

**NATIONAL REPORT TO THE THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM
ON FORESTS**

KENYA

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11 Progress and Issues Related to Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action,

GENERAL

Assessment of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The country has developed criteria and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management with the support of FAO (May 2002). The Criteria developed for the country are;

1. Maintenance and improvement of forest resource
2. Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in forest ecosystem
3. Maintenance of forest ecosystem, health, vitality and integrity
4. Production functions of forests
5. Maintenance and protection functions
6. Maintenance and enhancement of social-economic benefits
7. Adequacy of legal, institutional and policy framework of sustainable forest management

FOREST CERTIFICATION

The country participated in a regional workshop on development of capacity building strategies in forest certification in East Africa(May 2002). The participating countries were Kenya, Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania and Somaliland.

The Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCL) based in Kenya was chosen as the regional focal point on forest certification. As the concept is new in the region, as a first step, a one-year action plan was drawn up whose goal is to contribute to sustainable management of forest resources in the Eastern Africa region through forest certification with the task of ;

- a) Sensitizing stakeholders on forest certification.
- b) Imparting of skills and knowledge on forest certification
- c) Strengthening national focal points institutions in the region and
- d) Further the networking and collaboration among key actors.

REVISION OF FOREST POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The new forest Policy and Legislation has gone through major development and is awaiting publishing for legislative debate The major improvement in the forest policy concern;

- Acquisition of public forest lands including alteration of boundaries
- Community participation in forest management
- Formation of forest conservation committees from the District to the national level to advise on forestry issues
- Marketing and other incentive schemes for private forestry owners through creation of a special forestry Development fund
- Arrangements for stakeholders involvement in management through lease and other negotiations
- Introduction of users pays principle to beneficiaries of forest products and services

- Application of Environmental Impact Assessment as provided for in the Environment Management and Coordination Act to control major changes including change in land use.
- Recognition of benefits other than timber.

FOREST OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA

The country prepared a report for this study outlining issues in forestry sector and related inter-linkage with other sectors of the economy and participated in the regional meetings at which the issues were discussed.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

A 25-year strategic management plan for the Arabuko Sokoke forest and a management plan for Mt. Elgon forest has been finalized. To enhance conservation and management of the forest resources, participatory forest management plans are being prepared for Rumuruti and Kakamega forests. Emphasis is now involvement of adjacent forest communities in their preparation. A number of environmental organizations through our development partners have greatly assisted in their preparation.

NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES

The National Environment and Management Act is the umbrella environmental law which covers forestry as well. An important provision in this Act is Environmental Impact Assessment for any undertaking that has effect on the environment. It provides for enforcement of action for sound environmental management.

The Forestry Policy and Legislation soon to be finalised have taken consideration of emerging issues since the RIO conference and the recently concluded Johannesburg Summit 2002.

STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION

The new forest policy emphasizes the involvement of various stakeholders in natural resource management.

There is particular consideration for the formation of forest community associations which will be recognized as partners in management. Commercial plantations will be open to lease arrangements by interested groups to supplement government efforts. This will improve the productivity of the plantations to increase availability of timber and other products/ services to the country and for export.

Forest conservation committees will be formed from the local level upwards involving stakeholders in decision making on forestry issues.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF FORESTS INCLUDING VALUATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

For a long time the forestry sector has received little attention as exemplified by the low budgetary allocations which cannot suffice for effective management. The true contribution of the forestry sector has not been fully acknowledged. This was identified as crucial during the development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in Kenya.

In order to sensitise decisions makers and other stakeholders on the significance of the forestry sector, an assessment of their true value is urgently required for adequate allocation of resources. This will raise public concern for sustainable forest management.

The new legislation will improve the planning in the forestry sector and attract additional resources to the sector.

DATA ON INFORMATION ON PRICES AND MARKET FOR FOREST PRODUCTS;

As of now the department still relies on traditional data collection. An attempt made in institutional strengthening which included the creation of a forest planning unit was not completed. A computerized network with key stakeholders would improve this through financial and technical support which should include capacity building to handle the added responsibilities.

