Act 2005 contains many innovative provisions to correct previous shortcomings, including a strong emphasis on partnerships, the engagement of local communities, and promotion of private investment. In addition, the Act provides for management of tree resources outside gazetted forests. Forest community associations are recognized as partners in forest management, and concessioning is introduced. The Act provided also for the transformation of the Forest Department into the semi-autonomous government agency, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS).

## **1.4 JUSTIFICATION AND RATIONALE**

- 1.4.1 A number of factors have necessitated a new Forest Policy including, above all, the promulgation of the new Constitution. The Constitution is based upon a set of national values, such as integrity, good governance, sustainable development, and social justice, and the bill of the rights of all citizens. The Constitution also introduces a two-tier system of government and the decentralization of services.
- 1.4.2 A new forest policy and accompanying revised Forests legislation need to be aligned with the Constitution. It must be harmonized with Kenya Vision 2030, the framework land and environmental policies and law, transition to devolved government and other natural resource policies. The forest policy needs to strengthen governance, public participation and to mainstream the forest sector.

## **1.5 THE FORMULATION PROCESS**

- 1.5.1 In developing this Policy, the Ministry pursued a consultative approach that involved a series of discussions and workshops in order to reach a consensus on a number of issues and themes:
- (a) the identification of key areas and issues in the Constitution against which the Policy must be aligned
  - (b) the definition of the Policy Goal and the Objectives for national forest management and conservation;
  - (c) the determination of synergies and areas of complementarity with other relevant sectoral policies to ensure consideration of cross-cutting issues; and
  - (d) The identification of relevant national, regional and international policies and laws in order to incorporate them in the revised policy.

## **2. KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- 2.1.1 Key issues and challenges facing the forest sector include:

- (a) **Mainstreaming the forest sector:** The multi-functionality of forest resources in economic development is increasingly recognized, not least in strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nonetheless, given the competing challenges such as poverty, health care and education in the country, the forest sector tends to be a low priority in terms of budgetary allocations. It is important to continue to demonstrate the significance of the sector and its role in supporting the economy, to prioritise funding for the rehabilitation of degraded public forests and water towers, and to strive to improve sectoral coordination in policies and programmes for economic and social development. It is imperative to address cross-cutting issues, such as gender, equality, and marginalized groups in the sector, and implement affirmative action programmes to ensure inclusion, participation and access.

- (b) **Improving forest governance:** The sector has been characterized by ineffective regulatory mechanisms and inadequate law enforcement, resulting in mismanagement of forests in gazetted and other public forest lands, and widespread illegal logging and harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFP). It is therefore imperative that governance issues are highlighted in policy and institutional reform processes.
- (c) **Implementing policy and institutional reforms:** The lack of comprehensive forest management plans in many forests and slow pace of their implementation where available, is a major challenge for forest management and conservation. This can be attributed to inadequate resources for their implementation and weak monitoring framework for their implementation..
- (d) **Valuation of environmental goods and services:** The undervaluation of forest resources has been a key factor in their unsustainable use. Forest ecosystems provide regulatory services (water flow, biodiversity), provision services (timber, fuel wood, NTFPs), cultural services (aesthetic, recreational and spiritual values and uses), and supporting services (primary production, nutrient cycling). The national accounting system fails to reflect the value of the goods and services that forestry provides to the wider economy, in particular to agriculture, tourism, energy and water which contribute above 40% of GDP. The conservation and good management of forests requires that markets for the payments of environmental services are established.
- (e) **Climate change:** Globally and nationally the climate is changing, and this is having a direct impact on forest resources and ecosystems and on people and their livelihoods - through flooding, landslides, and drought. Forestry can play an important role in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and towards green growth. However, there is at present inadequate data and a lack of research on the impacts of climate change on forest resources and biodiversity, and there is a need to strengthen the institutional linkages between research centers, universities and the public forest agencies
- (f) **Public participation:** Education and public awareness need to be strengthened in order that public participation in decision-making processes at all levels is more effective. An open society depends on the provision and sharing of information, which is a pre-requisite for democratic sustainable development. It is important that education in forest-related issues and public awareness is enhanced, and that there is greater public disclosure of policies, programmes and forest management plans.
- (g) **Insufficient scientific information:** The sustainable development of forest resources depends on the generation, development and transfer of technologies. Accurate scientific information is critical for informed decision-making by all stakeholders. Investment in forestry research, training and education needs to be given a higher priority, and linkages between research institutions, universities and other higher education centers, forest institutions, civil society and the private sector need to be strengthened.
- (h) **Inadequate Incentives:** Currently, there are inadequate incentives to motivate land owners, farmers, the private sector and community groups to adopt land use practices that are compatible with forestry. It is imperative that forest



rights, customary tenure and practices are recognised and that financial mechanisms and fiscal and non-fiscal incentives are put in place.

