



Cross River State Forestry

**Cross River State Validated Forest Policy 2019**

**Cross River State Forestry Commission, Calabar**

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## Acronyms

AAC- Annual Allowable Cut  
ATO- African Timber Organization  
CSOs- Civil Society Organizations  
CBOs- Community Based Organizations  
CDM- Clean Development Mechanism  
CRS- Cross River state  
CRSFC- Cross River State Forestry Commission  
CRNP- Cross River National Park  
FAO- Food and Agricultural Organization  
FR- Forest Reserve  
FREL- Forest Reference Emission Level  
FRIN- Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria  
GDS- Growth Development Strategy  
IUCN- International Union for Conservation of Nature  
ITTO- International Tropical Timber Organization  
ILO- International Labour Organization  
LPG- Liquefied Petroleum Gas  
MDAs- Ministries, Departments and agencies  
NASRDA- National Space Research and Development Agency  
NP- National Park  
NTFPs- Non Timber Forest Products  
NFP- National Forest Programme  
NGOs- Non Governmental Organizations  
NTPC- National Tree Planting Campaign  
PES- Payment for Environmental Services  
REDD- Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation  
SEEDS- State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy  
SFDC- State Forestry Development Committee  
SFM- Sustainable Forest Management  
SFP- State Forest Programme  
TOT- Training of Trainers  
UN- United Nations  
UNEP- United Nations Environment Programme



## **Definition of Terms**

**A Tree:** A plant with a clear bole and crown that branches from above 3m

**A Shrub:** A plant that does not have a clear bole and branches close to the ground

**A Forest:** Any land with a minimum area of 0.5ha predominated with trees, with a canopy cover of at least 15% with a minimum tree height of 3m. (Extract from FREL, UN-REDD 2016)

**Agriculture:** The cultivation of plants and animals species for the benefit of man and animals.

**Biodiversity:** Biodiversity is a collective term which means the variety of life on Earth.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **BACKGROUND NOTE TO THE CROSS RIVER STATE FOREST POLICY**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

##### **The Need for a Cross River State Forest Policy**

The forest estate of Cross River State is one of the most important and valuable State assets. Indeed it constitutes a renewable resource rich in diversity and potential. However, with a relatively high level of deforestation and forest degradation, a two-year moratorium on timber extraction was declared in 2008, which is now extended indefinitely. Evidence abound that the moratorium has only fostered illegality in the state forest sector rather than abate it. Unless urgent and concerted action is taken, land degradation will worsen in the face of population growth, unprecedented consumption, an increasingly globalized economy and climate change (IPBES 2018). A concerted effort by all forest stakeholders is therefore urgent to stem the ongoing massive unsustainable extraction in the forest sector which worsened within the period of the moratorium

on logging.

Against this background, there is the need to have a policy in place to guide the implementation of sustainable forest management practices in Cross River State, which will align with the national forest policy. It is also envisaged that with the State forest policy in place, the existing CRS Forest Law 2010 will be revised in line with the provisions of the policy.

The scope of the policy may be summarized as follows:

- (i) Recovery, consolidation and expansion of the forest estate, and its management for sustained yield
- (ii) Forest conservation and protection of the environment
- (iii) Forest regeneration at a greater rate than exploitation
- (iv) Reduction of waste in utilizing both the forest and forest products
- (v) Protection of the forest from fires, poachers, trespassers and unauthorized grazers
- (vi) Encouragement of private forestry
- (vii) Creation of man-made forests for specific end uses
- (viii) Increase in employment opportunities
- (ix) Wildlife management and development of game reserves
- (x) Development of secondary forest products which are significant in the local economies and encouragement of agro-forestry
- (xi) Synergy with national (other States of the Federation) and international communities in forestry development

## **1.2 Demography and social context**

Cross River State (CRS), located in the south-eastern part of the Country, has a population of 3,444,400 (NPC, 2011 Census), over 620 recognizable human settlements, population density of about 100 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. Majority of these people live in rural areas and depend on the extraction and utilization of forest resources as an important source of income, subsistence and wellbeing (NPC, 2011). This dependence exerts pressure on the forest resources of the State coupled with increased demands for more land (allocation of rainforest for slash and burn agriculture (CRSFC, 2014) which primarily is responsible for the depletion of the forest in many areas of the state.

## **1.2 Cross River State Forest Resources**

### **1.2.1 Forest Reserves**

The Cross River State Government has been in the forefront in conservation matters dating back to 1912 when the then colonial government established the Oban Group Forest Reserve covering an area of 3100km<sup>2</sup>. Today, there are Eighteen Forest Reserves including the newly constituted Mangrove Forest Reserve and a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Cross River National Park is also located in the State.

The State has a total land area of 21,265km<sup>2</sup> of which 29.95% (6421.96km<sup>2</sup>) is covered by Tropical high Forest (THF) as at 2014, while 5% of the land area is swamp and mangrove forest (REDD 2015). Together, these accounts for about 50% of the remaining rain forest in Nigeria.

4000 km<sup>2</sup> representing 62.28% of the THF in Cross River State was designated as Cross River National Park in 1991, while 2421.96km<sup>2</sup> representing 37.72% of the THF makes up the community forest and the forest reserves (FAO 2015).

### **1.2.2 Timber Products**

List of important timber products in Cross River State is contained in Schedules A-E of the state Forestry Tariff.

### **1.2.3 Non Timber Forest Products**

Forest and trees provide an appreciable source of edible fruits and foods, fodder, medicine and cash income for many people. In Cross River State, woody and non woody plants from the various vegetation zones have been identified as yielding edible and/or medicinal products for man and animals. The harvesting of a variety of Non timber Forest Products (NTFPs) forms about 70% of the household income for some families (Alexander, 1994). Economic products such as cane/rattan used for the production of baskets, chairs and other furniture, *Elaeis guineensis* (palm tree) and *Raphia hookeri/vinifera* (Raphia palm) products for the production of wine, mats and

ropes; wrapping leaves; chewing sticks, Snails, mushroom, honey etc are obtained from the forest.

### **1.3 TOURISM POTENTIALS**

Rich ecotourism sites abound around and within the forest areas of the state. These include Monoliths, Obudu Ranch Resort, Buanchor Canopy Walkway, Agbokim and Qua Waterfalls and the Cross River National Park. Most of these have not been fully developed for tourism. There is also the Drill Ranch that has the rehabilitation centre for primates in Calabar and field sites at Buanchor. **CERCOPAN** was also a primate rehabilitation Center, with field site in Iko Essai. In 2006, both rehabilitation Centers officially expressed desire to the state government to re-introduce rehabilitated primates into the wild. On 1st of November 2007, CERCOPAN, closely supervised by the Forestry Commission, successfully carried out the first ever primate re-introduction of three Mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus mona*) into Iko Essai Community Forest. Drill Ranch is yet to execute her re-introduction.

### **1.8 Forest Biodiversity**

Natural vegetation is the main repository of the genetic diversity which is crucial for advancement in research, bio-technology in agriculture, forestry and medicine, as well as the sustained supply of products and raw materials to industries. The tropical rainforest in Cross River State is recognized as one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world extremely rich in endemic and non-endemic species. A quick highlight comprises over 1,545 species of plants, from 523 genera in 98 families. 75% of Nigeria's endangered tree species, 125 of the 274 mammal species in Nigeria including rich aquatic species such as Manatee and Hippopotamus. 163 bird species in Afi Mountain, 1100 butterfly species are found in CRS. One of the largest roost for migratory birds in West Africa example the European Barn Swallows is found in CRS (Lebrun 1967, IUCN 2004, Effiom *et al.* 2013). Nigeria has the third largest mangrove in the world predominantly found in CRS with mangrove forest species like Nypa palm (*Nypa fruiticans*), White mangrove (*Rhizophora racemosa*), and Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*). The state is also endowed with a lot of aquatic resources. Out of the 23 species of primates in Nigeria, 18 (78%) are found in Cross River and two of these are important homid primates, the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) and the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehi*). Also present is the Niger Delta red colobus, (*Procolobus*

*bandius epieni*), which is new to science. Conservation of this unique biodiversity is presently threatened by deforestation of the remaining natural forest and the forested wetlands.

## **1.5 Fuelwood**

There is widespread cutting of fuelwood, particularly in rural areas which depend on this source for about 80% of their total energy requirement annually. In Nigeria, the annual fuelwood demand was 86.36 million cubic meters in 1975 (FAO, 1975), with 32 million cubic meters of fuelwood consumed in the rural areas of Cross River State annually. In the coastal areas, various species of mangrove trees are cut for timber and fuel wood. Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle* and *Rhizophora racemosa*, *Rhizophora Harrisonii*) are in hot demand for fuel wood because they burn very well even when wet and are known locally as “Kerosene fire wood”. The derived savanna zone of the state is in high demand of fuelwood and its scarcity makes it more expensive than kerosene. This hastened the advancement of the savanna southwards into the forest areas.

The high dependence of the rural and urban population on fuelwood for domestic energy needs and the inefficient utilization of fuelwood has led to a vast destruction of natural forest. There is urgent need for the establishment of fuelwood lot with fast growing indigenous and exotic species to increase fuelwood availability, fuel-efficient cook stove and the provision of alternative forms of energy (Liquefied Petroleum Gas, solar energy, biogas etc) to reduce over dependence on fuelwood.

## **1.6 Forest Resources: Demand, Exploitation and Deforestation**

The current level of demand for wood and non-wood product has outstripped the sustainable level of supply, with the current ban on timber exploitation and the revocation of logging concession in the state, this situation is expected to worsen. One of the negative impacts of the ban is increase in illegal extraction of timber and NTFPs to meet commercial and domestic needs. Illegal extraction of timber and other forms of forest resource were initially concentrated in forests outside the forest reserves but these activities are now extended to Forest Reserves. Illegal logging exceeding Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) has led to serious resources depletion. In Nigeria the rate of deforestation is estimated to have increased from 2.7% for 1990-2000 to 4.0% for 2005-2010 (FAO 2010). In CRS the net forest loss over two 7 year periods (2000-2007 and 2007-2014) are 39,907 and 167,382 hectares with annual rate of deforestation of 0.67% and

2.95% respectively (FAO 2015).

