The role of KFS in climate change mitigation and adaptation in Kenya

Rose Akombo
Kenya Forest Service

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Introduction

- **Mandate:** To conserve, develop and sustainably manage forestry resources.

- **Mission:** To enhance conservation and sustainable management of forests and allied resources for environmental stability and socio-economic development.

- **Vision:** To be the leading organization of excellence in sustainable forest management and conservation.
1. *To intensify* conservation and sustainable management of strategic forest resources

2. *To maintain and enhance* productivity of industrial forest plantations and increase efficiency in wood utilization.

3. *To promote* farm and dry land forestry to increase tree cover for sustained production of environmental goods and services.
Strategic Objectives cont.

4. To develop and disseminate technologies in forest management.

5. To enhance revenue generation through sustainable forest based industries, eco-tourism and Payment for environmental services.

6. To improve Institutional capacity and infrastructure through investment, collaboration, training and development.

All the above objectives support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the country.
Forests in Kenya

- Forest cover only 6.9% of the total land area.
- Closed canopy forest (water towers) mainly located in high population density areas.
- The target is to increase the forest cover to 10% by year 2013 through KFS core programme.

Location map of gazetted forests in Kenya
Core Forestry Programmes

- Natural forests
- Forest Plantations
- Drylands
- Farm Forestry
Environmental importance of forests

- Forests acknowledged for:
  - Climate amelioration
  - Provision of wood products
  - Provision of non-wood products
  - Biodiversity reservoirs
  - Soil stabilisation
  - Water catchments
Economic importance of forests

✓ Forestry is an important element of Kenya’s economy.
✓ It contributes 3.6% of the national GDP on an annual basis; more than 70% of national energy supply valued at Ksh 48 billion annually through firewood and charcoal.
✓ It contributes wood for the construction industry valued at Ksh 20 billion annually;
✓ It contributes to value addition in different sectors of the economy: agriculture 8.4%; manufacture of food, beverage and tobacco 5.3%; chemical industry 24.4%; and construction 25.6%.
✓ Mt. Kenya and Aberdares catchments alone support production of 70% of Kenya’s hydropower.
✓ Hydro power constitutes 46% of national electricity or 3,209 million kilowatts of electricity.
Forests and climate change

- Forestry sector is a source of emission of GHGs and therefore a cause of climate change.
- Forests are important storehouses of carbon, provide sinks of carbon dioxide.
- Forests can be a key adaptation strategy especially in areas experiencing reduced rainfall.
- Forests will be a major casualty if climate change is not addressed.
Responding to climate change

How forest management helps tackle climate change

**Carbon sequestration**
through increases in forests and trees and forest carbon stock enhancement

- Afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration
- Increase of tree cover in farming systems (agroforestry), rural landscapes and cities
- Enhancement of carbon stocks and sequestration capacity through management practices

**Forest carbon stocks conservation**
through reduction of deforestation and forest degradation

- Sustainable practices of forest management and use
- Integrated fire management
- Management of forest health and vitality
- Management of forest biodiversity
- Management of protected areas and wildlife

**Strengthening adaptive capacity of trees and forests especially in fragile forest ecosystems**

- Management of forest biodiversity
- Forest health and vitality to reduce vulnerability
- Intensifying fire management systems
- Adaptive management practices

**Strengthening adaptive capacity of forest dependent communities**

- Strengthening coping strategies
- Diversifying forest management-related employment opportunities and livelihoods
- Adaptive land use planning and management

Source: FAO (2010)
REDD+

REDD+ is an acronym for: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, and the role of Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest carbon stocks in Developing Countries.
National goals of REDD+

1. Realization of constitutional and vision 2030 objectives of increasing forest cover to a minimum of 10%;

2. Government efforts in designing policies and measures to protect and improve its remaining forest resources in ways that improve local livelihoods and conserve biodiversity;

3. Realization of the NCCRS goals.

4. Contribution to global climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

5. REDD+ to be implemented through policies and measures
REDD+ Readiness Activities

Phase One: formulation of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP)
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) proposes work to be undertaken and funded to prepare the following:

i. An assessment of the situation with respect to deforestation forest degradation;
ii. REDD+ strategy options to reduce deforestation and/or forest degradation;
iii. A REDD institutional framework necessary to realize these options;
iv. A monitoring system to measure success of proposed REDD+ strategies.
v. A multi stakeholder consultation and participant plan.

Kenya R-PP has been approved for implementation by the Participants Committee of the FCPF
Phase two: RPP Implementation Phase

This phase implements of the various activities outlined in the R-PP and this will involves the development of:

(i) A national REDD+ strategy,
(ii) A Reference Emission Level/ Forest Reference Level or baseline against which REDD+ implementation will be assessed, and
(iii) A Monitoring System to assess performance of activities.

The FCPF, UN-REDD and other development partners in the country are supporting the country in undertaking the activities described above.
Mitigation options under REDD+

- Reduce the rate of **Deforestation and forest Degradation** through reduced forest conversions, efficiency in wood utilization, improved FLEG, Charcoal regulation,

- increasing the forest area through afforestation and reforestation - **Carbon sinks**

- Maintaining carbon density through **Forest conservation and SFM**;

- **Enhance carbon stocks** using longer forest rotations, enrichment planting, fire management, and protection against insect damage;

- Enhancing product substitution using forest-derived biomass to substitute products with high fossil fuel requirements. Use of wood from sustainable sources is considered **Carbon neutral**.
Analytical studies conducted
Examples of climate change initiatives

Kasigau Corridor REDD Project

1. Sequester carbon by protecting threatened forests
2. Save endangered wildlife
3. Improve the quality of life for local communities
Examples of climate change initiatives in Kenya

- The Green Belt Movement coordinating a community based reforestation of 1,800 ha of Mt. Kenya and Aberdares ecosystems.
- Farmers around Mt. Kenya & Laikipia Districts implementing carbon financed reforestation programme.
- Afforestation and reforestation activities in Kikuyu escarpment by a CFA covering 300 ha.
- KFS and partners supporting community afforestation programme of 500 ha in Kakamega forest as a carbon offset project.
- Development of Chyulu hills REDD+ project
- Adaptation projects in Nyeri, Laikipia and Kilifi (FAO support)
Conclusions

- As a Party to the UNFCCC, Kenya has an obligation to conserve and sustainable manage its forests as carbon storehouses.
- Kenya has very good opportunities for sustainably managing and conserving available forest resources and therefore contribute to the global efforts.
- There are opportunities to expand the area under forests through farm forestry and dry land forestry.
- But forests is a major casualty if climate change is not addressed and this would lead to loss of both direct wood benefits and other environmental functions that the forests provide.
Thank you

For more information on REDD+
www.kenyaforestservice.org