



# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## ***NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY***

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Revised DRAFT # 13 February 2013

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	I
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	III
FOREWORD	IV
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	V
1.0. INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS	2
3.0 GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES	4
3.1 Goal	4
3.2 Objectives	4
3.3 Guiding Principles	4
4.0 MANAGEMENT OF ECOSYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES	6
4.1 Forest Ecosystems	6
4.2 Freshwater and Wetland Ecosystems	6
4.3. Coastal and Marine Ecosystems	7
4.4. Mountain Ecosystems	8
4.5 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Ecosystems	8
4.6 Land	9
4.7 Soils	9
4.8 Minerals	9
4.9 Biodiversity	10
4.10 Wildlife Resources	10
4.11 Livestock	11
4.12 Fisheries	11
5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP	12
5.1 Natural Capital and Valuation	12
5.2 Trade and Environment	13
5.3 Sustainable Tourism	13
5.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	14
5.5 Industrialization and environment	14
5.6 infrastructural development and environment	15
5.7 Chemical Management	15

5.8	Sustainable Human Settlements _____	15
5.9	Energy Use, Efficiency and Conservation _____	16
5.10	Climate Change _____	16
5.11	Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management _____	17
5.12	Gender, Vulnerability and Environment _____	18
5.13	HIV/AIDS and the Environment _____	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND HEALTH _____</b>	<b>18</b>
6.1	Air Quality _____	19
6.2	Water and Sanitation _____	19
6.3	Waste management _____	20
6.4	Radiation _____	20
6.5	Toxic and Hazardous Substances _____	20
6.6	Noise _____	21
<b>7.0</b>	<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND MONITORING _____</b>	<b>21</b>
7.1	Scientific Research And Information Management _____	22
7.2	Education, Communication and Awareness _____	23
7.3	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment _____	23
<b>8.0</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE _____</b>	<b>23</b>
8.1	Environmental Legal Reforms _____	23
8.2	Institutional Arrangements _____	24
8.3	Human Resources Development and Capacity Building _____	24
8.4	Partnerships and Stakeholder Involvement _____	25
8.5	Funding Mechanisms _____	25
8.6	Regional and International Cooperation _____	25
<b>9.0</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS _____</b>	<b>26</b>
9.1	Integration of Environmental Concerns in all Policy, Planning and Development Processes _____	26
9.2	Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities _____	26
9.3	Environmental Compliance _____	27
<b>10.</b>	<b>GLOSSARY _____</b>	<b>28</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## FOREWORD

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
EHIA	Environmental Health Impact Analysis
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMCA	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEC	National Environment Council
EIMS	Environmental Information Management System
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

## 1.0. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Environment is a broad term representing the totality of the surrounding such as plants, animals microorganisms, socio economic and cultural factors. It includes the physical factors of the surroundings of human beings such as land, water, atmosphere, sound, odour, taste, the biological factors of animals and plants and the social factors of aesthetics, and includes both the natural and the built environment.
- 1.2 Kenya is blessed with mega biodiversity and enjoys a unique tropical climate with varying weather patterns due to differing topographical dimensions. The country has a wide variety of ecosystems namely, mountains, forests, arid and semi-arid areas, freshwater, wetlands, wildlife, coastal and marine all offering many opportunities for sustainable human, social and economic development. These ecosystems are natural capitals which provide important regulatory services (such as forests and mountains serving to regulate water flow, sustain biodiversity), provision services (such as forests providing timber and fuel wood), cultural services (such as aesthetic, recreational or spiritual values and uses), and supporting services (such as soil formation, nutrient cycling and primary production).
- 1.3 The survival and socio-economic wellbeing of Kenyans is ultimately intertwined with the environment. Most Kenyan citizens depend directly or indirectly on environmental goods and services. In addition, Kenya's environmental resources contribute directly and indirectly to the local and national economy through revenue generation and wealth creation in such productive sectors as agriculture, fisheries, livestock, water, energy, forestry, trade, tourism and industry.
- 1.4 That is why the Environment has been an essential feature of Kenya's development policy. Environmental imperatives were initially captured through periodic development planning cycles. Whole sections or chapters of successive National Development Plans have dealt with the environment since independence. But modern environment management and planning in Kenya can be traced to the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, which helped a great deal in raising the understanding of the link between environment and development. Following the Summit, Kenya initiated the national environment action plan (NEAP) process. This was completed in 1994. It recommended the need for a national policy and law on the environment. It is significant therefore that the global environment body UNEP is located in Nairobi.
- 1.5 The policy process culminated into the Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1999 entitled *Environment and Development*. The legislative process gave forth the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) No. 8 of 1999 as Kenya's first framework environmental law. Both the Sessional Paper and the Act added to a large number of existing sectoral laws and policies dealing with various facets of the environment, such as water, forests, minerals among others. This has created a diffuse system of environmental laws and policies, some of whose provisions are not in harmony making them ill-suited to aid the pursuit of sustainable development objectives as set out in the Vision 2030.
- 1.6 The promulgation of The Constitution of Kenya 2010 and other new developments like climate change marked an important chapter in Kenya's environmental policy development. Hailed as a green Constitution, it embodies elaborate provisions with considerable implications for sustainable development. These range from environmental principles and implications of

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to the right to a clean and healthy environment enshrined in the Bill of Rights. Chapter V is entirely dedicated to land and environment. It also embodies a host of social and economic rights which are of environmental character, such as the right to water, food and shelter among others.

- 1.7. It is the responsibility of the government through the ministry responsible for environmental issues to ensure that policies are reviewed and formulated to meet the aspirations of the Constitution and emerging issues in the management of the environment for prosperity. Such a policy should aim at providing a holistic framework to guide the management of the environment and natural resources in Kenya. It should further ensure that environment is integrated in all government policies in order to facilitate and realize sustainable development at all levels. This would help promote green economy, enhance social inclusion, improve human welfare and create opportunities for employment and maintenance of a healthy ecosystem.
- 1.8. The process of formulating the environment policy was initiated in 2006 by the Ministry of Environment and Mineral resources through a participatory and a consultative process that involved public and key institutions engagement with the taskforces from the stakeholders formed for the accomplishment of the exercise. This culminated into the production of the Draft National Environment 2008 which was however not finalized. In the event of the promulgation of Constitution of Kenya 2010 it was found necessary to review the draft policy of 2008 to accommodate any new development due to time lapse and to align it to the Constitution. This policy is therefore a product of wide participation and consultation with various stakeholders within the academia, non-governmental organizations, interest groups, government ministries, chief executives and officers from the relevant public and private sector organizations from September 2011 to February 2013.

## **2.0 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 Kenya has undergone unprecedented social, economic, political, high population growth rate land technological changes since independence. These interlinked components provide the backdrop against which to view changes in the state of the country's environment because they serve a dual purpose as some of the most forceful drivers of that environmental change.) The main human activities contributing to environmental degradation in Kenya include unsustainable land use practices, poor soil and water management practices, deforestation, overgrazing, and pollution.
- 2.2. These activities contribute a great deal to degradation of the country's scarce natural resources such as land, fresh and marine waters, wildlife and biodiversity thereby threatening the livelihoods of many people. They also undermine the sink function of the environment which operates through such processes as nutrient recycling, decomposition and the natural purification and filtering of air and water.
- 2.3 Environmental degradation in Kenya directly contributes to impacts of climate change as is currently being witnessed in the rising costs of water treatment, food imports and health services. These are not only increasing human vulnerability and health insecurity but also draining the country's economic resources. The expansion of human activities into marginal areas leading to clearance of natural habitats such as forests and wetlands has been a major driving force behind land degradation throughout the country. The continuous loss of biological resources translates into loss of economic potential and options for commercial development