## **1.7 Forest Sector Industries and Employment**

Activities of wood-based industries dates back to 1783. The only method of wood conversion then was pit sawing, which involved laying logs on pits and cutting them with cutlasses. The use of powered chain-saw was introduced in 1914. In 1939 there were 16 mills in Nigeria. The declining wood supply situation and the growing magnitude of wood waste led to the ban of round wood exports in 1975. Over the years, the quest for finished wood products has also attracted investments in other wood-based industries to the state such as plywood, and veneer mills, particle board mills, pulp and paper mills, and match and splints factories. These industries, which have since gone out of production and have been shut down included Nigerian Newsprint Manufacturing Company, Oku-Iboku, Seromwood (Calabar Wood), Calvenply and Three Crown Match Industry, Rite-Edge, Mike Plant, Wempco and Ikobi Saw mill. Current saw mill existing in CRS are Dansa Agro-Allied Saw mills.

A good percentage of the rural populace also depends on the forest for the harvesting and sale of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like *Irvingia gabonensis*, *Brachystegia eurycoma*, *Gnetum africanum*, *Piper guineense*, *Baillonella toxisperma* and *Azelia africana* for their livelihood. The forest also provides raw materials for small holder industries including cane chair making, chewing sticks, tooth pick, soup thickeners and leaves of several species used for food and pharmaceuticals. The forest is also home to wild animals that provide protein and cash for the forest dwellers.

## **1.8 Forest Research**

There has been paucity of research and development related to solving forest management problems in the country in CRS. Although the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) has a fair geographical presence in the various ecological zones of the country including Cross River State with two sub stations at Ikom and Akamkpa, there is need to boost and fund research in the forest and related land-use sector. One of the mandates of the Cross River State Forestry Commission is carrying out of forestry research in collaboration and support from academic institutions, non- governmental organizations and donor development agencies.

### **1.9 Forest Resource Depletion: Farming and Over-grazing**

The clearing of land for farming accounts for over 80% of total forest area deforested every year. Majority of the farmers practice slash-and-burn agriculture where by each farmer cultivates a plot of land for two to three years after which soil fertility is depleted and he moves to another plot to allow the previous plot to fallow and recuperate. During land preparation by the farmers, the trees are felled and burnt on site. As cultivated lands are depleted, farmers look to forested lands for fertile soils thereby encroaching into forest reserves where soils are relatively more fertile. This means more deforestation and depletion of forest resources. There is a lot of bush burning due to grazing but overgrazing is not a significant driver of deforestation in the state. However to protect the derived Savanna zone where there is increasing incidence of bush burning by the cattle-herdsmen and farmers, there is need for a policy statement to protect this ecosystem in the state.

### **1.10 Forest Resource Depletion: Population Growth, New Settlement and Infrastructural Development**

Increasing human population is recognized as an indirect driver of biodiversity loss in Nigeria, as human demands for resources like food and fuel play a key role in driving biodiversity degradation example habitat loss and deforestation through the conversion of forest ecosystems for food production and other economic and developmental needs. One of the implication of the high annual population growth rate in Nigeria (2.7%) is the growth of the farming population with attendance increased pressure on forest land for farming. Furthermore, population growth leads to the spring up of new settlements to accommodate new families. Existing towns grow into major urban centers with needs for the construction of better infrastructures and amenities thereby taking up adjoining farm lands and farmers pushing back the forest boundaries to create new farm lands.

Thus forests are being destroyed to pave way for the establishment of industrial estates, housing estates, markets, airport, roads, telephone lines, power grid lines and commercial agricultural plantations and large scale farming.

### **1.11 Uncontrolled Forest Fires**

Of all the factors causing environmental degradation and depletion of resources, none has as much destructive effects as uncontrolled forest fires. Large tracts of forest, land are laid bare within minutes as a result of bush fires, resulting in destruction of unquantifiable volume of forest resources. The devastation of the forest ecosystem is mostly undocumented as such there is lack of data to fully quantify the annual depletion of forest resources through uncontrolled forest fire.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE CROSS RIVER STATE FOREST POLICY**

The principles guiding the development of the Cross River State Forest Policy are based on the national and state (Growth Development Strategies (GDS) (2018-2048), reform agenda of poverty reduction, good governance and sustainable development. These principles:

- I. Address factors affecting the decline of the forest resources.
- II. Streamline the contribution of forests to economic development and growth particularly,



the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) whose four key strategies are – reorienting values, reducing poverty, creating wealth and generating employment.

- III. Address transparency in forest management.
- IV. Position CRS to benefit from international forestry schemes and initiatives
- V. Main-stream forestry activities into the Sustainable Development Goals, consistent with the National forest policy and the state GDS.

Therefore, the state forest policy shall embrace and align with:

### **2.1 Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction**

One of the aims of the present administration is the improvement of human livelihoods and poverty reduction. Since forestry is a very profitable venture, government shall in partnership with forest communities and development agencies promote and support large scale establishment of agro-forestry plantations of appropriate economic species in different ecological zones of the state to enhance environmental social and economic benefits to the people of the state and beyond, primarily the forest dependent communities.

### **2.2 Food Security, Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Services**

Forests and trees go beyond timber production. The forest sector development policy shall safeguard and protect the capacity of the CRS forest to maintain its ability to perform multiple roles. One of which is contributing to food security, biodiversity conservation and other environmental services in the form of watershed protection and carbon sequestration to mitigate against global warming. Due provision shall also be given to the health and security of the forest workers in order to ensure their productivity.

### **2.3 Partnership in Governance**

All relevant stakeholders are recognized as agents that would promote sustainable forest

management. The policy shall enhance institutional relationships, efficiency, transparency, accountability and professionalism. It shall also build confidence in all forest stakeholders. Roles and responsibilities shall be clearly defined for all stakeholders. The State government through the Forestry Commission shall provide an enabling environment for sustainable forestry development in the state. Also promote active participation and affirmative actions of women and men, young people, the elderly, and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups should be integrated into forest sector development. The policy shall also promote cultural/traditional attributes and institutions.

#### **2.4 International Obligation**

Domestic legislation should also be developed to support the implementation of current and future international commitments/framework/treaty that affect the forest sector positively example access to the international market for forest based carbon credits and payment for Ecosystem services (PES).

#### **2.5 Forestry Valuation**

The forest policy shall encourage valuation of the environmental, economic and social worth and certification of the forest and forest resources in the evaluation, trading and utilization of forest resources.

#### **2.6 Forest Sector Investment**

Investment in the forestry sector is highly profitable and sustainable with much potential to contribute in greater quota to the State economic development goals and development strategy. The forest policy shall promote investment in forest goods and services in the local, national and international markets.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **FOREST POLICY STATEMENTS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

#### **3.0 Policy Objectives**

The overall objective of the State forest policy is to achieve sustainable forest management that would ensure increases in the economic, social, environmental and other benefits from forests for the present and future generations of Cross Riverians, Nigerians and the world at large.

Specific objectives are to:

- (i) Increase, maintain and enhance the State forest estate through sound forest management practices.
- (ii) Identify and proffer solutions to the causes (direct and indirect) of deforestation and forest degradation.
- (iii) Promote and regulate private sector involvement in forestry development, and to create an enabling investment climate in the sector.
- (iv) Promote economic, cultural and social opportunities in forestry without undermining the resource base.
- (v) Encourage forest dependent people (farmers and local communities including the poor and vulnerable) to improve their livelihood through new approaches in forestry.
- (vi) Maintain the balance between forest biodiversity conservation and the development needs of the state.
- (vii) Restore and conserve watershed forests.
- (viii) Promote and maintain the greening of the urban environment while meeting the

- increasing demand for forest products by urban and peri-urban centers.
- (ix) Ensure improved land tenure system and land use act/plan as incentives for individuals and communities in particular to invest in forestry.
  - (x) Help private owners and communities to reserve land for forestry.
  - (xi) Build capacity and systems for the state and local government to engage actively in forest resources management and development.
  - (xii) Provide enabling environment (legal and regulatory) that promote long term private sector forestry investment.
  - (xiii) Develop partnerships or management agreement with local communities that improve forest management and alleviate poverty.
  - (xiv) Strengthen synergy and collaboration with NGOs and CBOs in facilitating forest development.
  - (xv) Develop and promote responsive, affordable, well-informed and decentralized forestry advisory services to farmers, communities and the forest industry.
  - (xvi) Develop and support demand driven, well-coordinated forestry research and training programmes.
  - (xvii) Develop a forest sector programme that complements programmes in related sectors.

### **3.1 Priority Areas of the Forest Policy**

Policies are implemented through design and execution of programmes. The Cross River State Forest Policy lays special emphasis on thirty priority areas as the principal elements of the policy. These are:

- (i) Forest Management
- (ii) Community Participation: in and outside Forest and Game Reserves
- (iii) Private, Civil society, Multilateral/donor Agencies Involvement and Participation in Forest Development
- (iv) Biodiversity Conservation, National Parks and Game Reserves of Conservation

Interest

- (v) Forest Industries
- (vi) Forest Administration
- (vii) Non-Timber Forest Products
- (viii) Ecosystem Services of Forests
- (ix) Watershed Forests and Wetland Management
- (x) Agroforestry
- (xi) Urban Forestry
- (xii) Poverty Alleviation and Food Security
- (xiii) Supply of Seeds and Seedlings
- (xiv) Forestry Research and Development
- (xv) Forest Fiscal Policy
- (xvi) Forest Fires
- (xvii) Pests and Diseases Control
- (xviii) Tree Planting Campaign
- (xix) Fuelwood
- (xx) Drought and Desertification Control
- (xxi) Employment, Safety and Security of Personnel and Habitat
- (xxii) Gender Issues
- (xxiii) Youth Programme
- (xxiv) Manpower Development, Training and Capacity Building
- (xxv) Education and Awareness Creation
- (xxvi) Information and Data Base Management
- (xxvii) Land Tenure and Conflict Resolution
- (xxviii) Trade (Internal and External)
- (xxix) Sectoral Cooperation
- (xxx) National and International Cooperation
- (xxxi) Forest Sector Investment
- (Xxxii) Mining and oil drilling
- (Xxxiii) Wildlife management in and outside protected areas

### **3.1.1 FOREST MANAGEMENT**

The forest estate of Cross River State (CRS) shall be managed for the sustainable supply of forest goods and services for both domestic and international use through the management structure of the CRS Forestry Commission for the:

- (i) Generation of revenue to Government
- (ii) Generation of livelihood to forest dependent communities
- (iii) Supply of direct benefits such as timber and non-timber forest products - food and raw material
- (iv) Supply of indirect benefit such as:
  - (i) Prevention of erosion;
  - (ii) Maintenance of watershed management;
  - (iii) Nutrient recycling
  - (iv) Carbon sequestration
  - (v) Preservation of traditional, cultural ecotourism and aesthetic values.
- (v) International collaboration for forest development, research and capacity building

#### **3.1.1.1 Policy Statement**

Forest Management shall focus on achieving sustainable delivery of forest goods and services. Forest regeneration shall be carried out in all the degraded forest reserves to enhance the sustainable supply of timber and non- timber forest product for export, industrial uses and environmental conservation.