### **3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES**

3.1.1 The following principles and values are the foundation of this Policy:

- (a) Forests are an important **national asset of common concern**, as well as public asset at local, regional, and global levels.
- (b) An integrated **‘ecosystem’ approach** to conserving and managing forest resources will be adopted and enhanced to ensure that efforts to increase forest and tree cover are undertaken within the broad regional, national and county land use and development plans, respectively.
- (c) Forest resources will be utilized in a manner that does not compromise the quality and value of the resource, or degrade supporting ecosystems, in accordance with the **principle of sustainable use**.
- (d) The principles of **good governance**, the rule of law, effective institutions, transparency and accountability, professional ethics, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and the meaningful participation of citizens will be integrated in forest conservation and management.
- (e) **Total economic value**: integrating the benefits that forest resources generate into the national accounting system, programmes and projects.
- (f) A **coordinated and participatory approach** to forest conservation and management will be enhanced to ensure that the relevant government agencies, county governments, private sector, civil society and communities are involved in planning, implementation and decision making processes, while respecting the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the various government agencies and the rights of communities and individual landowners.
- (g) The **Principle of Subsidiarity**: The management of forest resources will be through the decentralization and devolution of authority and responsibilities to the lowest level possible.
- (h) The **Precautionary Principle**: where there are credible threats of serious or irreversible damage to forest resources, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.
- (i) The **Polluter and User Pays Principle**: The polluter and user of forest resources shall be responsible for paying for the full environmental and social costs of the damage done to the natural environment as a result of their activities.

- (j) **Inter-and intra-generational equity:** the conservation, management and utilization of forest resources by the present generation will maintain or enhance the health, diversity and productivity of those resources for future generations; and at the same time all those in the present generation have the right to benefit equally from the exploitation of forest resources, and enjoy an equal entitlement to them.
- (k) Benefits accruing from forest conservation, management and **sustainable utilisation of forest and genetic resources will be shared equitably** among stakeholders.
- (l) Access to information and a sense of shared responsibility by all persons will be cultivated in order to enhance **effective forest conservation and management.**
- (m) **Scientific knowledge and expertise, professionalism and international best practice** will form the cornerstone of forest conservation and management planning, implementation and decision making processes, and forest research, training and education will be promoted.
- (n) **Indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights** embodied in forest biodiversity and genetic resources will be harnessed and protected.
- (o) **International and regional cooperation:** *relevant provisions of* multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other regional instruments will form part of the policy and legal frameworks for forest conservation and management

## **4. POLICY GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

### **4.1 OVERALL GOAL OF THE POLICY**

The overall goal of this Policy is to:

**Improve the well-being of present and future generations, through the conservation, sustainable management and utilisation of forest resources.**

### **4.2 OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

4.2.1 The objectives of this Policy are to:

- (a) Establish better governance across the sector, built upon the devolution of forest conservation and management, and supported by a regulatory and compliance framework.

- (b) Create and support a framework for collaborative forest management, the restoration of degraded forests and the monitoring of forest resources
- (c) Recognize customary and forest user rights, and establish a range of benefit-sharing arrangements in support of improved livelihoods.
- (d) Increase and maintain tree and forest cover for national development through the recognition of forestry as a viable land use option.
- (e) Support forestry on community and private land.
- (f) Encourage public-private partnerships for commercial plantations on public land, and support forest-based industrial development.
- (g) Support tree and forest development by County governments
- (h) Recognize and support private land owners' efforts to manage forest and tree resources.
- (i) Intensify support to forestry research, education, communication and public awareness
- (j) Mainstream cross cutting development issues in the sector
- (k) Support for enhanced regional and international cooperation
- (l) Support for enhanced sectoral, regional and international cooperation

#### **OBJECTIVE ONE:**

**Establish better governance across the sector, built upon the devolution of forest conservation and management, supported by a regulatory and compliance framework, and partnerships.**

#### **Strategies:**

The National Government will:

1. Revise legislation for conservation and management of forests in consultation with county Governments, leading stakeholders and the public.
2. Introduce subsidiary legislation to support the implementation of the Forest (Conservation and Management) Act.
3. Ministry responsible for forestry to provide an oversight role in national forest policy formulation and to monitor the implementation of the Policy.
4. Strengthen the capacity of the County governments to expedite the delivery of forest extension services to community and private land users, management and conservations of forests in community.
5. Support forest associations on community and public land to manage forest resources, and community self-governance.
6. Encourage professionals' forestry associations to develop codes of conduct to regulate their members and forestry practice.