- 2.4 This backdrop provides the justification for this environment policy. It gives the framework to guide the country's efforts to deal with the considerable and ever-growing environmental issues and challenges, such as:-
- (a) *Environmental governance*: Many sectoral policies and laws are not harmonized with each other and with the Constitution. These include policies and laws concerning agriculture, land, water, forests, trade and industry, which have significant implications for the environment. The sectoral rather than integrated and ecosystem approach to management of natural resources has proved inadequate in addressing environmental challenges. In addition, weak enforcement of laws and weak implementation of policies remain a major issue of concern in Kenya's environment sector.
  - (b) *Loss of biodiversity*: Kenya continues to lose its biodiversity at alarming rates due to habitat destruction, overgrazing, deforestation, pollution, unsustainable harvesting of natural resources, biopiracy and introduction of invasive and alien species, among others. Invasive and alien species are a major threat to the environment. They threaten indigenous species through the effects of predation, alteration of habitat or disruption of ecosystem processes. The challenge of dealing with loss of biodiversity becomes even more complicated when one is dealing with shared resources where laws and policies of respective countries are not harmonized.
  - (c) *Valuation of environmental and natural resources*: The value of environmental resources is hardly reflected in pricing of marketed goods and services. Environmental and natural resources are largely considered as public goods. This is symptomatic of market failure. Integrating environmental considerations into the behaviour of enterprises and consumers would reflect a change in consumption and production patterns. Prioritization of environment and natural resources remains low among policy makers partly due to inadequate appreciation of the total economic value of the sector. Thus there is less public investment in the sector.
  - (d) *Rehabilitation and restoration of environmentally degraded areas*: There are several degraded areas in Kenya which require rehabilitation and restoration. These include wetlands, riverbanks, deforested areas, eroded shoreline, hilltops, and disused quarries and mines.
  - (e) *Urbanization, waste management and pollution*: Increasing levels of urbanization are caused by natural growth of the urban population and rural-urban migration. Urbanization often leads to destruction of sensitive ecosystems. Poor waste management causes urban pollution and poor health. Thus many urban environmental problems are the result of poor management, planning and absence of coherent urban policies.
  - (f) *Climate change, energy, security, and disaster management*: Climate change poses significant environmental challenges for Kenya, as evidenced by the frequent droughts and water shortages that affect energy supplies. This is happening at a time when energy consumption in the country is on the increase, even as utilization of renewable energy sources exclusive of hydro-electricity remains relatively low. Other adverse impacts of climate change can be seen in form of frequent and intensified natural disasters such as floods, landslides and prolonged droughts. Increased frequency and intensity of extreme climate events continue to undermine the country's sustainable development. Managing climate-related disasters remains a significant challenge.
  - (g) *Public participation, environmental education and awareness*: Broad public participation in decision making processes is one of the fundamental preconditions for sustainable development. This presupposes access to timely and accurate information on the environment. Sound environmental management has to be based on openness and participation at all levels. Therefore, it is imperative that environmental education and public awareness is promoted at all levels.
  - (h) *Data and information*: Inadequate and disaggregated data is a challenge for integrated planning and management of the environment and undertaking total economic valuation.

- (i) *Poverty:* Rising poverty levels have impacted negatively on the environment. Poverty is a major cause and consequence of environmental degradation and resources depletion because of lack of alternatives. The poor rely heavily on environment and natural resources for their livelihoods.
- (j) *Chemicals Management:* Chemicals are an important contributor to national development across all sectors. They form an important input to agriculture manufacturing, energy, leisure and as ingredients to commonly used materials such as plastics, electronics, refrigerators and air conditioning. They improve the quality of life as medicines, cosmetics, foods, leisure etc. Unfortunately they can also be dangerous because of their toxic and hazardous nature. Chemicals can be flammable, explosive, and carcinogenic directly or through air, water, food and materials. This inherent risk need to be managed at production, use, transport and when it turns to waste, disposed in an environmentally sound manner.

## **3.0 GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### **3.1 GOAL**

The goal of this Policy is:

A better quality of life for present and future generations through sustainable management and use of the environment and natural resources

### **3.2 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- (a) Provide a framework for an integrated approach to planning and sustainable management of Kenya's environment and natural resources.
- (b) Strengthen the legal and institutional framework for effective coordination and management of the environment and natural resources.
- (c) Ensure sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, such as unique terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, for national economic growth and improved livelihoods.
- (d) Promote and support research and capacity development as well as use of innovative environmental management tools such as incentives, disincentives, total economic valuation, indicators of sustainable development, strategic environmental assessments (SEAs), environmental impact assessments (EIAs), Environmental Audit, and Payment for Environmental Services (PES)
- (e) Promote and enhance cooperation, collaboration, synergy, partnerships and participation in the protection, conservation, sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.
- (f) Ensure inclusion of cross-cutting issues – such as poverty reduction, gender, disability and HIV&AIDS – in the management of environment and natural resources.
- (g) Promote domestication, coordination and maximization of benefit from MEAs

### **3.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Implementation of this Policy will be guided by the following principles:-

- (a) *Environmental Right:* Every person in Kenya has a right to a clean and healthy environment and a duty to safeguard and enhance the environment.
- (b) *Right to Development:* The right to development will be exercised taking into consideration sustainability, resource efficiency and economic social and environmental needs.

- (c) *Ecosystem Approach*: An integrated ecosystem approach to conserving environmental resources will be adopted and enhanced to ensure that all ecosystems are managed in an integrated manner while also providing a range of benefits to people.
- (d) *Total Economic Value*: The benefits that ecosystems generate will be integrated into the national accounting system, programmes and projects.
- (e) *Sustainable Use*: Environmental resources will be utilized in a manner that does not compromise the quality and value of the resource, or decrease the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems.
- (f) *Equity*: The management of the environment and natural resources will ensure equitable access to resources for present and future generations.
- (g) *Public Participation*: A coordinated and participatory approach to environmental protection and management will be enhanced to ensure that the relevant government agencies, County governments, private sector, civil society and communities are involved in planning, implementation and decision making processes.
- (h) *Subsidiarity*: The management of the environment and natural resources will be through decentralization and devolution of authority and responsibilities to the lowest level possible.
- (i) *Precautinary Principle*: Where there are credible threats of serious or irreversible damage to key environmental resources, lack of full scientific certainty will not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.
- (j) *Polluter Pays Principle*: The polluter and users of environmental and natural resources shall bear the full environmental and social costs of their activities.
- (k) *International Cooperation*: Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and regional instruments will be domesticated and implemented cooperatively for better environmental management of shared resources.
- (l) *Good Governance*: rule of law, effective institutions, transparency and accountability, respect for human rights and the meaningful participation of citizens will be integrated in environmental management.

## 4.0 MANAGEMENT OF ECOSYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Ecosystems provide a wide variety of goods and services. These include provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services. Despite the services they provide, ecosystems are under pressure from human activities. The most critical ecosystems in Kenya include forests, freshwaters, wetlands, coastal and marine, mountains, arid, semi arid and spectacularly diverse wildlife populations. Within these ecosystems are key natural and cultural heritage resources which support diverse biodiversity and provide natural capital for economic development and support livelihoods.

### 4.1 FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

- 4.1.1 The conservation and sustainable development of forest ecosystems and their associated resources is essential for lasting poverty reduction and sustainable development. Forest ecosystems are important in conservation of soil, water and biodiversity as well as in moderation of climate. They are the richest terrestrial habitats for biodiversity. Maintaining forest biodiversity protects the economic potential of future opportunities for new non-timber products, such as foods and medicines, as well as social sustainability by offering aesthetic, spiritual and recreational settings for people.
- 4.1.2 Kenya's forest resources are being subjected to overwhelming pressure from competing land-uses like agriculture, industry, human settlement and development of infrastructure. In addition, extraction of forest products, illegal logging, cutting trees for fuel wood and charcoal, and grazing of livestock have also contributed to the degradation of forests. These competing land uses have adverse environmental effects on long term sustainability of forest ecosystems.
- 4.1.3 Large scale loss of forests would lead to catastrophic, permanent change in the country's ecology with consequent loss of agricultural productivity, industrial potential development, living conditions and aggravated natural disasters such as floods and drought. It would also endanger the country's water supplies since the five major water towers are located in forested lands.

#### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Formulate an innovative strategy to increase forest, tree cover and other indigenous flora*
2. *Develop and implement a national strategy for rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems and water catchment areas.*
3. *Support effective implementation of the forest and other related policies and laws.*
4. *Develop and implement national standards, principles and criteria of sustainable forest management.*
5. *Encourage development and implementation of appropriate forestry-based investment programmes and projects.*

### 4.2 FRESHWATER AND WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS

- 4.2.1 Freshwater resources and wetlands form an important part of Kenya's natural resources with considerable provisioning, regulatory, and supporting services. Their provisioning services include the storage and retention of water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use. Their regulating services include modifying water flows, recharging and discharging groundwater resources and diluting or removing pollutants. Their supporting services are important for soil

formation and retention, as well as nutrient cycling. The ecosystems also provide habitats for a great number of plant and animal species.

- 4.2.2 The ecosystems face numerous threats from human population pressure and land use changes. Some of them have been converted for agricultural use, settlements and commercial developments. Other threats include pollution, sedimentation, and over-exploitation of wetland resources, introduction of alien species, and encroachment of riparian reserves and adverse effects of climate variability. These have caused extensive degradation, reduction in water quality and quantity and loss of freshwater and wetland ecosystem goods and services.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Develop and implement integrated freshwater and wetland resources management strategies and action plans.*
- 2. Promote and institutionalize payment for environmental services schemes to support catchment protection and conservation*
- 3. Promote sustainable use of freshwater and wetland resources and the conservation of river and lake ecosystems through development and implementation of river basin management plans.*
- 4. Develop and implement a national wetland policy and regulations.*
- 5. Map wetland areas countrywide*
- 6. Develop and implement catchment-based wetland management plans for all Ramsar sites through a participatory process.*
- 7. Ensure rehabilitation and restoration of degraded wetlands, riverbanks and lakeshores and, as appropriate, promote and support establishment of constructed wetlands.*
- 8. Harmonise and coordinate the roles of various regulatory agencies charged with the management of freshwater and wetland ecosystems.*

**4.3. COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS**

- 4.3.1 Coastal and marine ecosystems are composed of multiple interacting systems – maritime, terrestrial and aquatic and include the islands and the 200 nautical miles exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Coastal and marine ecosystems provide a wide range of important goods and services. The services include storing and cycling nutrients, regulating water balances, buffering land and protecting it against erosion from storms and waves, and filtering pollutants. On a larger scale, the oceans also play an important role in regulating planetary balances in hydrology and climate.

- 4.3.2 Coastal and marine ecosystems are under increasing pressure. The major direct threats to these ecosystems include urbanization, poor waste management, shoreline modification, pollution from land-based and other sources, over-exploitation and destruction of marine living resources such as mangroves, oil and gas exploration, use of unsustainable fishing methods, invasive and alien species and adverse effects of climate change.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Promote sustainable use of marine resources and the conservation of vulnerable coastal ecosystems.*
- 2. Ensure the development and implementation of a harmonized Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Integrated Ocean Management Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.*
- 3. Undertake and support research and training in the conservation and management of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.*
- 4. Promote closer regional and international cooperation in the conservation and management of marine migratory species.*
- 5. Harmonize and coordinate the roles of various regulatory agencies charged with the management of coastal and marine resources.*

#### 4.4. MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

- 4.4.1 Mountainous ecosystems exist in both lowlands and highlands, and are particularly fragile and highly susceptible to erosion and landslides. They are especially important for biodiversity conservation since many harbour unique assemblages of plants and animals, including high levels of endemic species. Mountains are an important source of water. For example, Mt Kenya, Mt Elgon, Aberdare Ranges, Mau Complex and Cherangani Hills are Kenya's major water towers.
- 4.4.2 Mountain ecosystems have been subjected to a variety of uses and in the process have been exposed to degradation. The main drivers of mountain ecosystems degradation are deforestation, illegal logging, poaching of wild plants and animals, fires and mining, uncontrolled grazing, encroachment and the effects of climate change.

##### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Generate and strengthen knowledge about the ecology and sustainable management of mountain ecosystems.*
2. *Develop and implement strategies and action plans for sustainable management of mountain ecosystems.*
3. *Promote integrated watershed management and alternative livelihood opportunities to enhance community participation in the conservation and management of mountain ecosystems.*
4. *Adopt appropriate land use planning and watershed management practices for sustainable development of mountain ecosystems.*
5. *Ensure all water catchment areas are zoned and managed as protected areas and free from excision -*

#### 4.5 ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS ECOSYSTEMS (ASALS)

- 4.5.1. In Kenya all the grasslands are in the ASALs. The ASALs therefore provide critical habitats for wildlife and ecosystem diversity, including grasslands and wetlands for migratory species. Grasslands are well known as the habitats of the greatest assemblages of large wild mammals in the world and support a rich bird fauna. Consequently, grasslands are important for nature-based tourism, extensive livestock production and recreation activities as well as for water conservation and erosion control.
- 4.5.2 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) are fragile but very resilient ecosystems that receive very low and unreliable rainfall. The main form of land use in ASALs is livestock grazing mainly camels, cattle, goats and sheep accounting for a large proportion of the total livestock population in the country. Pastoralism involves considerable mobility to capitalize on spatially and temporally dispersed commonly-owned natural resources which are regulated collectively rather than by separate landowners.
- 4.5.3. The main threats to ASALs include expanding agriculture, charcoal burning and fuel wood collection, uncontrolled fires, human settlements, land degradation, deforestation and overgrazing. Climate change influences the ability of ASALs to cope with these challenges.

##### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop and implement an Integrated Land Use Master (Development) Plan for the ASALs.*
2. *Promote integrated natural resource management in ASALs.*
3. *Ensure application of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in ASALs with a view to harvesting flood and river water.*
4. *Promote efficient adaptation measures for productive and sustainable resource management in the ASALs.*

5. *Implement the National Action Plan (NAP) to combat desertification and revitalise the Desertification Trust Fund.*

## 4.6 LAND

4.6.1 Land is a key resource in Kenya and is the basis of livelihood for vast majority and a foundation of economic development. Land resources are finite, fragile and non-renewable and are considered a capital and asset that provides the essential services for development and human well being. Consequently, the demand and pressure on land is ever increasing. The main driving force leading to pressure on land resources is the increasing rate of population growth; hence demand for more food and shelter.

4.6.2 The unsustainable use of land in urban and rural areas remains a major challenge to all Kenyans due to the serious impact on the environment. Activities contributing to land degradation include unsuitable agricultural land use, poor soil and water management practices, deforestation and overgrazing. Natural disasters, including droughts, floods and landslides, also contribute to land degradation.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Ensure implementation of the Constitution and the National Land Policy in a way that will take into account sustainable conservation and management of the environment and land resources.*
2. *Promote and enhance best practices for optimal and sustainable land use.*
3. *Promote sustainable urban and peri-urban land uses*
4. *Promote land restoration policies*
5. *Promote high rise building as an efficient land utilization practice* -
6. *Promote research on land use in relation to the built Environment.* -

## 4.7 SOILS

4.7.1 Quality fertile soils are a foundation of sustainable agriculture. Soils are also essential in the hydrological cycle. Soil degradation processes of particular concern throughout the country include erosion, compaction and soil fertility depletion. Loss of natural habitats has reduced vegetation cover and exposed soils to extensive wind and soil erosion in many parts of the country.

4.7.2 Soil erosion is a major factor in land degradation and has severe effects on soil functions, such as the soil's ability to act as a buffer and filter for pollutants, its role in the hydrological and nitrogen cycle, and its ability to provide habitat and support biodiversity. Soil erosion also causes increased rates of siltation of dams and rivers, and increased risk of flooding in rivers and estuaries. Thus, soil erosion reduces the productivity of land, requiring farmers to apply more and more fertilizers and other chemicals that help check declining productivity. The resultant excessive use of fertilizers and other chemicals contributes to soil degradation and water pollution.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop and implement a National Soil Conservation policy.*
2. *Promote and support eco and organic farming so as to maintain soil fertility.*
3. *Ensure the protection of wetlands, riverbanks, hilltops and slopes from unsustainable practices to prevent soil erosion and environmental degradation.*

## 4.8 MINERALS

4.8.1 Kenya's mineral potential is yet to be fully exploited due to lack of adequate geological information on deposits occurrence. With countrywide coverage of geological surveys and

mineral exploration, it is possible to fully exploit the mineral potential. Increased mining activity, including quarrying and harvesting of sand, may result in environmental degradation unless measures are taken to guide and control operations in the mining sub-sector.

#### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Ensure formulation and implementation of the mineral resources development and exploitation policy.*
- 2. Promote and implement mechanisms for sustainable harvesting of sand and mining activities.*
- 3. Ensure rehabilitation and restoration of all mining sites including quarries.*

### **4.9 BIODIVERSITY**

4.9.1 Kenya is internationally recognized as a mega diverse country in terms of richness in biodiversity. Biodiversity contributes to a wide variety of environmental services, such as regulation of the gaseous composition of the atmosphere, protection of coastal zone, regulation of the hydrological cycle and climate, generation and conservation of fertile soils, dispersal and breakdown of wastes, pollination of many crops, and absorption of pollutants. Human health and well-being are directly dependent on biodiversity. Biodiversity also provides genetic resources for food and agriculture and therefore constitutes the biological basis for food security and support for human livelihoods.

4.9.2 Loss of biodiversity is going on at unprecedented rate. The most important drivers for biodiversity loss are land degradation, climate change, pollution; unsustainable harvesting of natural resources, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, and introduction of invasive and alien species. Such invasive and alien species as *Prosopis juliflora* (Mathenge), *Eichornia crassipes* (water hyacinth), and *Lantana camara* constitute major threats to biodiversity in Kenya.

#### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Develop and implement the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).*
- 2. Regulate and encourage sustainable utilization and bioprospecting of biological resources in accordance with international law.*
- 3. Develop mechanisms to ensure that the benefits arising from access to genetic resources, including intellectual property rights, traditional knowledge and technology are shared equitably with communities living in areas where the genetic material originated.*
- 4. Develop and implement a strategy to contain, control and mitigate alien and invasive species.*

### **4.10 WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

4.10.1 Wildlife resources contribute directly and indirectly to the local and national economy through employment, revenue generation and wealth creation. The increasing population, growing numbers of refugees, human wildlife conflicts, widespread pollution, climate change and the transformation of vast wildlife areas into other land-uses threaten the continued existence of wildlife in the country. Kenya is a global conservation hotspot for wildlife especially the large mammals.

4.10.2 Human wildlife conflict is a growing concern and provides a major challenge to wildlife conservation in Kenya. Conflicts are prevalent as human population increases, development expands, the global climate change and other human and environmental factors put people and wildlife in greater direct competition for a shrinking resource base especially living space and food. The impacts are often huge. People lose their crops, livestock, property and sometimes their lives. The animals, many of which are threatened or endangered, are often killed in retaliation or to 'prevent' future conflicts. Despite the efforts made to reduce conflicts the losses



remain high and some of the conflict mitigation measures that are in place for instance fencing and compensation for losses, demand for increased financial resources.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Protect, conserve, and improve the habitats, corridors, and dispersal areas of wildlife.*
2. *Provide incentives for investment in sustainable tourism and wildlife conservation initiatives.*
3. *Promote the establishment of transboundary wildlife conservation areas as a basis of enhancing the conservation of shared wildlife resources and their ecosystems through relevant regional instruments.*
4. *Encourage and support the establishment of private and community based conservation areas in order to win more space for wildlife.*
5. *Maintain all gazetted protected areas and reclaim and restore the encroached parks and reserves for enhanced wildlife conservation.*
6. *Strengthen and support wildlife research and monitoring to generate adequate information for decision making*
7. *Protect endangered wildlife species*

**4.11 LIVESTOCK**

4.11.1 Livestock production is the major activity in ASALs and contributes a considerable proportion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and agricultural labour force. Overstocking in ASALs leads to land degradation. In high potential areas, especially where zero grazing is practiced, the main issue in livestock production is waste management and disposal resulting in water pollution. In urban areas, disposal of effluents from abattoirs, butcheries and tanneries is a major concern.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop and implement an environment-friendly livestock production policy that takes cognizance of livestock mobility and communal management of natural resources.*
2. *Enforce regulations on waste management in livestock production industry.*
3. *Enforce regulations on livestock movement and disease control through commercially viable production systems.*

**4.12 FISHERIES**

4.12.1. Fisheries contribute a significant proportion to Kenya's GDP. It also plays an important role in ensuring food security. A large population depends on fisheries both directly and indirectly for livelihood through fishing and linkages to fish processing and trade. The fisheries sector is now identified as one with great potential for value addition and provision of rural incomes in the country.

4.12.2. Apart from deep sea marine fishery, the overall state of Kenya's fishery resources and their ecosystems is deteriorating due to unsustainable fishing practices, habitat destruction, pollution, and weak management structures. Other challenges include uncoordinated development approaches, low investment, and inadequate aquaculture development, weak linkages between research and management, and cross-border conflicts. To reverse this trend and achieve sustainability of fisheries, careful stewardship is required to conserve and protect all aquatic habitats for present and future generations.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Promote sustainable management and utilization of fishery resources.*
- 2. Strengthen capacity to carry out Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance.*
- 3. Promote sustainable aquaculture development.*
- 4. Strengthen community participation in fisheries resources management, value addition and marketing.*
- 5. Protect fish breeding grounds and implement closed seasons regulations where necessary*

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Stewardship of the environment refers to a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, promoting greater environmental responsibility and development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies. It means taking responsibility for our choices. The responsibility for environmental quality should be shared by all those whose actions affect the environment.

Sustainable development requires that at competitive prices, business and industry can supply goods and services that meet societal and individual needs, contribute to improved quality of life and ensure management and efficient use of renewable and non-renewable resources.

### **5.1 NATURAL CAPITAL AND VALUATION**

- 5.1.1 Natural capital is the extension of the economic notion of capital (manufactured means of production) to goods and services relating to the natural environment. Natural capital is thus the stock of natural ecosystems that yields a flow of valuable ecosystem goods or services into the future. Since the flow of services from ecosystems requires that they function as whole systems, the structure and diversity of the system are important components of natural capital.
- 5.1.2 The challenge is a reliable way to assess the true value of the services that ecosystems provide, that is, what is their worth, what their loss would cost and what can be done about the loss.
- 5.1.3 The policy implication is that their future competitiveness and well-being depend heavily on improving the efficiency of natural resource use. It involves undertaking total economic valuation of natural capital which include the review of what is known about the environmental services generated by natural capital, the ways in which humans benefit from those services, and the ways in which human activities impact natural capital and change the future flow of services derived from it. This will lead to the green economy.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Document and value natural capital and provide periodic assessments to support national accounting and planning.*
- 2. Develop and apply instruments and methodologies for environmental accounting into the national accounting and planning processes.*
- 3. Promote rational and sustainable use of natural capital to ensure intergenerational equity.*
- 4. Promote existing and develop new incentives for the payment of the ecosystem services as a measure to secure and invest in the natural capital*
- 5. Develop a monitoring and reporting framework for a range of stakeholders to monitor their use of natural capital.—periodically assess and cost degradation*
- 6. Enhance Natural Capital Value through enhanced conservation activities and capacity building*

## 5.2 TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

- 5.2.1 Trade is an important driver of economic growth. Kenya is committed to local, regional and international trade. The trend towards globalization has in part reduced barriers to international trade and investment flows. But it has also brought new environmental challenges to Kenya, including dumping of obsolete technologies and e-waste.
- 5.2.2 Trade has both direct and indirect effects on the environment and society. Trade-offs between economic gains, environmental impacts and social effects must be made taking into consideration the multilateral trading systems. Trade liberalization within the framework of sustainable development and its contribution to poverty reduction remains a priority concern for the Government.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Mainstream environmental considerations into the National Trade Policy.*
- 2. Ensure that issues on environment are integrated into international and regional trade negotiations and domesticate resulting agreements.*
- 3. Promote and support capacity building in the field of trade and environment.*
- 4. Promote and encourage the adaption, uptake and implementation of international environmental and natural resources stewardship standards.*
- 5. Promote reduction of negative environmental footprints in production and trade practices*

## 5.3 TOURISM

- 5.3.1 Tourism is a major source of foreign exchange earnings in Kenya. However, since the 1990s the industry has suffered from decline in per capita spending, average length of stay and hotel occupancy rates. This is as a result of environmental degradation and deterioration in the quality of tourism products. Whereas there is growing recognition that tourism does have some negative impacts on the environment, there is need to gather more empirical evidence on the subject. There is also need to have a clear policy direction for mitigating the adverse and enhancing the positive environmental impacts of tourism.