#### **3.1.1.3 Objectives**

- (i) Increase the total area under sustainable forest management to 40% of the state's land area.
- (ii) Develop principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forest resources.
- (iii) Engender protection of the environment for social and economic benefits.

### **3.1.1.3 Strategies for Forest Reserve Management**

- (i) Maintain the existing and create new forest reserves.
- (ii) Carry out regular forest resource inventory in order to provide comprehensive forest management plan for the forest reserve
- (iii) Involve all forest stakeholders in the sustainable management of forest reserve with clearly defined roles and responsibilities to promote equitable benefit sharing
- (iv) Protect the Forest Estate from fire and encroachment.
- (v) Encourage multiple-use principles in the management of forest reserves.
- (viii) Classify forest areas into utility and service categories, namely;
  - a. Productive
  - b. Protective
  - c. Recreational and cultural
  - d. Education and Research

### **3.1.1.4 Strategies for Forest regeneration**

- (i) Create a State Forestry Development Trust Fund in line with the provisions of the Federal Government Development Policy.
- (ii) The State Government shall pay the minimum requirement of N50M into the Trust Fund annually in accordance with the Fed Government Policy.
- (iii) Specified levies from wood based industries, forest resource utilizers donor agencies shall be paid into the trust fund
- (iv) Collaborate with related institutions on the use of indigenous species for ecological restoration through tissue culture and other biotechnological means.
- (v) Encourage Forest Industries to establish plantations in degraded forests and marginal land areas to meet at least 60% of their raw materials' requirement based on their capacity utilization.
- (vi) Encourage and support private sector investment in forestry development
- (vii) Encourage and support local community to raise plantation to meet wood need such as fuelwood in order to reduce pressure on natural forest

vii encourage and support the local government to establish forest plantation and invest in forest development.

Encourage banks and other financial institutions to provide funding for private sector investment in forestry

#### **3.1.1.5 Strategies for areas outside Reserves**

Support communities to develop capacities and partnership in the management of forest reserves and forests in areas outside forest reserves through;

- (i) Capacity building.
- (ii) Infrastructural development.
- (iii) Access to information on market outlets.
- (iv) Encourage communities and forest resource users to form co-operatives to facilitate access to grants, soft loans and other incentives.

#### **3.1.1.6 Strategies for adaption of Agro-forestry practices**

- (i) Encourage and support agro-forestry practices in degraded areas, existing forest plantation, and agricultural lands to enhance food security, livelihood, climate change mitigation and adaption, soil fertility maintenance and poverty alleviation.
- (iii) Carry out training and retraining in agroforestry technology

#### **3.1.1.7 Strategy for Accessing Carbon Credits**

- (i) Create a Carbon Accounting/Auditing Scheme to enable the State access international market for the sale of forest based carbon credit.
- (ii) Scale up carbon inventory to include carbon assessment of different tree species and blue carbon (marine and coastal area).

#### **3.1.1.8 Strategy for Forest Valuation**

Develop techniques for appropriate valuation of forestry goods and services for timber and non-timber forest products and other ecosystem services provided through forest and forest resources.



### **3.1.1.9 Wildlife Management in and outside protected areas of the state**

Cross River State is endowed with a rich variety of fauna and flora species, especially unique wildlife species, existing in both the protected areas namely: the Cross River National Park/, Afi Wildlife Sanctuary and Forest Reserves, as well as in the Community Forest Areas. However conservation of wildlife species is threatened by deforestation of the remaining rainforest forests and wetland

#### **3.1.1.9.1 Policy Statement**

The Wildlife Department within the CRS Forestry Commission shall strengthen collaborative partnership, both bilateral and multi-lateral with Local Government Administration, Rural Communities, related national agencies, international communities and the public for sustainable wildlife resources management, as wild animals know no boundaries between protected and free areas.

#### **3.1.1.9.2 Objectives**

- (i) To design specialized conservation programs to protect threatened wildlife species and their habitats wherever they occur in the State
- (ii) To design and implement where feasible wildlife tourism that is self-sustaining
- (iii) To manage and create Game Reserves for biodiversity conservation, Ecotourism Development and other non-consumptive uses such as research outside the Cross River National Park
- (iv) To enlighten, mobilize and encourage host communities, Local Government Administrations, as well as the general public to appreciate and support wildlife protection

- (v) To establish and regulate sustainable wildlife consumptive and non-consumptive utilization in designated locations through the issuance of hunting permits and designation of hunting seasons
- (vi) To promote wildlife research to document trends in wildlife populations and habitat needs
- (vii) To create opportunities for Game Ranching, especially ungulate species and encourage interested individuals and communities to engage in the business enhance the supply of the bushmeat needs of the State and to create income generation opportunities for the citizenry
- (viii) To locate and protect unique water bodies, such as lakes, estuaries, etc. in order to protect endemic wildlife/fisheries resources that occur in them, throughout the State
- (ix) To create Aviaries and build capacity in ornithology to enhance the protection of endangered Bird Species of the State
- (x) To control and regulate the use of pesticides which have adverse impacts on wildlife and the natural ecosystems of the State
- (xi) To source for funding/support from within and outside the country to support wildlife projects and programs implementation

### **3.1.1.9.3 Strategies on Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Cross River State Government, through the Forestry Commission, shall therefore:

- (i) Fully equip the wildlife department through recruitment, training and equipping sufficient manpower at all levels, to provide an effective wildlife management system
- (ii) Source for external training and research support to properly train and equip the manpower
- (iii) Embark on intensive Public Enlightenment, Awareness Campaign and Advocacy Programs to properly educate and inform the general public and especially the rural communities on the needs and benefits of wildlife conservation
- (iv) The Department shall carry out inventory of wildlife resources/areas within and outside the Forest Reserves of the State

- (v) Revamp existing Wildlife Sanctuaries and create State Wildlife Parks where appropriate
- (vi) Embark on Ecological Restoration of both fauna and flora species, re-introduction of endangered species
- (vii) Effectively protect endangered Wildlife/Plant Species and their habitats wherever they are known to occur;
- (viii) Make enabling provision to govern the operation of the wildlife department in the state forest law Wildlife Laws and Regulations
- (ix) Involve Local Communities and Local Government authorities in the enforcement of wildlife regulation
- (x) Operate a hunting licenses and fees system to control the harvesting of all wildlife species
- (xi) Create Game Ranching opportunities, encourage, train and motivate local communities and interested members of to engage in this venture as a means of income generation as well as the provision of the much relished bush meat requirements

- (xii) Collaborate effectively with the Management Authorities of the Cross River National Park
  
- (xiii) Identify and create attractive sites for Ecotourism Development in the State, among other things.

### **3.1.2 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: IN AND OUTSIDE FOREST RESERVES AND GAME RESERVES**

Innovative approaches to community participation in forest management in both forest reserves and other forest areas shall be promoted. This will address the disincentives associated with a protectionist approach to forest management whereby Government is regarded as the major stakeholder on forests management. It will also address the destructive practices associated with unrestricted access to forest resources. The development of collaborative forest management shall define rights, roles, and responsibilities of partners and the basis for sharing benefits from improved forest management. There will be a specific focus on wide stakeholder participation, collective responsibility and equity, and on improving the livelihoods of forest dependent communities.

#### **3.1.2.1 Policy Statement**

Encourage collaborative partnership with rural communities for the sustainable forest management in forest reserves and other forest areas.

#### **3.1.2.2 Objectives**

The objective is to promote sustainable forest management in forest reserves and forest resources outside the forest reserves.

### **3.1.2.3 Strategies**

- (i) Develop a supportive legal framework for land tenure, access rights, and benefits sharing from forest resources.
- (ii) Develop both the capacity and attitude changes in government and non-governmental organizations so as to create genuine partnerships for collaboration with local community groups.
- (iii) Develop a virile community, institutions to ensure transparent decision-making, the adequate representation and participation of women, men, youths and vulnerable groups and the equitable sharing of forest benefits and responsibilities.
- (vi) Support conflicts resolution among forest stakeholders.

### **3.1.2.4. Strategies for community participation in Forest Reserves**

- (iii) Formation of community or stakeholders forest committees to share management responsibilities.
- (iv) Community shall be supported in the provision of rural infrastructure and facilities.
- (v) Recognize and guarantee the rights of host communities to fair and equitable share of the revenue and participation in resource contro and management.

Vii Encourage the participation of community in the regular maintenance of forest reserve boundaries to discouraging trespassing and prevent fire outbreak

### **3.1.2.5 Strategies for community participation in forest areas outside Forest Reserves**

- (i) Guarantee and grant tenural, property and felling rights to owners with regards to established plantations and individually owned trees without additional cost to government.
- (ii) Ensure strict adherence and compliance to environmental protection and management principles.
- (iii) Include social responsibility agreement in all arrangements relating to

sustainable management of non- timber forest resources, involving the government and all other relevant stakeholders.

- (vii) Support the capacity building and strengthen Communities by providing alternative sources of livelihood.