In order to control illegal trade and unauthorized acquisition of forest products from the government and private forests, the country has introduced documentation to certify the origin of materials before issuance of movement permits.

On the export and import of timber the points of entry into the country are involved in verification of timber sources.

Full – Cost Internalization Of Wood and Non-Wood Forest Products And Services

An attempt was made to lower import duty on timber in the 2002/2003 budget although this was withdrawn soon after.

The new forest policy and legislation provide the opportunity to apply new strategies to improve on forest revenue collection systems.

MARKET AND TRADE IN FOREST PRODUCTS:

Currently the country imports some timber from the neighboring COMESA countries to meet the shortfall in local production. Improved management of the plantations and private forestry development should ensure the timber deficit is minimized.

FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

Reduction in air pollution

The newly enacted Environmental Management and Coordination Act stipulates levels of accepted standards in emissions. When fully operational, this will control the emission of harmful pollutants. Currently the country is not at the levels of pollution in a number of other countries but nonetheless cannot wait to reach the non-return levels.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON AIR POLLUTION:

- The country has initiated negotiations with its partners in the East African community to share knowledge and information on air pollution, through trans-boundary Air pollution monitoring,
- An international observatory center has been established on Mt. Kenya to monitor pollution levels in the country.

MAINTAINING FOREST COVER TO MEET PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

To meet the long-term trends in supply and demand for wood , the country:

- Encourages on-farm tree planting through its extension services and NGOs support
- Proposes maintenance of the area of forest estate for continued provision of forest goods and services.
- Proposes incentives for private tree farming including tax rebates.
- Proposes leasing of public forest land and community participation in forest management
- Has initiated pilot projects on energy saving technologies, efficient charcoal production methods, and on-farm tree planting (e.g Integrated Natural Resources Project on Natural Forest Conservation)
- Proposes marketing strategies through information flow to encourage on-farm tree planting as an economic entity.

RECOGNITION OF FULL FOREST VALUES

The new forest policy and legislation recognizes the diverse tangible and intangible forest benefits. Non wood forest products will be emphasized as they had earlier been considered as minor products and yet have significant economic values.

In recognition of the environment and biodiversity loss the country in its 2001/2007 national Development Plan details government commitment to integrate environmental considerations into development programmes and projects.

The country has developed sector specific policy instruments to halt biodiversity loss as follows;

- National biodiversity strategy and action plan . This policy emphasizes equitable benefit sharing, intellectual property rights and recognizes indigenous knowledge. Steps will be taken to promote initiatives for sustainable use of biodiversity, including non-timber forest products For increased participation in biodiversity conservation, the country will create awareness at all levels on the importance of biodiversity conservation, including the social, cultural and economic values.
- National action programme to combat desertification to combat desertification: Two thirds of the country is categorized as arid or semi-arid. These are the only remaining expansion areas for the growing population which is shifting from the high potential lands. Improper farming practices imported from the high potential lands lead to land degradation and severe biodiversity loss. Pilot projects are therefore being initiated in these semi-arid lands to promote better farming practices and improve environmental conservation.

The recognition of community participation and the formation of forest association to improve stakeholder involvement in forestry management is a deviation from past practice of the government being the only manager of the national forests.

NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

An assessment has been carried out on non-wood forest products in collaboration with institutions like Kenya forestry research institute which shows the diverse products available particularly in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALS).

The study reveals that;

- There is need to deliberately support non-wood forest products development as brought clearly in the new forestry policy and legislation
- Awareness creation on the role of Non-wood forest products improvisation of added benefits which will lead to sustainable forest management
- In number of these products can be domesticated on the farm.
- Training in harvesting encourages sustainable production
- Through standardization and certification, the marketing of these products will be eased and increase returns.

111 PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

The National Environment and Management Authority which has been the lead agency in the preparation for the World Summit in Johannesburg provided documentation on the country reports and the discussion outcomes as they affect the forestry sector. This institution was consulted on doubtful issues. This report takes cognizance of earlier report submitted to the 9th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development and has therefore not repeated issues whose status has not changed.