The main concerns are that:

- (a) Despite the country's policy advocating spatial distribution of tourists in the country, tourism marketing has continued to focus on the traditional attractions, thereby perpetuating concentration.
- (b) Impacts are more severe in crowded attractions for example, beaches have been polluted, and coral reefs destroyed, marine species adversely affected and vegetation degraded.
- (c) Environmental regulations are either ignored or not effectively enforced.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Provide incentives to encourage eco-tourism industry initiatives aimed at protecting the environment*
- 2. Improve policy implementation and strictly enforce environmental regulation.*
- 3. Set up a framework for information exchange and for environmental awareness creation of all stakeholders in the tourism industry.*
- 4. Market "green" tourism products.*
- 5. Encourage the promotion of investment in sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism and cultural tourism.*

## 5.4 CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

- 5.4.1 Changing patterns of consumption and production through integration of environmental considerations in all sectors is a pre-requisite for sustainable development. Currently, most of the production and consumption practices do not take into account the associated environmental costs. As a result, the benefits provided and accounted for by natural resources appear to be much smaller than they really are.
- 5.4.2 An integrated accounting system will ensure that environmental costs in production systems are considered. Unsustainable consumption and production practices have been growing, resulting in many of today's environmental challenges. Environment-friendly technologies can yield enormous environmental benefits and lay the foundation for a green economy. There is a need to develop and apply methods and tools serving to promote resource efficiency in consumption and production patterns across sectors
- 5.4.3 To achieve clean and healthy environment unsustainable patterns of production and consumption should be discouraged and intensified awareness instituted.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Provide economic incentives for investment in more efficient, clean and environment-friendly production technologies and associated capacity building.*
- 2. Promote sound environmental management tools.*
- 3. Promote corporate and social responsibility and accountability.*
- 4. Promote public procurement policies that encourage development and diffusion of environmentally sound goods and services.*
- 5. Promote, strengthen, support consumer organisations and awareness.*

## 5.5 INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT

The structural changes implicit in attaining the growth rates demanded by the economic recovery strategy, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Vision 2030 means that ways must be found to achieve sustainable industrial development. This calls for an environmentally-friendly industrial development strategy that integrates and promotes cohesion of development and environmental policies and enhances transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

- 5.5.1 Kenya's Vision 2030 envisages the transformation of the country into an industrialized economy by 2030. Industrial development is identified as key driving force that put pressure on the environment. Industrialization involves transformation of raw materials into value-added products using technology. These development activities are accompanied by generation of various forms of waste into the environment.
- 5.5.2 The Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have been recognized as the engine to industrialization. The SMEs, industrial development, besides contributing to economic growth and job opportunities, also contribute significantly to environmental degradation and pollution due to factors such as the type and age of the technologies in use, shop-floor practices and other specific industry characteristics.
- 5.5.3 SMEs are the fastest growing part of the Kenyan economy. The manufacturing SMEs consume substantial resources and also produce an important share of industrial waste. They are prevalent in industrial sectors with relatively high resource and emission intensity thus causing pollution and resource depletion.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Develop and implement an environmentally-friendly industrialization policy.*
- 2. Promote and support SMEs and other industries to adopt appropriate environmentally sound technologies through provision of appropriate incentives and disincentives.*
- 3. Develop and promote use of strategic environmental assessment in the industrial development plans, policies and programs.*
- 4. Develop capacity and promote environmental education and awareness among the SMEs.*
- 5. Promote Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) technologies, including best available techniques and applications.*

## **5.6 INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

- 5.6.1 Infrastructural development includes among others buildings, roads, ports, railways, ICT, pipelines, irrigation systems, airports and electricity transmission. The environment aspects of such infrastructural development are distinct and unique such as effects on flora and fauna; social and psychological disruption, vegetation clearances, excavation works and spillages during construction.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Ensure Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment and Public participation in the planning and approval of infrastructural projects.*
- 2. Develop and implement environmentally-friendly national infrastructural development strategy and action plan.*
- 3. Ensure that periodic Environmental Audits are carried out for all infrastructural projects*

## **5.7 MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS**

- 5.7.1 The first conference on chemicals management held in 2006 in Dubai approved the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). This is a universally acclaimed systematic and coherent framework for managing chemicals for all levels of society. For its implementation the system requires governments to develop strong governance structures.

In Kenya, management of chemicals has been without a guiding policy. In its absence, Kenya is vulnerable to risks and hazards associated with chemicals

### ***Policy Statements***

*Government will:*

- 1. Integrate chemicals management program into development plans and programmes ;*
- 2. Implement the international process of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management(SAICM)*
- 3. Develop and implement a chemicals management policy.*

## **5.8 HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

- 5.8.1 The pattern of human settlements in the country is influenced by natural resource endowments, which include availability, accessibility, and control. Kenya is still largely a rural society with a high population growth rate which constrains the country's resource base. Rural settlements have environmental problems which are influenced by many factors including population growth, socio-economic status, topography, and climate variability. The huge numbers of refugees has major impacts on the environment and natural resources.

- 5.8.2 Sustainable human settlement involves creating the conditions under which people in both rural and urban settings can enjoy healthy, productive and well integrated lifestyles. This should ensure that people live in safe, healthy and dignified conditions, with relatively easy access to amenities. However rapid urbanization caused by population increase and rural-urban migrations have hindered the capacity of the urban centres to provide housing, infrastructure, services and job opportunities.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Integrate demographic issues into environmental management and natural resources conservation*
- 2. Develop and implement an Integrated Housing Policy and Housing Master Plan that takes into account environmental considerations.*
- 3. Develop and enforce integrated land use planning at all levels.*
- 4. Develop and promote a policy on eco-settlement centres including informal settlements.*
- 5. Mainstream environmental considerations in the refugee policy and legislation.*

**5.9 ENERGY USE, EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION**

- 5.9.1 Energy is essential for socio-economic development. Deliberate efforts have been made by the Government to provide power to remote areas in Kenya in order to spur development and improve livelihoods. The main sources for the country's power production are hydropower, petroleum and geothermal. It is projected that the country's energy requirements will substantially increase. The country's energy policies must ensure a robust and efficient energy system that is secure and sufficient. In order to facilitate industrial competitiveness and economic growth, the energy system should focus more on diversifying energy development.

- 5.9.2 Considering the huge impact that has resulted from nuclear accidents in Russia, India and Japan including economic loss and death and bearing in mind the fact that Kenya does not have the safety facilities and economic ability, those other countries have, it is of utmost importance that a thorough research on nuclear energy should be undertaken before this form of energy is introduced.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Develop and promote an integrated national strategy for generation and sustainable utilization of renewable energy.*
- 2. Promote adaptation of the cleaner production concept in all energy production and consumption activities.*
- 3. Develop comprehensive nuclear, petroleum and coal energy policies guided by research and the precautionary principle.*

**5.10 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 5.10.1 Kenya is susceptible to climate-related events such as droughts and floods which pose a serious threat to the socio-economic development of the country. Kenya's existing vulnerability to climate impacts results from a wide range of factors including high natural resources-livelihood dependency and limited adaptive capacity.
- 5.10.2 Scientists from all continents have stated that warming of the climate system is unequivocal and that it is largely spurred by human activities releasing greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. For Kenya, climate change poses many serious and potentially damaging effects for human and the environment in coming decades. Increased vulnerability in climate and projected incremental changes associated with air and sea temperature, precipitation and sea level, together

with changes in the frequency and severity of extreme events will have profound significant social, economic and ecological implications. The effects of climate change are already observed at all scales and have the potential to disrupt Kenya's strides in agricultural production, forests, water supply, health systems and overall human development.

- 5.10.3 Climate-resilient, low carbon development is a national priority for Kenya because it will support Kenya to absorb disturbances and build capacity to adapt to additional stress and change. Pursuing green economy path and minimizing carbon footprints the country will better deliver constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, while minimizing the country's contribution to global climate change.
- 5.10.4 Measures to address existing climate variability and measures to achieve national development goals should not be at the expense of preparing for future climate change. Measures to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation actions should not compromise the ability of today's generation to achieve people-centred sustainable development.

