

# REDD+ in Kenya

Various government sectors, NGOs, forest communities including IPs and the private sector.

- A national Steering Committee is in the process of being established.
- Conducted a multi stakeholder national level consultation with the aim of sensitizing the relevant stakeholders on REDD and the R-PP process and to solicit their views on how best to formulate and implement the R-PP in an inclusive transparent and accountable manner.

- Prepared a consultation plan for the regional consultations with targeted stakeholder groups (IPs Private Sector, Public Institutions etc) within the 10 forest conservancy areas.
- The phase one regional consultations will be conducted between February 15 through end of March 2010

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS & IDEAS TO:-**

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## Information Brief

Country Context: The State of Kenya Forestry Sector:

Kenya's economy has a very strong dependence on the natural environment and in particular, forestry resources. Forestry underpins most sectors, including agriculture, horticulture, tourism, wildlife, and the energy. In some rural areas, for instance, the forests contribute over 75% of the cash income and provide almost all of household's energy requirements.

### Why Forests Are Important?

Forests are very important in the lives of Kenyans because they:

- Catch, store and release water, essential for human and wildlife, agriculture and industry.
- Help protect and enrich soils, and reduce the severity of floods and landslides.
- Moderate climate and help slow down human induced climate change such as global warming.
- Protect biodiversity and shelter at least half of the world's known plant and animal species. This is a genetic resource of unknown value that could advance medicine, food production and materials development. Many pollinator and predators of agricultural pests inhabit forest at some point in their life cycles.
- Provide local communities with building materials, fodder, firewood, fruits, gum and resins, medicine and sacred sites.
- Reduce poverty by providing forest related activities and employment to local communities.
- Provide food security through use of non wood forest product (wild fruits, meat, vegetables, herbal medicine etc)

- Provide wood including timber, poles and paper
- Support the agriculture, energy, and tourism sectors

Forest and Climate Change: There is growing recognition within the international community that deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries play a significant role in Climate change. Forests are responsible for about 20% of global warming. When trees are growing they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere but when they are destroyed, they release all the carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere, causing global warming.



Although Kenya is classified as a low forest cover country nevertheless; it loses about 54,000 hectares of forest cover every year. The major reasons for this loss are: conversion of forest land to agriculture and other uses, illegal logging, charcoal burning, forest fires and shifting cultivation. Loss of forest is severe in both the major water towers and the Arid and Semi Arid zones, where charcoal burning is rampant. If the country has to positively contribute to global climate change efforts, it is important that these causes are adequately addressed through interventions that provide for continued delivery of livelihood means while also securing our valued forest resources.

Vision 2030, the country's economic blueprint, identifies forestry as one of the key drivers of the economy through its support to the primary sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, tourism and energy. Under this vision, the country aims to protect the five water towers (Mt. Kenya, Aberdares, Mau, Cherangani and Mt. Elgon) and increase the forest cover to 10% through an aggressive afforestation, reforestation and restoration programs. In addition, the country is addressing climate change through the development of a National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS). This strategy provides a framework for re-orienting national programmes towards a low carbon development pathway. NCCRS has identified the forestry sector as a strong vehicle for supporting this effort.



What is REDD+?

REDD+ is an abbreviation for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest carbon stocks in Developing Countries. The basic idea in REDD+ is that tropical developing countries like Kenya, will be encouraged through incentives to: reduce the rate of deforestation and forest degradation; conserve their forests through sustainable management; and to increase areas under forest cover.

#### Impacts of Climate Change in Kenya:

- Water scarcity
- Food insecurity
- increased health incidences
- increased conflicts over pasture and water
- disintegration of cultures
- high costs of energy
- rural-urban migration
- increased insecurity
- increased poverty levels



#### How will Kenya save its forests through the REDD+ program?

Kenya plans to save its forests through the REDD+ program by:

- Preventing further conversion of forest lands to other uses and reclaiming degraded forest areas.
- Protecting important water catchment and enhancing their sustainable management.
- Promoting energy conservation technologies to reduce fuel-wood consumption.
- Building the capacities of local communities to enable them to participate in forest management and conservation activities.
- Strengthening and empowering institutions through capacity enhancement for sustainable forest management.
- Promoting nature based micro enterprises.
- Monitoring the status of our forest through ground and aerial surveys and make strategic responses to forest crisis as they occur.
- Partnering with local national and international organizations to promote sustainable management and conservation.
- Implementing major social mobilization and awareness campaigns.
- Increasing afforestation and reforestation to reduce the current national timber deficit.
- Improving on fire monitoring and management.
- Provision of incentives, particularly payment for environmental services and tax holidays / tax rebates.

#### REDD+ implementation will impact positively on the following key economic sectors :

- *Forestry sector*
- *Energy sector including the charcoal industry*
- *Land Sector especially on the rights of indigenous and forest dwelling communities*
- *Agriculture Sector*
- *Livelihoods for a cross section of Kenyans especially forest dwelling and forest dependent communities.*

#### What is Kenya Currently Doing to Support REDD+ Program?

Kenya is currently participating in a program called Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) housed in the World Bank. This program will assist the country in developing a national strategy for REDD+ implementation and it consists of two phases:

##### Phase One:

Formulation of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP)

The Readiness Preparation Proposal provides a road map for taking stock of the current situation with regards to deforestation and forest degradation, and provides an overview of how the country intends to address this. The R-PP proposes work to be undertaken and funded to prepare the following core components of 'REDD+ readiness':

- An assessment of the situation with respect to deforestation forest degradation, and relevant governance issues;
- REDD+ strategy options (a set of actions to reduce deforestation and/or forest degradation),
- A REDD+ institutional and legal implementation framework necessary to realize these options;
- A monitoring system to measure, report and verify (MRV) the effect of the REDD+ strategies.
- A multi stakeholder consultation and participant plan outlining the participation and inclusion of relevant stakeholders in the planning and decision making process of REDD+

##### Phase two:

This phase consists of the implementation of the various activities outlined in the R-PP and this will involve the development of: (i) a national REDD+ strategy, (ii) a reference scenario, and (iii) an effective monitoring verification and reporting system to measure performance of activities to reduce emissions

#### Why the Need for Consultation and Participation of Stakeholders?

REDD+ is to be implemented in a multi-sectoral and integrated manner as many of the drivers of deforestation are outside of the forest sector. Interventions.

That Kenya will design to achieve reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation should

Encourage the active engagement and participation of the key stakeholders (public & private institutions, civil Society, forest dependent Indigenous people (IPs) and other forest communities) in the planning and decision making processes. Multi-stakeholder consultation and participation (C&P) will be emphasised in both phases of the process to enhance transparency, accountability in decision making and good governance.



During the formulation phase, Kenya will submit a detail multi stakeholder consultation, participation and outreach plan, explaining the process for consultation and engagement of relevant stakeholders including IPs and other forest communities. In addition, as part of this initial level consultation, Kenya will consult and analyze the proposed readiness activities/strategies as well as policies to ensure that they lead to positive environment and social impacts.

#### What has Kenya done so far toward advancing REDD+?

Kenya is currently engaged in the preparation of their readiness proposal. In this process Kenya has:

- Established a national REDD+ Secretariat at the Kenya Forest Service (KFS).
- Established a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group (TWG) that includes representatives from