### **3.1.3 PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT**

Part of the reform agenda of government is the privatization policy by which government's role is reduced in activities that can be performed better by the private sector. A major role is envisaged for the private sector in forestry, particularly in the production and processing of timber and non-timber forest products and in ecotourism, which are major employers and which require good business management. There have been a number of constraints to the active involvement of private sector in financing and skills development in forestry. These include among others:

- (i) the inadequate access to land tenure arrangements, which has been a disincentive to commercial tree grower
- (ii) the poorly coordinated and monitored administrative systems for the harvesting and movement of forest produce
- (iii) inadequate supply of inputs from government for plantation development,
- (iv) market disincentive for investment and re-investment of profits,
- (v) corruption
- (vi) outdated policies and laws
- (vii) long gestation period of trees,
- (ix) unfavorable and conflicting government guidelines on private forestry

#### **3.1.3.1 Policy Statement**

Government shall apply an effective regulatory system to safeguard public interests



under private sector forest management agreements. It would also develop and apply high technical standards to private forestry, and ensure better legal provisions for tenure to encourage long term investment. Lastly effort would be made to create more positive attitudes in the public and private sectors to ensure effective partnerships between government and private businesses.

Private companies operating in the state shall contribute 5% of their profit to the development of the communities they are operating in as corporate social responsibility.

### **3.1.3.2 Objectives:**

- (i) Encourage the development and management of private forest estates.
- (ii) Increase the quality of forest resources for enhanced living standards and environmental protection.

### **3.1.3.3 Strategies for Land Tenure**

- (i) States and communities shall guarantee tenural rights to individuals and private investors for forest plantation development on agreed terms.
- (ii) CRS Forestry Commission shall lead in the review of land tenure system as a cross-sectoral issue with all land use sectors, make recommendations to the state government for individual and private sector to have access to land for forestry development.

### **3.1.3.4 Strategies for Economic and Social Incentives**

- (i) Define and allocate social and economic responsibilities to Partners and firms.
- (ii) Influence macro-economic responsibilities at all levels through:
  - ☐ Low interest rate regimes
  - ☐ Tax rebate

### **3.1.3.5 Strategies on Benefit Sharing/incentives**

- (i) Evolve acceptable formula for benefit sharing of economic or social incentives.
- (ii) Evolve support mechanisms to enable participants mutually identify and agree on roles and responsibilities as well as on benefit sharing formulae for forest resources. In state forest reserve benefit sharing 50: 50 (50 to government and 50 to community), in community forest 70: 30 (70 to community, 30 to government). In government (local and state) owned plantations (80 govt, 20 community). In private forestry, the sharing formulae should be 70% to individual, 20% to government and 10% to community to encourage sector participation in forestry development in the state.

### **3.1.3.6 Strategies on Tree Ownership**

- (i) Guarantee tree ownership rights within the enabling laws, traditional practices and customs.
- (ii) Subject forest plantations to sustainable forest management principles.
- (iii) Support mechanisms for conflict resolution between all stakeholders

### **3.1.4 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, NATIONAL PARKS AND GAMES RESERVES OF CONSERVATION INTEREST**

The State Government is committed to the conservation of the state rich forest biodiversity to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. The government will promote the conservation and rational utilization of representative samples of all ecosystems and species in the state.

The state biodiversity conservation strategy will continue to be based on a system of Protected Areas, including Forest Reserves, National Parks and Game Reserves. In recognition of the fact that the local communities must share from the benefits of these Protected Areas, there must be a meaningful participation of these communities in their management. Safeguard biodiversity in private forests and improve agricultural

biodiversity through Agro-forestry initiatives.

The state government is a signatory to a number of international agreements and Conventions regarding forest conservation, access to genetic resources, and cross border cooperation, and it will continue to support and implement these obligations.

#### **3.1.4.1 Policy Statement**

The state's rich biodiversity shall be conserved to provide essential goods and services for sustainable growth and development.

#### **3.1.4.2 Objectives**

- (i) To improve and manage species composition (flora and fauna).
- (ii) To promote scientific studies, research, conservation education, environmental protection and eco-tourism.
- (iii) To engender confidence and cordial relationship between host communities, government and end users.
- (iv) To encourage host community's participation and empowerment.

#### **3.1.4.3 Strategies to Support, Improve and Sustainably Manage Species Composition (Flora and Fauna)**

- (i) Identify, delineate and inventorize (establish permanent sample plot) forest species and sites of conservation interest including mangrove forest and eco-tourism sites
- (ii) Develop and Improve the management of in-situ and ex-situ (Zoological and Botanical) conservation areas, Gardens, Herbaria, Arboretums which are to serve as centers for genetic improvement of endangered species.
- (v) Develop transparent mechanisms for sharing of responsibilities, benefit and conflict resolution between States, Local Governments Communities and other forest stakeholders.

- Viii Promote effective and efficient dissemination of relevant information and education materials on biodiversity conservation to relevant stakeholders.

#### **3.1.4.4 Strategies for Host Communities-Partnership and Empowerment**

Establish partnership, effective liaison and consultation with the host communities around protected areas and offer conservation training, with a view to providing employment, alleviating poverty and effective empowerment for decision-making.

#### **3.1.5 FOREST INDUSTRIES**

There is an active and highly competitive market in wood products particularly in the construction and manufacturing sectors. Relevant state policies encourage trade in forest product. There is high waste of forest resource processing due to inefficiency in machinery and technology. Conversion rates during processing are as high as 40% in the state. Timber is currently undervalued. The royalty rates charged on timber do not reflect their full value. This has led to low revenues for re-investment in forest management, and weak incentives to improve efficiency in processing. Poor regulations increases illegalities, undermining the legal investment and profit. There is need for a forest policy that address unfavorable forest business climate in the state

##### **3.1.5.1 Policy Statement:**

Government shall encourage sustainable management and utilization of forest resources that will guarantee the continuous supply of raw materials and profit to the forest industries.

##### **3.1.5.2 Objectives:**

- (i) To have a forest industry that embraces and practice forest resource exploitation in a way that promotes sustainable forest management and utilization.

- (ii) To develop strategies for waste reduction and utilization at all stages of industrial activities.
- (iii) To ensure that forest industry operations are carried out in an effective, efficient and environmentally friendly manner.
- (iv) To enhance the value of forest products through forest certification.
- (v) To promote activities that will generate and sustain increased opportunities.

### **3.1.5.3 Strategies on Efficiency in Forest Harvesting, Conversion and Production**

Provide an efficient and effective forest management plan that:

- (i) engage the use of trained personnel and appropriate forest harvesting tools and equipment
- (ii) insist on appropriate forest harvesting with low impact logging techniques using appropriate equipment and technology, log transportation and haulage system to minimize damage and waste in the residual stands and prevent erosion
- (iii) regularly train workers to enhance safety
- (iv) reduce illegal forest activities through effective education, policing and forest protection
- (v) encourage the establishment of integrated and Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) forest industries.
- (vi) encourage private investors to establish their own forest plantations through afforestation and regeneration to produce raw materials for the industries in the long term.
- (vii) require forest-based industries to contribute regeneration fee to the Forest Trust Fund
- (viii) provide appropriate grading system that is locally and internationally acceptable based on forest certification

- (ix) identify lesser used species and carry out more studies on their mechanical and physical properties to promote utilization
- (x) identify machines that can effectively convert logs based on acceptable girth limit.
- (xi) observe workmen compensation in accordance with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rules.
- (xii) Reduce illegalities through strict enforcement for compliance with the forest management plan,

### **3.1.6. FOREST ADMINISTRATION**

The effectiveness of a state forest policy depends on the energy, drive and dedication of the state Forestry Department. The State Forestry Commission shall play a leading role in forest management throughout the State.

To implement the State Forest policy there is need to have adequate forestry manpower and supply of modern equipment

#### **3.1.6.1 Policy Statement:**

Government shall ensure that the forest resources of Cross River State are effectively administered to ensure sustainable productivity in the forest sector and environmental stability for the present and future generations through the maintenance of a well-equipped and competent professional and technical workforce.

#### **3.1.6.2 Objectives:**

To modernize forestry administration through improved planning, decision-making and management capability for the overall achievement of satisfactory performance of policy objectives and strategies.

### **3.1.6.3 Strategies**

- (i) Strengthen the administrative capacities of staff at all levels in the State with clearly defined mandates in terms of responsibilities, staffing, training and funding.
- (ii) Encourage the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process.
- (iv) Define roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.

### **3.1.6.4 Strategies on Roles and Responsibilities**

The following roles and responsibilities shall be performed by the various stakeholders in the forest sector in support of sustainable forest management.

#### **3.1.6.4.1 The State Forestry Commission**

- manage forest reserves and the wildlife sanctuary and create new ones where necessary
- manage the Forest Estate in collaboration with other forest stakeholders
- train Personnel
- carry out Inventory on forest resources
- create awareness and public enlightenment
- enforce Forest Laws and Regulations
- carry out monitoring and Evaluation
- establish Plantations, Demonstration and Pilot Projects
- provide extension services
- improve service delivery

- interface and collaborate with international and multilateral donors, agencies on efforts to sustainably management the forest resources of th state and outside of the state
- develop a land use plan for the state in partnership with other stakeholders
- review forest laws and regulations every ten years in line with current realities
- ensure that pristine forests are not cleared

**3.1.6.4.2 Responsibilities of other stakeholders in conjunction with the state forestry commission:**

**(i) Local Government Authority**

- Forest Protection
- Community Mobilization.
- Enforcement of forestry laws and Bye-laws.
- Monitoring and Evaluation, Coordination and review.
- Establishment of Demonstration Plots.
- Community Awareness Campaigns.
- Establishment of woodlots, roadside and amenity plantings.

**(ii) Forest communities**

- Form forest management committees.
- create awareness among communities.
- participate in the management and protection of Forest reserves and other forest areas as lead by the committees of the village council such as the forest management committee.



### **3.1.7 TIMBER PRODUCTS**

#### **3.1.7.1 Policy Statement**

Government shall promote the sustainable management of timber production in all the ecological zones for the benefits of the present and future generations and to increase contribution from timber to the state economy.

#### **3.1.7.2 Objectives:**

- (i) To promote all stakeholders' partnership in sustainable timber management with especial focus on the private sector.
- (ii) To support all stakeholders achieve appropriate valuation for the state timber products, packaging and marketin7.