<b><i>Policy Statements</i></b>
<p><i>The Government will:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Develop and implement a comprehensive National Climate Change Policy.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Strengthen capacity for national and county level institutions to support national climate resilience low carbon development through integrating climate change into implementation strategies.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Develop and implement awareness raising strategies and capacity development on the opportunities for adaptation and mitigation measures as per the climate change action plan.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Strengthen and enhance early warning and response systems for climate and disaster risk reduction</i></li> <li>5. <i>Build and strengthen research capacity on climate change and related environmental issues.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Put in place a climate financing mechanism that will help the country take advantage of new and emerging climate change funds and also include innovative ways to fund climate change actions domestically through commitment of a percentage of GDP</i></li> <li>7. <i>Establish a national carbon trading platform and renewable energy trading certificate system</i></li> <li>8. <i>Strengthen the national climate change coordinating committee</i></li> </ol>

## **5.11 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

- 5.11.1 Kenya has continues to face a rising degree of vulnerability to disaster risk. A risk is the probability of a hazard turning into a disaster with households or communities being affected in such a manner that their lives and livelihoods are seriously disrupted beyond their capacity to cope or withstand using their own resources, with the result that affected populations suffer serious widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses. Communities are predisposed to disasters by a combination of factors such as poverty, aridity, settlement in areas prone to perennial flooding or areas with poor infrastructure and services such as the informal urban settlements or even living in poorly constructed buildings.
- 5.11.2 Kenya's capacity to respond to emergencies and incidences is inadequate. This is despite recurrent occurrences of incidences such as chemical fire in industries, trading centres, informal settlements, factories and accidents during storage and transportation of chemical products. The Kenyan public is increasingly concerned about inadequacies in national and local capacity for disaster management for chemical emergencies and resultant risks and hazards. There is therefore need to build capacity for emergency preparedness, response and mitigation of impacts to human health and the environment.

- 5.11.3 These factors, coupled with naturally occurring hazards such as drought, floods, landslides and epidemic outbreaks, among others, and those currently propelled by climatic change phenomena, pose extremely high and increasing disaster risks to the Kenyan society.
- 5.11.4 Although Kenya's economy and by extension its population could be classified as highly vulnerable to natural and man-made disaster risks, the country does not have a comprehensive disaster management framework and strategies guided by appropriate policy and legislative provisions.

***Policy Statement***

*The Government will:*

1. *Establish an institutional, policy and legal framework to effectively manage disaster risk and disasters in general.*
2. *Ensure strategies for early warning and awareness on disasters are in place*
3. *Collaborate with international institutions on emergency and disaster response in controlling, responding and mitigation of emergencies occurring in the country.*

**5.12 GENDER, VULNERABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

- 5.12.1 Gender plays an important role in the management of the environment. Different social groups and demographics are impacted differently by environmental challenges. They also play unique roles in managing the environment given their unique capabilities, experiences and knowledge relating to the environment. Access to and ownership of natural resources should be enhanced for all gender, people living with disabilities, marginalized and minority groups.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Provide incentives to attract the under-represented gender and other vulnerable groups into environmental management careers, occupations and programmes*
2. *Mainstream gender and equity in all sustainable development policies*

**5.13 INVASIVE AND ALIEN SPECIES**

- 5.13.1 Globalization has resulted in greater trade, transport, travel and tourism, all of which can facilitate the introduction and spread of species that are not indigenous to an area. Such invasive species may be either plants or animals non-natives that successfully out-compete local organisms for food and habitat. They then spread through their new environment, increasing in population and harm ecosystems in their new ecosystem.

- 5.13.2 Invasive alien species have serious impacts on the landscapes, and are a threat to hydrology of water catchment areas, significantly reducing their water retention capacity, and also impact on biodiversity and ecosystem processes and services. Within the landscape, invasive alien species render large areas unsuitable for crop growing or grazing and therefore slow down economic development and human quality of life. They reduce yields of agricultural crops, forestry and fisheries. In rivers and lakes, they block transport, clog irrigation canals, water pipelines and are an impediment to hydro-electric energy development. The spread of invasive species and their associated problems are likely to be further exacerbated by climate change. Presently, many countries are grappling with complex and costly invasive alien species problems.



**Policy Statement:**

*The government will:*

- 1. Develop a National strategy and action plan for mapping and management of invasive alien species*
- 2. Set up a framework for research, information exchange and environmental awareness on invasive alien species.*
- 3. Institute measures for prevention, eradication and control of invasive species that have major environmental and economic impacts.*

## 6.0. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND HEALTH

All life depends on a clean and healthy environment. This vast web of interwoven life systems is often threatened by the presence of harmful substances as well as ionizing agents. Air pollution, waste, radiation, and noise require special attention. In terms of environmental health, the most pressing problems are those associated with air and water pollution, water supply and sanitation, waste management, chemical and food safety. These directly cause diseases such as malaria, cholera, typhoid and host of other diseases. The ill-health effects of harmful environmental exposures may be acute. Sometimes a long time may elapse between the initial exposure and the appearance of an adverse health effect.

**Policy Statements**

*The Government will:*

- 1. Promote Environmental Health Impact Analysis (EHIA) as a component of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all development projects.*
- 2. Enhance the provision of occupational health and safety services.*
- 3. Promote capacity building in the field of health impact analysis.*

### 6.1 AIR QUALITY

6.1.1 Air pollution is a leading cause of respiratory diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lung cancer, pulmonary heart disease, and bronchitis. The effects of outdoor air pollution are compounded by those of indoor air pollution. Most households use charcoal and firewood for domestic cooking. Indoor air pollution affects both urban and rural populations.

**Policy Statements**

*The Government will:*

- 1. Ensure compliance with air quality standards and develop enforcement capacity.*
- 2. Promote efficient non-motorised, non-polluting, and efficient infrastructure for mass transport system*
- 3. Promote non-polluting modes of transport*
- 4. Promote alternative cooking stoves and technologies that are none polluting and construction of well ventilated houses.*

### 6.2 WATER AND SANITATION

6.2.1 Water supply and sanitation in Kenya is characterized by low levels of access, particularly in urban informal settlements and in rural areas, as well as poor service quality in the form of intermittent water supply. Dirty water and lack of basic sanitation continue to undermine efforts to reduce extreme poverty and disease in the country. Seasonal and regional water scarcity exacerbates the difficulty to improve water supply. These challenges persist despite the water sector undergoing considerable reforms over the years.

- 6.2.2 In addition, sewerage systems and waste water treatment plants experience inadequate operation and maintenance and low connection rate to sewers. Mixing industrial effluent and domestic sewage in mixed sewer system often causes poor performance in pond treatment systems. Cases of pollution by wastewater emptying into storm sewers, soak-ways and cesspits designed for kitchen waste are commonplace. Access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation facilities could transform the lives of millions of citizens, prevent thousands of deaths and free up hours each day for women and children to go to work or school.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Improve the management and conservation of water supply sources.*
- 2. Promote technologies for efficient and safe water use, especially in respect to waste water use and recycling*
- 3. provide incentives for private sector investment and development of appropriate water and sanitation technologies and infrastructure waste management*

**6.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 6.3.1 Inefficient production processes, low durability of goods, and unsustainable consumption and production patterns lead to excessive waste generation. Despite efforts to encourage reuse, recycling and recovery, the amount of solid waste generated remains high and appears to be on the increase. In addition to solid wastes, wastewater effluents represent one of the largest threats to the quality of Kenya's water resources. Wastewater often results in increased nutrient levels leading to algal blooms and depleted dissolved oxygen resulting in destruction of aquatic habitats. Other categories of wastes that require special consideration is electronic waste, military wastes and clinical wastes. Spills from oil tankers can devastate coastal and marine ecosystems.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Develop an integrated national waste management strategy*
- 2. Promote the use of economic instruments to manage waste.*
- 3. Promote establishment of facilities and incentives for cleaner production, waste recovery, recycling and re-use*

