



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

One People, One Destiny

The governance of the forestry sector in the EAC

The EAC Treaty, Forestry policy and Forestry strategy

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EAC SECRETARIAT



Introduction to EAC

- Regional Economic Community with membership of 7 Partner States



Vision, Mission and Statistics

Vision: Attain prosperous, stable, competitive and Politically United East Africa

Mission: Widen and deepens economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.

Statistics:

- **Total Surface Area:** 4.8 Million Sq.km
- **Population:** 280 Million (2019)
- **GDP Nominal:** 278.1 billions (2019)

EAC REGIONAL INTEGRATION PILLARS

A HIGHLIGHT

CUSTOMS UNION

2005

Enabling the EAC Partner States to enjoy economies of scale, with a view to supporting the process of economic development through the establishment of a Single Customs Territory.

COMMON MARKET

2010

Accelerating economic growth and development while maintaining a liberal stance towards the 5 Freedoms of movement for all factors of production in the region.

MONETARY UNION

2013

Laying the groundwork within a 10-year span, while allowing the EAC Partner States to progressively converge their currencies into a single currency in the Community.

POLITICAL FEDERATION

ONGOING

Putting in place initiatives to fast-track political integration. In May 2017 EAC Heads of State adopted the **Political Confederation** as a transitional model of the East African Political Federation.



Status of the forestry sector in the region

- On average, forests covers about 15.8% of the EAC land surface area.
- The major forest types include tropical and sub-tropical forests (montane and lowland forests), forest plantations, woodlands and mangroves.
- They provide goods and services vital for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development

Main threats:

- *Inadequate administration and governance of forest resources*
- *Inadequate coordination and collaboration in SFM leading to conflicting policies and practices.*
- *Unsustainable utilization and inadequate terms of trade terms*
- *Climate Change*
- *Social factors*

Existing governance framework

- CHAPTER 19 of the Treaty, ARTICLES 111-114: Environmental Issues and Natural Resources Management
 - ✓ Adoption of the common policies, strategies and guidelines
 - ✓ Uniform regulations for the utilization of forestry
 - ✓ Establishments of Api-Agroforestry Practices

- Common Market Protocol (Article 40): The Community to ensure sound environmental and natural resources management

- EAC Forestry Policy, 2022 and Strategy (2022/23-2032/33)
 - Forestry Protection and Conservation (**Article 114-2a of the Treaty**)

 - Transboundary Ecosystem Management Bill 2015 (**Article 112 of the Treaty**)

Vision and Mission of the EAC Forestry Policy

Vision: Well managed forest resources supporting people's livelihoods and contributing to EAC socio-economic development.

Mission: To effectively manage and utilize forest resources for improved ecological, social and economic development

Goal: To contribute to sustainable management, production, investment and trade of forest resources for improved environmental conservation and socio-economic development.

The Forestry Policy (2022)

1. Promote forest governance for environmental, social and economic development
2. Promote and support development and enforcement of harmonized forest policies, laws, regulations and standards on access, benefit sharing, use and trade of forest and tree resources
3. Support adoption of Landscape approach to enhance ecosystems and biodiversity conservation in accordance with regional and international standards.
4. Promote cost effective and innovative research that best responds to current and emerging issues of all key stakeholders involved in forestry

5. Promote access and sharing of forest education and research facilities and information
6. Promote development of efficient, competitive, innovative, value-added forest products and industry for local and international markets
7. Promote agroforestry for wood and food production, soil and water conservation, enhancement of environmental services and incomes of communities.
8. Promote cooperation and management of trans-boundary forest resources
9. Establish and support sustainable financing mechanism for forestry sector development



EAC Forestry Strategy (2022/23-2032/33)

1. Strengthen forest governance and management
 2. Enhance sustainable management of forests and tree resources for enhanced ecological, social and economic benefits
 3. Enhance forest research, innovation, technology transfer and optimal use of forest facilities and information across the region
 4. Promote efficient processing and value addition of forest products
5. Enhance agroforestry for wood, food production, incomes, improved farm productivity, agro-biodiversity and other environmental services
 6. Strengthen sustainable use and management of transboundary forest resources
 7. Promote sustainable financing of the forestry sector

- Promote good governance principles and practices for social, environmental and economic development

1. Enhanced transparency, accountability and equity issues and rule of law in forest management
2. Clear structures that govern forestry sector established
3. Profile of forestry sector raised and recognized as a key contributor to GDP
4. Participatory Forest Management enhanced



Harmonize forest policies, laws, regulations and guidelines implemented

1. Effective legal framework developed and implemented
2. Enforcement of conservation laws and regulations harmonized and evaluated periodically to assess performance
3. Forest laws and regulations of common interest to Partner States ratified
4. Strengthened forest law enforcement and governance in respective countries consistent with prevailing national laws, rules and regulations
5. Established standards on access, benefit sharing, use and trade of forest and tree resources among EAC Partner States

Do you have any Questions?





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