#### **3.1.7.3 Strategies**

- (i) Undertake quarterly surveys and studies to ascertain the status and threat facing the population and distribution of all species.
- (ii) Carry out in-situ and ex-situ conservation, resource valuation, conscious management and development of timber and in timber extraction.
- (iii) Train stakeholders/facilitate and improve local processing and packaging of timber as well as identify other alternative uses.

### **3.1.8 NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPs)**

Forest and trees provide an appreciable source of edible fruits and foods, fodder, medicine and cash income for many rural people. In Cross River State, over 150 indigenous woody plants have been identified as yielding edible products for man and animals. For many people in Cross River the forests play the role of a pharmacy from which they obtain plant parts for the treatment of their ailments. Economic products

such as cane/rattan used for the production of baskets, chairs and other furniture, raphia products for the production of mats and ropes; wrapping leaves; chewing sticks; and honey are obtained from the forest.

#### **3.1.8.1 Policy Statement:**

Government shall promote the development and conservation of NTFPs in all the ecological zones for the benefits of the present and future generations and to increase NTFPs' contribution to the state economy.

#### **3.1.8.2 Objectives:**

- (i) To promote community partnership in NTFPs management.
- (ii) To mobilize the community for sustainable management, multiplication, packaging and marketing of NTFPs.

#### **3.1.8.3 Strategies**

- (i) Undertake surveys and studies to identify and assess the distribution and economic value of NTFPs.
- (ii) Carry out in-situ and ex-situ conservation, resource valuation, conscious management and development of NTFPs.
- (iii) Carry out multiplication/breeding of NTFPs for enhanced economic production, food security and development of viable opportunities in the rural community.
- (iv) Train stakeholders/facilitate and improve local processing and packaging of NTFPs as well as identify other alternative uses.

#### **3.1.9 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF FORESTS**

There is increasing recognition of the valuable ecosystem services/functions protective, regulative and productive functions provided by forests.

### **3.1.9.1 Policy Statement**

Government shall recognize, emphasize and conserve the integrity of the forest to enhance its capacity to continually provide valuable ecosystem services to mitigate climate change, prevent water and wind erosion as well as siltation of watercourses.

### **3.1.9.2 Objectives**

- (i) To ensure the capacity of forests to protect watersheds, buffer zones around rivers and hills, prevention of water and wind erosion, siltation of water courses and support for carbon sequestration.
- (ii) To ensure the capacity of the forests to provide recreational, cultural and aesthetic values.

### **3.1.9.3 Strategies**

- (i) Boost enlightenment education on protective roles of forests and prohibitive areas
- (ii) Enforce relevant legislation.
- (iii) Encourage the formation of environmental vanguards in the host communities.
- (iv) Promote tree planting and Agro-forestry Practices in the state .
- (v) Encourage the development of affordable alternative sources to domestic energy source and fuel-wood.

### **3.1.9.4 Policy Statement on Social Forestry**

Evolve mechanisms to access and promote the social functions of forestry in communities.

#### **3.1.9.4.1 Objective**

- (i) To promote social forestry.

- (ii) To restore degraded lands and carry out climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

#### **3.1.9.4.2 Strategies**

- (i) Undertake amenity plantings such as woodlots, strips, and roadside plantings as well as parks and gardens establishment for recreational and aesthetic values.
- (ii) Provide and develop marketable environmentally friendly recreational facilities.
- (iii) Encourage the development of affordable alternatives to wood fuels.
- (iv) Strengthen public enlightenment and awareness on the benefits of trees and observe national and global tree planting days

#### **3.1.10 WATERSHED FORESTS AND WETLANDS MANAGEMENT**

Forests are commonly associated with a range of watershed services such as:

- ☐ Regulation of water flow – that is maintenance of dry season flows and flood control.
- ☐ Maintenance of water quality – that is minimization of sediment load, nutrient load (e.g. of phosphorus and nitrogen) and salinity.
- ☐ Control of soil erosion and sedimentation and enhancement of productivity.
- ☐ Reduction of land Salinization and/or regulation of ground water levels.
- ☐ Maintenance of temperature in aquatic habitats through shading rivers or streams, ensuring adequate wood debris and habitat for aquatic species.

##### **3.1.10.1 Policy Statement**

Watershed protection forest shall be established, rehabilitated and conserved, while all wetlands shall be monitored and managed in accordance with international standards. Government shall promote the protection and restoration of degraded watershed areas through tree planting and agroforestry practices.

### **3.1.10.2 Objectives**

- (i) To promote the rehabilitation of degraded forests in water catchments areas and bare hills through government, community and private forest restoration and agro-forestry initiatives.
- (ii) To maintain the wetland forest ecosystems.
- (iii) To create awareness on sustainable land use practices in hilly watersheds and wetland areas.

### **3.1.10.3 Strategies:**

- i. Identify and delineate protective forest cover along the rivers and water bodies.
- ii. Encourage the planting and replanting of trees in degraded watershed and catchment areas.
- iii. Create awareness and education on the need to reduce human encroachment and on the benefit of the protective roles of the forest.
- iv. Carry out inventories and draw up management plans for wetlands.
- v. Review and enforce laws to adequately protect watersheds and catchment areas.
- vi. Facilitate the formation of environmental vanguards in host communities.
- vii Promote Tree Planting Campaigns.

### **3.1. 11 AGRO-FORESTRY**

Agroforestry is a land-use management system that focuses on the production of trees, livestock and crops on a piece of land at the same time to maximize the use of land.

### **3.1.11.1 Policy Statement**

Agroforestry practices shall be enhanced to increase wood production, food security, socio-economic development as well as provide environmental protection.

### **3.1.11.2 Objective**

The objectives of the agroforestry policy are:

- (i) To encourage increase in food production, forest goods and services in a more sustainable manner.
- (ii) To improve soil fertility and land restoration especially in marginal lands through multiple cropping.
- (iii) To improve the socio-economic livelihood of the people of the state through agroforestry.
- (iv) To improve the health and nutrition of the rural poor through agroforestry.
- (vii) To conserve biodiversity, forest ecosystems, climate mitigation and adaptation through integrated conservation based on agroforestry.
- (vii) To build human and institutional capacity in agroforestry research and development.

### **3.1.11.3 Strategies**

- (i) Encourage the planting of improved varieties of multipurpose trees particularly indigenous species for income generation and soil improvement.
- (ii) Promote the production and supply of quality seedlings of Timber and Non-timber species to farmers for cultivation.
- (iii) Assist individuals, communities, local government authorities and corporate bodies to obtain land for agro-forestry in the buffer zones around the Reserves.

- (iv) Provide incentives to individuals, corporate bodies and communities to go into agroforestry through subsidizing the cost of land.

### **3.1.12 URBAN FORESTRY**

Government is committed to improving the livelihoods and well-being of urban people by supporting urban forestry, improving the urban landscape and environment. Private, Non-governmental Organizations, the academia and civil societies shall be encouraged to play major role in the development of urban forestry in collaboration with urban/municipal authorities through the provision of adequate support and incentives. The increasing rate of urbanization in the state necessitate the formulation of policy to guide urban and peri-urban forestry operations.

#### **3.1.12.1 Policy Statement**

Urban forestry shall be promoted in order to provide aesthetics, recreational, social, economic and ecological values and benefits to the people.

#### **3.1.12.2 Objective**

To promote and maintain the greening of the urban environment: to meet the increasing demand for forest products and services.

#### **3.1.12.3 Strategies**

- i. Encourage the development and maintenance of roadside and amenity nurseries and plantings.
- ii. Collaborate with other land-use agencies to plan the establishment of green areas and roadside planting.
- iii. Encourage the establishment of urban parks, botanical and zoological gardens in

urban centres.

- iv Encourage individuals and institution to plant tree and flowers in their home, streets and neighbourhood

### **3.1.13 POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND FOOD SECURITY**

Forest resources contribute significantly to livelihoods especially that of forest dependent communities, contributing to poverty reduction through the supply of timber, food, medicine, fuel and raw materials. Other benefits include serving as culture, research and spiritual sites for which government in collaboration with host communities and other stakeholders can develop into ecotourism and leisure sites

#### **3.1.13.1 Policy Statement**

The Forest Policy aims at ensuring that forests, apart from providing timber, also provide other array of goods and services on sustainable basis in order to improve livelihoods.

#### **3.1.13.2 Objectives**

- (i) To encourage sustainable management of forest resources both in forest reserves and non-reserved areas to contribute goods and services to improve livelihoods especially rural livelihood.
- (iii) To reduce rural – urban migration
- (iii) To enhance income generation through the promotion of best practices in harvesting of non-timber forest product.
- (iv) To engage the rural populace in sustainable agro-forestry practices.
- (vi) To encourage value addition to forest produce
- (vii) To encourage scientific research to reduce gestation period and variation of some forest trees.



### **3.1.13.3 The strategies**

- (i) Participatory engagement of all stakeholders in the establishment and management of forest reserves, community forest/woodlots, shelterbelts etc.
- (ii) Promotion of the establishment of multipurpose trees species, medicinal plants species etc.
- (iii) Promotion of Agro-forestry practices for food security (Apiculture, Mushroom production, Snail breeding and Wildlife domestication)
- (iv) Establishment of co-operatives and ensuring appropriate pricing of NTFPs;

### **3.1.14 PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF FOREST PLANTING MATERIALS (SEEDS, SEEDLINGS AND STUMPS)**

It is recognized that the success of robust tree planting depends on the sustainable supply of planting stock that is viable and well adapted to local conditions. Raising of high quality tree planting materials shall be promoted to meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Government through Cross River State Forestry Commission shall build the capacity of workforce and that of other relevant stakeholders (community, NGOs, relevant MDAs and the private sector especially wood based industries) for research and development in these areas. Indigenous tree species that are endangered shall be conserved as sources of planting material.

#### **3.1.14.1 Policy Statement**

Innovative mechanisms for the production and supply of high quality and improved tree

seeds, seedlings and stumps shall be developed. This will ensure regular production and supply of improved and viable planting stocks.