**6.4 RADIATION**

- 6.4.1 Nuclear energy, X-rays, radioactive wastes mining and use of equipment with ionizing agents can release harmful radiation into the environment. Different types of radiation vary in their ability to affect health. Ionizing radiation can cause cancer and other negative health effects such as teratogenic and genetic mutations.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Maintain an inventory of sources, types and quantities of radioactive materials, periodically monitor status and trends, and enhance protection measures.*
- 2. Strengthen capacities for handling and management of radio-active waste and ionizing agents.*
- 3. Ensure that telecommunication equipments and structures conform to international radiation standards*

**6.5 TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

- 6.5.1 Toxic and hazardous substances are widely used in Kenya particularly in the agricultural and industrial sectors. Exposure to these substances is likely to produce chronic rather than acute effects. Like many other countries in Africa, Kenya is vulnerable to illegal dumping of obsolete

and banned toxic and hazardous substances and is implementing various international chemicals instruments through existing laws and policies.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop a national policy on toxic and hazardous substances.*
2. *Establish appropriate toxic and hazardous substances and disposal facilities.*
3. *Collaborate with international community in curbing illegal dumping of obsolete or banned toxic and hazardous substances and enforce the relevant MEAs.*

## 6.6 NOISE

6.6.1 Exposure to high levels of noise can result in significant adverse health impacts. The most important is loss of hearing acuity caused by repeated exposure to high noise levels. Noises levels can result in hearing damage and quite loud noise significantly interfere with communication. Commercial transportation and social activities within or close to residential areas also form an important category that include both noise from the activities themselves such as discos and that of associated machinery.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop a national strategy on noise pollution.*
2. *Strengthen capacity and infrastructure to monitor enforce and regulate noise pollution.*

## 6.7 HIV AND AIDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Despite gains in life expectancy, the HIV&AIDS pandemic has had far reaching impacts on all sectors of the economy due to loss of lives or absence from work due to prolonged ailment periods. The pandemic has, therefore, caused a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour, thereby undermining environmental protection activities. The increased burden due to the cost of treatment results in reduced investment in the sector as more resources are devoted to health care.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Ensure the fight against HIV&AIDS is integrated in environmental protection programmes, projects and activities.*

## 6.8 ENVIRONMENTAL DISEASES

- 6.8.1. Illnesses and conditions caused by factors in the environment are collectively called environmental diseases. Pesticides, chemicals, radiation, air pollution, and water pollution, are some of the manmade hazards that contribute to human illnesses. The likelihood of an individual developing a specific disease depends on the hazards present in their particular environment and their genetic susceptibility to a specific hazard. For example, x-ray technicians are at risk for radiation-induced illnesses, whereas stone coal miners are prone to lung diseases caused by inhalation of dust. Proper use of safeguards can prevent these and other environmental diseases.
- 6.8.2. Environmental diseases can be divided into three kinds; *Vector-borne diseases* are usually transmitted through insects and include malaria, Human trypanosomiasis and Schistosomiasis (bilharzia).

*Vessel-borne diseases* are transmitted through some kind of vessel, e.g. a cup, water, food, milk, blood etc. Examples are diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera. The HIV virus is transmitted through body fluids, and although it is not an environmental disease as such, people who are poorly nourished and have compromised immune systems are more vulnerable to it. *Airborne diseases* are transmitted through the air and include flu, Tuberculosis (TB) and Measles. Providing public health services to deal with environmental hazards requires a broad and fully integrated approach using tools ranging from regulation to health promotion, including strong public awareness and educational activities.

***Policy Statement***

*The Government will*

1. *Protect the public against hazards from the natural environment, including climate- related health impacts, and controlling vectors and organisms that can carry or transmit diseases to humans.*
2. *Ensure safe water for all through prevention and minimization of health risks related to source water, drinking water, recreational water, wastewater, and water reuse.*
3. *Maintain and build crucial environmental public health infrastructure and capacity to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the effects of intentional, accidental, and natural events.*
4. *Promote continued research into evolving scientific methods, such as bio-monitoring and genetic screening, and their interplay with the environment and human health.*
5. *Implement strategy for tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication in Kenya.*

**7.0 RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND MONITORING**

Scientific research technology and innovation are central to sound environmental management. High quality data generated from environmental research and monitoring improves the country’s information base for decision making on environmental issues.

**7.1. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

7.1.1 Information is the foundation of sustainable development and is fundamental to successful planning and decision making. Satellite and remote sensing technologies can improve capabilities of capturing environmental status and trends. In addition, satellite imagery, geographic information systems (GIS) and aerial photography have greatly expanded opportunities for data integration and analysis, modelling and map production. There is need for enhanced environmental research, training, and dissemination of environmental management tools in Kenya.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop a national data and information management policy on environmental and biological resources.*

2. *Enhance integration of traditional knowledge in environmental planning and management.*
3. *Strengthen the National Environmental Information Management System (NEIMS).*
4. *Support research and development programmes and projects that transfer knowledge and technologies for environmental management and sustainable development*

## **7.2. EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS**

7.2.1 Environmental education, both formal and informal, is vital to changing people's attitude to appreciate environmental concerns. Formal education is important to increase awareness, improve extension services, sensitize people on environmental issues and build institutional capacities. Non-formal environmental education benefits people outside the formal education system. Communication of environmental information to all stakeholders is still a challenge. Public awareness empowers the public to develop a strong sense of responsibility on environmental issues.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop a National Strategy on Environmental Education and Public Awareness*
2. *Develop a National Environmental Education Curriculum examinable at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.*
3. *Document, disseminate and encourage the use of indigenous knowledge in environmental protection and conservation.*
4. *Strengthen capacities for acquisition, packaging and dissemination of environmental information.*
5. *Establish and strengthen environmental resource centres at all levels.*

## **7.3 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

7.3.1 Environmental monitoring is important for determining environmental status and trends and for updating environmental action plans and enhancing enforcement and compliance. It analyses many circumstances in which human activities carry a risk of harmful effects on the natural environment.

### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop and implement standardized indicators that will form the basis of monitoring the status of the environment.*
2. *Develop and implement a National Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme to monitor the state of the environment.*
3. *Encourage reporting environmental status on a balance sheet*
4. *Ensure periodic reporting on county and national status of environment*

## **8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

Functioning governance structures, legal and policy instruments as well as institutional capacity for judicious implementation and enforcement are prerequisite for effective environmental governance.

### **8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL REFORMS**

8.1.1 The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) of 1999 provides for sound management of the environment. But some of its provisions have proved inadequate and require revision. In addition, many of the sectoral and cross sectoral laws and policies are inadequate and some are in conflict with EMCA. There is need to review and harmonize EMCA and the sectoral laws and policies with the Constitution to clarify institutional mandates.

**Policy Statements**

*The Government will:*

1. *Ensure revision of EMCA to streamline it with the provisions of the Constitution and facilitate implementation of the environment policy.*
2. *Ensure harmonization of sectoral laws with the Environment Management and Coordination Act and their implementation.*

## 8.2 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

8.2.1 The multi-faceted nature of the environment and the need to integrate environmental considerations in all development planning and activities calls for cooperation and consultation among responsible government agencies and stakeholders at all levels. It is particularly important to recognize the existing institutional mechanisms and consider ways and means by which coordination and cooperation can be enhanced between the many institutions whose mandates relate to the environment.

8.2.2 Currently NEMA is the national regulatory agency coordinating with the decentralised entities. There are various committees on standards enforcement and action plans to support NEMA's performance in matters of environment quality standards and planning. The multi-sectoral National Environment Council (NEC) is the apex national environment policy making organ while the Directorate of Environment in the Ministry plays an oversight role in policy formulation as well as monitoring the implementation in relation to other sectorial policies.