7. Establish mechanisms for building partnerships as well as cross and inter-sectoral coordination between government agencies, communities, and the private sector, and non-state organizations, for improved forest sector planning, implementation and oversight.
8. Establish and maintain a Forest Resource Account for inclusion in the System of National Accounts.
9. Domesticating environmental and other sectoral policies in order to achieve the national development objectives.

## **OBJECTIVE TWO:**

**Create and support a framework for collaborative forest management, the restoration of degraded forests and the monitoring of forest resources.**

### **Strategies:**

The National and County Government in collaboration with stakeholders, will:

1. Adopt an eco-system approach for the management of all forests.
2. Establish memoranda of understanding and other agreements between the lead government agencies for the management of forest resources on public land where there are overlapping mandates and responsibilities.
3. Develop and implement a national strategy for the rehabilitation, restoration and protection of degraded forest ecosystems, not least indigenous forests, and forests located in water catchment areas.
4. Undertake to conserve and manage all reserved forests and forest resources on public land in accordance with management plans, prepared in collaboration with lead government agencies, County governments, forest communities and civil society.
5. Introduce national standards for forest conservation, management and utilisation.
6. Promote participatory community co-management of forests on public land, and encourage investment and public-private partnerships through concessions.
7. Establish a system for monitoring, reporting and verification of land use change and for continuous forest resource assessments.
8. Publish an annual State of the Forest report.

## **OBJECTIVE THREE:**

**Recognize customary and forest user rights, and establish a range of benefit-sharing arrangements in support of improved livelihoods.**

### **Strategies:**

The Government will:

1. Recognize and protect the customary rights of indigenous peoples and communities resident within or adjacent to forests.
2. Respect cultural practices that are compatible with agreed principles of sustainable forest management.
3. Encourage the preparation of participatory forest management plans with community forestry associations on public land, and determine the user rights specific to the availability of forest resources.
4. Recognize the right to “*free, prior, informed consent*” of stakeholders in the approval of forest management plans.
5. Recognize the right of communities to manage forests and forest resources on community land.
6. Introduce benefit sharing arrangements in forest management agreements and forest licences.
7. Establish a programme for the payment of environmental services, including carbon, derived from forests.

#### **OBJECTIVE FOUR:**

**Increase and maintain tree and forest cover for national development through the recognition of forestry as a viable land use option.**

##### **Strategies:**

The Government, in collaboration with stakeholders, will:

1. Formulate a strategy to increase and maintain forest and tree cover to at least 10% of the total land area.
2. Recognize and support forestry as a land use option for communities, farmers and private land owners.
3. Encourage landowners to enter into forest out-grower schemes by ensuring a conducive investment and business environment.
4. Establish a national community forest programme to assist communities prepare and implement management plans.
5. Establish a national afforestation and reforestation programme for tree planting on community and private land respectively.
6. Provide fiscal incentives to landowners, and encourage voluntary conservation easements.
7. Develop a forest emissions reference baseline, and a national forest monitoring system, for the generation and sale of forest carbon emission rights.
8. Provide adequate resources for forest management and conservation and tree planting through the annual Government budgetary allocation to the sector.

## **OBJECTIVE FIVE:**

### **Support forestry on community and private land**

#### **Strategies:**

The Government, in collaboration with stakeholders, will:

1. Assist farmers, communities and private investors to conserve, establish and manage forests and trees through the provision of information, education and training through adequately funded extension and research services.
2. Support the establishment of small-and medium sized forest-based enterprises, and ensure competitive markets for processing, pricing and marketing of farm forestry products and the provision of planting materials.
3. Encourage and support communities, farmers and landowners to sustainably manage natural and riverine forests in the farmlands, particularly for water, biodiversity and soil conservation.
4. Support the rehabilitation of degraded and over-exploited dry forest areas, and encourage tree planting in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS).
5. Support community forest management approaches to manage dryland forests for the sustainable production of wood and non-wood forest products.
6. Support the production of charcoal on a sustainable basis.
7. Support the development of rangeland and dryland silvicultural systems in the ASALs including the provision livestock and wildlife drought sanctuaries in the management of dryland forests.