#### **3.1.14.2 Objectives**

- i. produce and supply adequate and viable planting materials for afforestation and regeneration activities
- ii. enhance forest productivity and utilization

#### **3.1.14.3 Strategies**

- iii Determination and monitoring of the demand and supply of forest seeds/seedlings in Cross River State
- iv Identification, establishment and management of seed sources for tree species especially rare and endangered tree species
- v Support linkages with communities, local governments, national, and international research and development agencies to improve tree seeds and access modern propagation techniques
- vi Development of standards and guidelines for seeds collection, storage and distribution to ensure quality control
- vii Develop and build capacity of stakeholders for the supply and distribution of planting stock (tree nursery establishment and management)
- viii Ensuring that the special needs of the different ecological zones for seeds supply and nursery development are met.
- ix Carrying out gene conservation of high priority, endangered indigenous tree species to guarantee sustainability
- x Establishment of seeds orchards and banks
- xi Strengthening and improvement of existing nurseries and establishment of new ones;
- xii Encourage improved breeding of indigenous tree species.

xiii Encourage the establishment of communities, schools and institutions' nurseries for the supply of seedlings at local levels.

### **3.1.15 FOREST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Pursuit of new knowledge through systematic research is highly essential in forestry development. Government is convinced that practical application of the scientific research findings is highly essential to achieving sustainable forest management as spelt out in the forest policy. The Forestry Commission shall collaborate with Universities and research institutions within and outside the country to encourage and support the identification of professional and post-graduate training and research for tackling forestry problems for her workforce and relevant stakeholders.

#### **3.1.15.1 Policy Statement**

Forestry Research and Development shall aim at promoting intensive research and development in all aspects of forestry and related disciplines.

#### **3.1.15.2 Objectives**

To develop appropriate technology in various aspects of forestry and wildlife management.

#### **3.1.15.3 Strategy**

- (i) Promote intensive research and development in all aspects of forestry development;
- (ii) Identify research needs of relevant stakeholders.
- (iii) Facilitate experience sharing;
- (iv) Fund research with a percentage of the tax paid by forest related industries on export of logs, to be paid into a special account designated as Forestry trust Fund

and Ecological Funds in addition to other budgetary allocations

- (v) Build capacity of forestry staff at all levels to enable them appropriately apply the results of research.

### **3.1.16 FOREST FIRES**

Wild fire destroys large proportion of the forest estate every year, with the attendant loss of flora, fauna and revenue. It also contributes to global warming. Government shall study all methods of forest fire prevention, detection and control which have been successful in other parts of the world, and apply techniques suited in the state.

#### **3.1.16.1 Policy Statement:**

Government shall develop effective and efficient measures for the prevention, control and management of forest fires.

#### **3.1.16.2 Objectives:**

- i. To protect forest estate from forest fires and bush burning.
- ii. To enhance better forest fire management; and
- iii. To ensure effective forest fire control and prevention.

#### **3.1.16.3 Strategy**

- i. Establishment of a Forest Fire Service Unit within the Forestry Commission
- ii. Enhanced public awareness and education on the dangers associated with forest fires
- iii. Insure forest reserves against bush burning and forest fires
- iv. Capacity building and training of forest personnel in forest fire management
- v. enacting a legislation criminalizing forest fires.

### **3.1.17 PESTS AND DISEASES CONTROL**

Insects and other pathogens generally attack trees and other plants within their habitat including forest. However there are occasions when there is dis-equilibrium and epidemic occurs. Harmful insects are of many types and no part of the tree is immune from attack. The principal types include stem borers, defoliators (consuming the leaves) and others that infest the fruits, cones or seeds. Foresters shall also be trained in the field of entomology for the control of pests and other epidemic outbreak. Constant vigilance is required to detect the first signs or symptoms as early as possible.

#### **3.1.17.1 Policy Statement**

The State Forest Estate shall be protected from pests and diseases.

#### **3.1.17.2 Objective**

- i) To ensure healthy growth and high quality forest resources and services.

#### **3.1.17.3 Strategy**

- i. Detecting epidemics in their incipient stage;
- ii. Checking and arresting the epidemic outbreak in an ecological zone;
- iii. Inspecting nursery stock for insects and diseases before transporting to planting site
- iv. Applying phyto-sanitary methods by clearing undesirable vegetation, burning or application of herbicides
- v. Encouraging and strengthening network among various research institutions at state, national, and international levels
- vi. Procuring and applying appropriate pesticides and equipment for pests and diseases control

- vii Adopting environmentally friendly techniques for pests and diseases management and control
- viii Strengthening capacities of the forestry workforce for pests and diseases control.
- ix. Rapid response to outbreak of pests and diseases.
- x Promote and sustain forestry hygiene.

### **3.1.18 NATIONAL TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN**

The National Tree Planting Campaign (NTPC) was first introduced in 1981 to mark the World Environment Day which is observed on June 5 every year. The ceremony involved the planting of a commemorative tree at the launching site by the highest office of the land (Mr. President at the Federal, State Governor at the state and Local government Chairman at the local government level). It is to serve as a vehicle to give support and impetus to natural afforestation and regeneration efforts.

#### **3.1.18.1 Policy statement**

The state actively participate in the National Tree Planting Campaign Programme to ensure that the citizenry imbibe the culture of tree planting in their homesteads, farmlands and developmental areas. The programme shall be extended to government forest reserves and community forests across the state.

#### **3.1.18.2 Objective**

- (i) To conserve and protect the environment.
- (ii) To produce raw materials for forest based industries.
- (iii) To create awareness on the effects of deforestation, erosion, desertification and the need to plant more trees.
- (iv) To massively re-generate the environment

### **3.3.18.3 Strategies**

- (i) Provision of adequate quantities of quality seedlings of economic and ornamental trees
- (ii) Each urban household should plant a minimum of two trees a year including ornamentals
- (iii) Effective extension services delivery
- (iii) Carry out robust enlightenment programmes
- (iv) Development of maintenance culture for planted trees.

### **3.1.19 FUELWOOD**

Fuelwood accounts for a large population of all energy consumption in many developing countries. Majority of Cross Riverines use fuelwood as heating energy source for domestic and industrial purposes. As deforestation increases, the supply of fuelwood dwindles, villagers mainly women and children spend more time searching for fuelwood. There is therefore the need to make fuelwood available and affordable.

#### **3.1.19.1 Policy Statement**

Government shall in collaboration with host communities and development partners where possible support the establishment and sustenance of fuelwood woodlots through the provision of quality and improved seedlings and stumps for planting, and other incentives. Government shall encourage the development and distribution of fuel-efficient cook stove within the state and beyond to ensure sustainable utilization of fuelwood. Affordable alternatives to fuelwood shall be developed and made available to reduce pressure on the forests.

### **3.1.19.2 Objectives**

- i. To ensure the sustainable supply and utilization of fuelwood.
- ii. To conserve and protect the environment.
- iii. To provide income generating opportunities to communities.
- iv. To promote the utilization of fuel-efficient cook stove and other viable alternatives such as bio-gas and solar.
- v. To promote the establishment of fuelwood plantation with fast growing species (both indigenous and exotic) in communities where there is high demand for fuelwood and very low supply due to paucity of forest, in order to reduce pressure on declining natural forest in such communities.
- iv. To discourage indiscriminate felling of trees for fuelwood

### **3.1.19.3 Strategies**

- i. Individuals, communities and private sector shall be encouraged to establish and maintain woodlots to supply fuelwood on sustainable basis.
- ii. Capacity of communities shall be developed and supported to participate actively in the maintenance of nurseries and fuelwood plantation and in making small and medium scale business in the supply of fuelwood and fuel-efficient cook stove
- iii. Sustain research on fast growing plant species and affordable alternative sources of energy.
- iv. Sustain advocacy and awareness campaigns on effects of deforestation.
- v. Discourage indiscriminate felling of trees for fuelwood.
- vi. Facilitate the provision of subsidy on available alternative energy sources.
- vii. Promote the development of cheaper and readily available alternatives to fuelwood.

### **3.1.20 DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION CONTROL**



There is increasing depletion of vegetation cover that may lead to drought and desertification in Cross River State. The policy shall adopt a forward-looking stance to reduce Cross River State's vulnerability to the impacts of drought.

Preparedness – especially drought planning, plan implementation, and proactive mitigation must become the cornerstone of the state drought policy.

#### **3.1.20.1 Policy Statement**

Government shall dutifully check to prevent the occurrence and spreading of desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and desertification.

#### **3.1.20.2 Objectives**

- i. Reduce the rate of desertification in the State.
- ii. Mitigate the adverse effects of drought and Desertification

#### **3.1.20.3 Strategies**

- i. Embark on aggressive afforestation and regeneration scheme in the affected and threatened ecological zones, using drought resistant indigenous and exotic tree species.
- ii. Encourage the use of alternative sources of energy e.g. solar energy, wind energy, biogas, etc, and promote the use of fuel-efficient wood/cookstoves.
- iii. Develop an appropriate integrated land use plan in the affected ecological zones, which should emphasize the establishment of animal ranching to reduce wanton destruction of vegetation by humans and animals. Necessary steps should be taken to ensure sustainable management of ranches to reduce out-migration.
- iv. Strict enforcement of the bush-burning laws and regulations.
- v. Develop early warning system for drought forecasting and management.

- vi. Carry out Awareness Campaigns to sensitize all stakeholders on Sustainable Forest Management.
- vii. Support the development and appropriate management of forest resources in the buffer areas and fringe zones.

### **3.1.21 EMPLOYMENT, SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PERSONNEL AND HABITAT**

The forests and forest industries constitute important fields of employment. These fields are as follows: First, the employment in the forests of resident workmen during forest exploitation is traditional. The large timber firms usually maintain hundreds of skilled and semi-skilled workers. Secondly, the emphasis on artificial regeneration (that is plantation establishment) has provided a dependable avenue for the employment of a large labour force and improved earnings of the workmen. Thirdly, the employment of workmen in forest industries has led to the establishment of forest villages thereby preventing rural-urban migration.

#### **3.1.21.1 Policy Statement**

The forestry sector aims at providing optimum employment opportunities in environmentally safe and secured working conditions.

#### **3.1.21.2 Objectives**

- i. Provide regular employment for skilled and non-skilled forestry workers in an environment that is healthy, safe and secured.
- ii. Encourage self and safe employment through active engagement in sustainable agro-forestry practice and small-scale community forest based industries and thus reduce rural, urban migration.

#### **3.1.21.3 Strategies**

- i. Promote private sector, NGOs and Community Participation in larger scale plantation establishment.
- ii. Improve on the present level of employment in forestry at all levels.
- iii. Promote self-employment in forestry at all levels through the provision of necessary subsidy, inputs and back-up extension services.
- iv. Increase downstream forestry activities to provide more employment opportunities.
- v. Promote ergonomic and safety measures in the forestry sector.
- vi. Promote sustainable protection and security of plant and animal habitats

### **3.1.22 GENDER, YOUTH AND VULNERABLE GROUPS ISSUES**

The government will ensure that the vulnerable group, women, youth, the aged and poor people are beneficiaries in the forest sector development. This is in recognition of the fact that the groups are often marginalized in development processes, and these groups are frequently the most dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods. Strategies for implementing the forest policy specifically account for gender differences in the perception and uses of forest products.

#### **3.1.22.1 Policy Statement**

Women, youth and the vulnerable groups shall be actively engaged in forest policy implementation and sustainable management of forest resources.

#### **3.1.22.2 Objectives**

- i. To provide employment and income generation activities through forest- based industries and handicrafts.
- ii. To improve the socio-economic status of women, youth and vulnerable groups.
- iii. To ensure efficient utilization of timber and non-timber forest products by women,

youth and vulnerable groups.

iv. To facilitate women, youth and vulnerable groups involvement in the conservation and protection of the environment for sustainable use.

### **3.1.22.3 Strategies**

- i. Create awareness to enable women, youth and vulnerable groups appreciate the benefits derivable from involvement in forest resources management.
- ii. Involve women, youth and vulnerable groups in agro-forestry practices
- iii. Promote the formation of NGOs by women, youth and the vulnerable groups at local level to enhance advocacy for inclusiveness.
- iv. Facilitate sharing and learning cultures by linking up grassroots level.
- v. Promote awareness campaigns and education programmes in schools, colleges, on sustainable management practices to stimulate and sustain the interest of the youths.
- vi. Promote and sustain conservation clubs in schools.
- vii. Enhance the employment of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in forestry income generating activities.

### **3.1.23 MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Forestry is recognized as a professional course in the formal education system at the tertiary level. However, it is not treated as a separate subject at the secondary and primary levels, but it is integrated into other subjects like agricultural science. Therefore the learning of the vital functions, services and products of forests and why they should be grown and sustainably managed are only known to a restricted few. This greatly narrows the knowledge base among the populace. Government and Non-governmental financial support is required to put in place and strengthen forestry education and training at all.

### **3.1.23.1 Policy Statement**

Manpower Development, Training and Capacity Building shall provide qualitative facilities and training with a view to providing the necessary skills and enhancing efficiency in Sustainable Forest Management at all levels.

### **3.1.23.2 Objectives**

To strengthen the existing Forestry Institutions to meet the challenges of providing highly trained manpower and capacity building at all levels.

### **3.1.23.3 Strategies**

- i. Provide adequate manpower, facilities and training with the view to promote efficiency in Sustainable Forest Management at all levels.
- ii. Carry out gap analysis and training needs assessment at all levels.
- iv. Train-the-trainers to achieve trickle-down effect of acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- v. Identify and train people who are committed to forestry.
- vi. Establish linkages with appropriate training institutions to institute for forestry training at all levels.
- vii. Encourage collaborative and in-training programmes.
- viii. support capacity building amongst all stakeholders at all levels
- ix. Establishment of polytechnic and college of Agriculture in order to provide technique training for the needed middle class manpower.

### **3.1.24 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CREATION**

A revamped and effective extension and advisory support service is crucial to achieve

greater impact statewide in the efficient management and use of timber, fuelwood and other non-timber forest products. It must be recognized that agro-forestry is relevant to improve farming systems and rural livelihoods. There must be widespread promotion of opportunities, new technologies and market information relevant to all aspect of forestry and agroforestry. There is the necessity to develop guidelines for delivery of extension and advisory services across the state. In the case of processing industries (notably sawmilling), the wastage and efficiency that predominates the sector is clear evidence of the need for advice, improved technologies and clear standards and guidelines.

#### **3.1.24.1 Policy Statement**

To create awareness among the populace on the importance of the forest and the need to conserve forests for the benefit of the present and future generations

#### **3.1.24.2 Objective**

To evolve a highly sensitized society that is aware of the importance of forests and the need for a participatory approach in sustainable forestry development.

#### **3.1.24.3 Strategies**

- i. Promote forestry extension service and create awareness on the roles of forest in wood production, provision of ecosystem services, poverty reduction, food security and socio-economic development.
- ii. Disseminate and promote the adoption of research findings and update the public on current forestry technologies.
- iii. Actively involve the print and electronic media in education and awareness creation programmes.

- vi. Introduce training in forestry at the Primary and Secondary School levels.

### **3.1.25 INFORMATION AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT**

Inadequate data base remains a major constraint to forest informed policy formulation, project planning and implementation of forestry programmes. The lack of regular forest inventory is responsible for the dearth of data that could be used in drawing up efficient forest management plans.

#### **3.1.25.1 Policy Statement**

Data gathering in all forestry activities (including the use of aerospace technology) shall be supported to develop a sound and current information system and data base for sustainable forest management.

#### **3.1.25.2 Objectives**

- i. Strengthen forest management information systems.
- ii. Provide information and baseline data for effective planning a management.
- iii. Provide information for public awareness, research and extension.

#### **3.1.25.3 Strategies on Effective Networking**

- i. Support regular capacity building and knowledge exchange programmes for networking.
- ii. Provide appropriate information technology equipment to facilitate networking.
- iii. Create a platform that bring together key forest stakeholders to build synergy and collaboration for effective management of the state forest resources.

#### **3.1.25.4 Strategies on Processing and Management of Information**

Support appropriate and efficient information, document storage mechanism for easier retrieval, access, processing and dissemination.

#### **3.1.25.5 Strategies on Reliable and Timely Data Acquisition**

- i. Support periodic forest data gathering and exchanges at all levels.
- ii. Create and support effective statistical units.
- iii. Support mechanism to engender transparency and accountability in data management.

#### **3.1.26 LAND TENURE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

There is considerable sensitivity among many people over land ownership, land tenure, and permitted land uses. There are few incentives for individuals or private businesses to invest in forestry when land tenure is uncertain. This applies equally to tree tenure on private land, and the ownership of plantations or forest resources in government land. Natural forests are perceived in many cases to be free resources, including those on government land, to be used without regard to planned management or sustainable yields. The 1978 Land Use Act gives the lead on questions of land ownership and tenure. All land is owned, including trees growing on it by government or private owners. This policy aims at guaranteeing tree ownership rights within the enabling laws and traditional practices and customs.

Forest Reserves are lands set aside for specific forest management and is held in trust by government. This policy is to support the need to widen the concept of Forest Reserves in such a way that any interested parties, including individuals, groups, and communities as well as Federal and local governments can 'set aside' or reserve forests for the purposes of forestry in perpetuity. Where the commitment is made to maintain these as reserves in perpetuity, they could be considered as part of the permanent forest estate.



### **3.1.26.1 Policy Statement**

An effective mechanism for conflict resolution on the means of production, acquisition and marketing of forest products and development shall be developed

### **3.1.26.2 Objectives**

- i. To reduce conflicts between stakeholders in forestry and other land users.
- ii. To promote cooperation and partnership building among stakeholders and other land use sectors.

### **3.1.26.3 Strategies**

- i. Create conflict resolution unit in the forestry commission, headed by a director.
- ii. Develop and sustain appropriate mechanism for effective resolution of conflicts among different land use sector through an open system of communication
- iii. Develop guidelines and principles on education and advocacy for the acquisition and marketing of forest goods and services.
- iv. Encourage the participation of all stakeholders in decision making on forest products acquisition, processing and marketing.
- v. Encourage regular stakeholders' discussions and exchange of ideas.

### **3.1.27 TRADE**

Illegal felling and trade of the resulting timber, especially when it compromises sustainable forest management, or reduces potential revenues for legally produced wood products, has become a central issue in recent years. Illegal logging destroys forest ecosystems, robs governments and local communities of needed revenues, undercuts prices for legally harvested forest products on the world market and is a negative influence in both domestic and international markets for products from legally

and sustainably managed forest operations.

### **3.1.27.1 Policy Statement**

Government shall seek the best ways to promote legal trade in wood and wood products through effective forest law enforcement, good governance and timber certifications. This will create an enabling trade environment for forest-based business that will maximize their contribution to the economy.

### **3.1.27.2 Objectives**

- i. To reduce illegal logging in forest reserves and areas outside the reserves
- ii. To encourage and embark on timber certification
- iii. To regulate and harmonize activities in the forest industries and forest-based business in order to maximize profit.
- iv. To encourage the use of appropriate machinery and technology in the forest industries.
- v. To promote production of high quality forest products.
- vi. To create and or identify markets for forest products.

### **3.1.27.3 Strategies**

- i. Introduce the use of drones and other tracking devices to move timber from stump to ports to reduce illegality
- ii. Institutionalize product quality control and certification
- iii. Enforce the use of appropriate forest harvesting tools and equipment and processing facilities, ban the use of power chainsaw in wood conversion.
- iv. Ensure that sawmills and factories processing wood and producing furniture

components for export are certified by the Forestry Commission to be adequately equipped and managed by qualified/skilled manpower.

- v. Promote the production of high quality value added wood and allied products to make them competitive in the international market.
- vi. Develop effective market information network.
- vii. Provide and support the collection and dissemination of timely and reliable market information.
- viii. Support and promote carbon trading and payment for ecosystem services

### **3.1.28 SECTORAL COOPERATION**

The forest sector interest cuts across many traditional management boundaries, including environment, land energy, agriculture, water, industry, tourism, educations and economic development planning. There is need for synergy between Forestry Commission and all relevant government MDAs, the private sector, the civil society and academia towards in the execution of the forest policy as deem necessary.