## **OBJECTIVE SIX:**

### **Encourage public-private partnerships for commercial plantations on public land, and support forest-based industrial development.**

#### **Strategies:**

The Government, in collaboration with stakeholders and in order, will:

1. Encourage private sector participation in the establishment and management of forest plantations on public and community through the granting of concessions on a competitive basis.
2. Verify the performance and compliance of concessionaires with agreed management plans and best silvicultural practice.
3. Ensure that prices of plantation timber from forests on public land are based on market prices

4. Promote agreements between forest communities and concessionaires to enhance income generation, job opportunities and improved livelihoods.
5. Develop and implement a national chain-of-custody system to track the movement of logs and timber products, including imports and exports.
6. Intensify efforts to support an efficient forest-based industrial development, promote value addition in production of timber and wood products, and encourage forest-based industries to manufacture diverse range of finished products for local and export markets.
7. Encourage the adoption of legal origin and compliance certificates by the private sector, and labeling of forest products for local and export markets.
8. Encourage species diversification through consideration of indigenous and well screened exotic tree species to meet requirements of the market.

## **OBJECTIVE SEVEN:**

### **Support tree and forest development by County governments**

#### **Strategies:**

The National Government will assist County governments to:

1. Provide forestry extensions services to farmers, communities and private land owners.
2. Implement national community management, afforestation/reforestation programmes, and similar forest development initiatives.
3. Establish representative bodies to advice on the management, conservation and utilisation of forests and forest resources in community lands.
4. Establish and maintain arboreta, city-forests or recreational parks in urban areas for aesthetic and recreational uses.
5. Provide technical assistance to assist private developers to establish green zones within housing estates and commercial, office and other urban centres.

## **OBJECTIVE EIGHT:**

### **Recognize and support private land owners' efforts to manage forest and tree resources.**

#### **Strategies:**

The Government, in collaboration with private sector stakeholders, will:

1. Promote the establishment and sustainable management of private forests.
2. Provide forest product market information to private forest owners.
3. Provide incentives that encourage investment in private forests, including

afforestation and reforestation incentives, support to marketing of forest products and services through value addition.

4. Provide technical advice to private forest owners on appropriate forestry practices.

## **OBJECTIVE NINE:**

### **Intensify support to forestry research, education, communication and public awareness**

#### **Strategies:**

The Government will:

1. Support and strengthen technical colleges and university departments to facilitate the development of requisite professional, technical and managerial skills for forest managers in the public and private sector and non-state organizations.
2. Establish a forest education and training advisory body to monitor, evaluate and advise on current and future needs and review education curricula.
3. Support forestry research institutions, and review and update as necessary research programmes.
4. Develop mechanisms to link forest research to users, and encourage private sector and community participation.
5. Enhance and promote networking between forest education and research centres at the national, regional and international levels.
6. Support public awareness campaigns with regard to forest management and conservation, and tree planting.
7. Strengthen the institutional capacity for the acquisition, packaging and dissemination of forest information, in particular through electronic media.
8. Encourage professional forestry associations to support their members' capacity and to regulate forest professionals.

## **OBJECTIVE TEN:**

### **Mainstream cross cutting development issues in the sector**

#### **Strategies:**

The Government, in collaboration with stakeholders, will:

1. Mainstream cross-cutting development issues (gender, youth, marginalized groups) into forest management and conservation.
2. Recognize explicitly cross-cutting issues in developing and implementing national forest strategies, programmes and plans.
3. Provide more opportunities, and incentives, for women to enter into forest training and education and also careers and occupations.
4. Ensure wider youth participation in all public forest-related representative bodies at



- all levels, and develop and implement a Youth and Forest Development Strategy
5. Ensure gender equity in all public forest-related representative bodies at all levels, and develop and implement a Gender and Forest Development Strategy.

#### **OBJECTIVE ELEVEN:**

#### **Support for enhanced sectoral, regional and international cooperation**

##### **Strategies:**

The Government will:

1. Establish a coordination mechanism to ensure cross-sectoral linkages and effective domestication, monitoring and reporting of forest-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) and regional agreements.
2. Support the harmonization of regional forest resource policies, including climate change , Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and trade policies.
3. Promote the establishment of trans-boundary forest resource management agreements.
4. Mobilize resources from multilateral development agencies, development partners, private sector, and foundations to support forest conservation and management.

### **5. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

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

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

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