#### **3.1.28.1 Policy Statement**

Government is committed to building synergy among institutions in order to reduce actual or potential conflicts and to prevent institutions from working at cross purposes

#### **3.1.28.2 Objectives**

- i. To increase equity, transparency and fairness in resources allocation and utilisation in the overall state interest.
- ii. To engender resource accounting and the proper roles and responsibilities of all relevant sectors

#### **3.1.28.3 Strategies**

- i. Increase the inter-sectoral discussions and exchange of information.

- ii. Support and sustain collaboration with other land use stakeholders.
- iii. Establish effective mechanisms for mediation and early response to crisis situations.

### **3.1.29 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Government has signed a number of international agreements and declarations relevant to forestry development. It is obligatory that Government shall honour these agreements through domestic legislation and action.

Intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral cooperation shall be upheld to promote sustainable development of forest resources.

#### **3.1.29.1 Policy Statement**

Government shall participate fully in the development and implementation of international obligations and cross border cooperation agreements.

- i. Respect and honour treaties and conventions to which Nigeria and Cross River State are signatories.
- ii. Sustain and comply with bilateral and multilateral agreements.

#### **3.1.29.2 Objectives**

To ensure the enforcement of all declarations and agreements to which Nigeria and Cross River State are signatories.

#### **3.1.29.3 Strategies**

- i. Maintain and sustain membership of affiliated international organizations

### **3.1.30 FOREST SECTOR INVESTMENT**

Government's economic policy recognizes the role of the private sector in industrial growth and development. The forestry sector will draw on the favourable economic environment to foster greater private sector participation in the sector.

### **3.1.30.1 Policy Statement**

Investment in the forest sector will involve large and small scale investments, as considerable potential exists for these investments to deliver significant benefits to private investors and the local communities. Government will therefore further strengthen the financing of small scale forestry and wood processing enterprises in order to address the constraints to private sector investment.

### **3.1.30.2 Objectives**

The objective is to embark on agroforestry and intensive forest plantation development of multi-purpose tree species, including indigenous and exotic species to enhance the potentials of forest sector investment contribution towards:

- i. Poverty reduction;
- ii. Sustainable development;
- iii. Protection of environmental services; and
- iv. Provision of forest goods that will improve the quality of life.

### **3.1.30.3 Strategies**

Strategies to overcome constraints to private sector investment shall:

- i. Support the provision of financial mechanisms and technical assistance support for small and medium size forest enterprises;
- ii. Develop markets for forest environmental services (biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and carbon sequestration etc);
- iii. Combat illegal logging and other related corruption
- iv. Ensure sound Environmental Assessment procedures and safeguard policies to act both as an incentive to investment and as a deterrent to companies that engage in non-sustainable socially and ecologically damaging forest harvesting operations.

- v. Arrive at a consensus on forest product certification to improve forest management standards.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FOREST POLICY

This chapter sets out the elements of support for the implementation of the forest policy. These are:

Forest Sector investment support

Institutional Reforms

Gender and Equity

Funding Mechanism

International and Regional Cooperation

Forest Sector Monitoring and Evaluation.

#### **4.1 Forest sector Investment**

Forestry is a huge profitable venture and as a result, the Government shall –

- a. Develop a favorable business climate for private and public investment;
- b. Build capacity and provide adequate human resources; and
- c. Develop a long term investment programme of support which shall involve the public sector, private sector, development partners, and International Donors

##### **4.1.1 Public Sector**

Government shall develop a public sector investment programme using the following indices:

- a. economic values for forest resources
- b. costs/ benefits analyses in forestry development
- c. Promotion of biodiversity conservation
- d. Promotion of environmental protection
- e. Promotion of social-economic development issues which will increase and boost revenue generating capacity of the government

#### **4.1.2 Private Sector**

Government shall create positive investment climate for the private sector with new financial incentives (as stated in the reviewed Cross River State Forestry Tariff Document), remove market distortions, review of investment Code (as stated in the CRS Economic Empowerment Development Strategy- SEEDs Document), Cross River Growth and Development Strategy (2018-2048), review of legislation on land leases, develop more transparent, accountable systems of administration and regulation which shall encourage private investments in commercial forestry.

#### **4.1.3 Donor Agencies/Development Partners**

The State Government shall coordinate and actively pursue funding mechanisms to support a sector-wide forestry development programmes including carbon credits and other international funds towards sustainable forest management.

#### **4.1.4 National Forest Sector Support**

State Director of Forestry shall liaise with the National Forestry Development Committee (NFDC) for forest sector wide planning and coordination and also ensure the accommodation of subnational interest in relevant national legal framework and policies.

#### **4.2 Institutional Reforms (Forestry Commission)**

Strengthening of forest sector institutional framework for effective implementation of the forest policy shall entail:-

- Strengthening collaboration and synergy with the private sector and other stakeholders for the development and coordination of forest activities.
- The State Forestry Commission shall be headed by a seasoned indigenous forester (serving or retired) in the Director cadre from the academia not below the rank of a



senior lecturer. The Chairman and Permanent Secretary of Forestry Commission shall be core professional foresters.

- The full implementation of sustainable forest management in line with international best practices shall be put in place.
- The forest management structure in the state should be strengthened to function optimally.
- The members of the community should be actively involved as watch-dogs.
- Reactivate the forest management committees.
- Incentive should be given to those who give information on illegal activities.
- Uniform field staff should be well kitted and adequately empowered.
- Forestry Commission shall use drones in the monitoring of forest ecosystem in consonance with global best practices

#### **4.2.1 Local Governments**

The Local governments shall devolve responsibility for management of the forest via-

- i. an effective system of planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of forestry practices;
- ii. Re-investment of forest revenues in the sector;
- iii. Integration of forest management plans with local government development plans;
- iv. enactment and enforcement of supportive bye-laws, manpower development and training;
- v. Community mobilization and awareness campaigns; and
- vi. establishment of forest reserves, plantations, woodlots, roadside and amenity planting

#### **4.2.2 The Private Sector**

The State Government shall regulate and support private sector participation in forest development particularly in forest plantation development, provide better technical advice, provide needed technology on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT), improved economic incentives, transparent administrative processes, and security of tenure over resources created under private initiatives.

#### **4.2.3 Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Based Organisations**

The NGOs, CSOs and CBOs shall play a major role in service delivery and advocacy for sustainable forest sector development bearing in mind their technical expertise, sensitivity to gender and poverty and their contacts with the grassroots. They should mobilize and sensitize the local people in the management of forests and ensure that the concerns of the under privileged are incorporated into the state development processes.

#### **4.2.4 The Role of the Community**

The rural communities shall play a major role in the management of forest Resources in their domain in order to ensure sustainable forest management, protection of forest estate and trees outside forest reserves and formation of community forest management committees (FMC) which shall liaise with NGOs, CBOs and CSOs in awareness creation

#### **4.3 The State Forest Law/legislation**

The State government shall put in place a forest legislation/law that provide legal backing to the forest policy in order to ensure its implementation. The state Forest Act/law/legislation shall have key feature of a supportive legal frame work comprising:-

- (i) Enforcement of the priority areas of the forest policy
- (ii) Regulation of access to forest resources
- (iii) Recognition of community rights' in forest estate.
- (iv) De-reservation considerations in-line with public interest.
- (v) Enforcement of appropriate offences and penalties for violation of the Forestry regulations.

#### **4.4 Gender and Equity**

Women, youths and the vulnerable group shall also be special beneficiaries in the development of the forest sector. This is in recognition of the fact that this segment of the society are often marginalized in development processes, and that these groups are usually the most dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods. Strategies for implementing the forest policy will specifically account for gender differences in the perceptions and uses of forest products. These strategies are discussed in the section under policy statement (Section 3.3.22.3). Special considerations shall be given to them in benefit sharing from forest management which shall be provided as health, educational or other facilities funded from forest revenues.

#### **4.5 Funding Mechanism for Forestry Development**

In order to successfully implement the new forest policy, adequate and timely financing will be required. The funding of forestry development programmes should be participatory, involving all the stakeholders, the Federal, State, Local Governments, the private sector, the communities and international donor agencies.

##### **4.5.1 Government Funding**

The bulk of government funding for the forestry sector shall be from state budgetary provision to sectoral programme and from the national Ecological Funds. Other funding

sources shall be the National Forest Trust Fund and the State Forest Trust Fund created under the CRS Forestry Commission Law, 2010

#### **4.5.2 Community Funding**

The Community-Driven Approach enunciated in this policy implies that community shall show considerable initiative in promoting self-help projects according to their needs. In this regard, communities should accept some level of responsibility by contributing an agreed percentage in cash or kind as necessary for sustainable forest management.

#### **4.5.3 Funding by Other Stakeholders**

The CBOs, CSO and NGOs would be encouraged to establish linkages and collaboration with other agencies in order to build up their capabilities and expand their scope of action as well as provision of micro credits to enable meaningful contribution to forestry development.

#### **4.5.4 International funding**

The Government shall put in place mechanisms for attracting and assessing funding and support for forestry programmes by international organizations and donor agencies to complement her efforts.

#### **4.6 International and Regional Cooperation**

Nigeria and Cross River State are signatories to a number of International Declarations/Treaties and Conventions that influence the forest sector. State government shall meet her obligation to these conventions and instruments through domestic legislation and actions that are in line with state forest objectives.

#### **4.7 Monitoring and Evaluation**

Impact of the forest policy shall be measured in terms of the following policy performance indicators:-

- i. Sustainable use of forest resources
- ii. The maintenance of vital forest ecosystem services and conservation of biodiversity
- iii. The growth of the economy in forest related business and
- iv. Poverty reduction amongst the rural and urban populations who depend on forests for their livelihoods.

Well-defined Forest Information System (FIS) shall be established with reliable data on agreed indicators. All forest sector investment programmes will set out plans for monitoring and evaluation, and develop specific indicators to show progress and impact. The results of the forest sector monitoring and evaluation will be published regularly.

In view of the fact that challenges and opportunities relevant to the pursuance of forestry development objectives are subject to change over time, the forest policy shall be reviewed every ten years to line up with these changes. The State Forestry Commission shall be responsible for conducting these periodic reviews.

#### **References**

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