**Policy Statements**

*The Government will:*

1. *Strengthen the Directorate of Environment as the State Department responsible for environment to support the Cabinet Secretary in his oversight role in environmental policy formulation, coordination of intervention activities and to monitor the implementation in relation to other sectoral policies.*
2. *Strengthen the capacity of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) as the designated national institution responsible for the general supervision and coordination in all matters relating to the environment.*
3. *Streamline and strengthen the capacity of environmental institutions at the national and county levels so as to make them more effective and participatory.*

## 8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

8.3.1 Weak enforcement of environmental compliance is attributed to inadequate technical capacities, monitoring infrastructure and inadequate trained staff in enforcement institutions. Building a cadre of professionals in environment and natural resource management is an investment for the future that requires a short and long term approach. Whereas short term training and targeted courses are important for skills and managerial development, the long term training in specific areas enhances specialization.

**Policy Statements**

*The Government will:*

1. *Support and promote the development of expertise in Government agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations in the various areas of environmental management through targeted short and long term courses and awareness creation.*
2. *Develop a wide range of training opportunities and modules in the field of environment for different levels taking into account gender equity, emerging environmental issues and devolved institutions.*

3. *Enhance and promote networking between centres of excellence in environmental management at the national, regional and international levels.*

#### **8.4 PARTNERSHIPS AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT**

8.4.1 Partnerships, by their very nature, represent a sustained commitment to move forward together to reach a higher common objective.

To ensure an inclusive partnership and stakeholder involvement in decision making, ways must be found to, (a) ensure wide representation from across the private sector and civil society organizations, and (b) ensure that community voices are brought forward. This is because private sector, civil society actors, and communities play a central role in environmental conservation and management.

8.4.2 These non-state actors have the advantage of being more independent of political pressures than governmental formal management agencies. Thus they are well positioned to play an important leading role in the agenda setting and policy development processes. For example, NGOs can mediate in the resolution of resource conflicts at the local level by bringing considerable expertise and resources. At the national level, they can inform public debate on environmental protection issues and challenges.

8.4.3 Participation of these non-state actors can be encouraged through provision of incentives to enhance investment in the sector, as well through mechanisms that provide a framework for building partnerships between these entities and the Government.

##### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Develop and Implement a Strategy on Partnerships and Stakeholder Involvement to enhance environmental management.*
2. *Promote investments in environmental efforts and programmes by providing appropriate fiscal and economic incentives.*
3. *Develop and implement mechanisms for conflict resolution and management in the conservation of the environment and natural resources.*

#### **8.5 FUNDING MECHANISMS**

8.5.1 Sound environmental protection and management require sustainable financing. The Government budget is the single largest source of funding for protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources. However, the current allocation to environment and natural resources is inadequate. As such, there is an urgent need to complement Government funding by harnessing additional funding from multilateral funding mechanisms, development partners, private sector and civil society organizations.

##### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Provide adequate resources for environmental protection and management through the annual Government budgetary allocation.*
2. *Promote participation of the individuals, public, private partnership through fiscal incentives and voluntary agreements pegged on environmental performance indicators.*
3. *Broaden the revenue and funding base to ensure financial sustainability of environmental management institutions.*

#### **8.6 REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

8.5.1 Effective management of shared environmental resources requires regional and international cooperation. Significant benefits can be realized and effectiveness increased through regional and

international cooperation. Kenya is a party to a number of multilateral and regional environmental agreements. These agreements are important in providing a framework for conservation of shared resources between partner states.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms to ensure consistent negotiations, implementation and reporting of the MEAs and regional agreements.*
- 2. Harmonise national policies and legislation with regional policies and international environmental instruments.*
- 3. Promote and support the establishment of transboundary environmental protection, conservation and management initiatives as a basis for enhancing the conservation of shared resources and their ecosystems through relevant MEAs and regional instruments.*
- 4. Keep a register of all MEAs and regional instruments to which Kenya is a party to and ensure their domestication, effective implementation, and reporting.*
- 5. Mobilize resources from MEAs financing mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to support sound environmental management and sustainable development.*

## **9.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS**

The main responsibility for following up the National Environment Policy Goal and Objectives and ensuring their realization rests with the Government. The proposed implementation strategies and actions presuppose active participation of stakeholders at all levels. In this regard, a number of strategic actions will guide the implementation of this Policy.

### **9.1 INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN ALL POLICY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES**

9.1.1 Integration of environmental considerations in all national, county and relevant sectoral policies, planning and development processes is critical if this Policy is to achieve its goal and objectives. In order to operationalize these, the State Department responsible for the environment has to take the leadership role in ensuring that all national, county and all sectoral policy planning and development processes mainstream environmental considerations.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

- 1. Institutionalize cooperative governance and integrated approach to the management of the environment and natural resources by explicitly identifying and integrating environmental considerations in relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, laws, planning and development process*
- 2. Ensure synergies between National and County Development planning process.*
- 3. Institutionalize strategic environmental assessments approaches to all policies, programmes and plans*
- 4. Ensure that all significant development projects are subjected to environmental impact assessment and regular environmental audits.*

### **9.2 CLARIFYING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

9.2.1 Implementation of this Policy involves many different groups, including Government agencies at local, national and regional levels, private sector, civil society organizations, local communities and the public. A key element is defining the roles and responsibilities of the various groups.

***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*



1. *Strengthen the capacity of the Directorate of Environment under the State Department responsible for environment to play the oversight role of monitoring the implementation of the National Environment Policy*
2. *Develop and implement delegation instruments to provide a framework for cooperative and collaborative management between NEMA and the lead agencies.*
3. *Strengthen the capacity of environmental institutions at the county and national levels so as to make them more effective in ensuring compliance and enforcement.*
4. *Strengthen government capacity to assess, negotiate and monitor investments, contracts, leases and concessions used for sustainable resources management*
5. *Strengthening capacity in the area of environmental economics that includes natural resources accounting, development of incentives and disincentives, indicators for sustainable development and valuation of environmental goods and services*
6. *Strengthen the capacity on SEA process and subject all sector policies, plans and programmes to SEA*

### **9.3 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

9.3.1 Compliance is critical to achieving sustainable development. Voluntary compliance with environmental requirements reduces costs of enforcement and monitoring. Compliance strategies involve both actions to promote and enforce legal requirements. Enforcement is important in order to create a climate in which the stakeholders will have clear incentives to make use of the opportunities and resources provided. It is however very important that the enforcement and the compliance so required must be timely.

#### ***Policy Statements***

*The Government will:*

1. *Design and implement a National Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Programme.*
2. *Enhance public private partnerships in environmental management.*
3. *Provide economic incentives for establishments that adopt environmental-friendly technologies.*
4. *Establish Indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms*
5. *Strengthen the Public Complaints Committee and devolve its functions to the Counties*
6. *Strengthen the environmental courts*

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

“Biodiversity” means the variability among living organisms from all sources including ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. It encompasses the ecosystem, species and genetic diversity;

“Biopiracy” refers to the expropriation of biological resources without fair compensation or sharing of benefits;

“Bioprospecting” refers to the exploration of biodiversity for commercially valuable genetic and biochemical resources and research;

“Community” refers to a clearly defined group of users, which may, but need not be, a clan or ethnic community. These groups of users hold a set of clearly defined rights and obligations;

“Conservation” means the protection, maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration and enhancement of the environment for sustainable use

“Ecosystem” means a dynamic complex of plant, animal, micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit;

“Environmental impact assessment” means a systematic examination conducted to determine whether or not a programme, activity or project will have any adverse impacts on the environment;

“Genetic resources” means genetic material of actual or potential value;

“Land use” means activities carried out on a given piece of land;

“Invasive and alien species” means a species that is not an indigenous species or an indigenous species translocated to a place outside its natural distribution range in nature;

“Multilateral environmental agreement” means international legal instruments for the regulation of activities affecting the environment particularly wildlife resources to which Kenya is a Party;

“Payment for environmental services (PES)” means market-based approach to conservation based on the twin principles that those who benefit from environmental services (such as users of clean water) should pay for them, and those who generate these services should be compensated for providing them.

“Protected area” means an area declared to be a protected area under the applicable law;

“Species” means a population of individual organisms capable of mating with one another and producing fertile offspring in a natural setting and that share common and specialized characteristics from others;

“Stakeholder” refers to an individual or group having a vested interest in environment and natural resources;

“Strategic Environmental Assessment” refers to a range of analytical and participatory approaches that aim to integrate environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes and evaluate the inter linkages with economic and social considerations;

“Sustainable use” means present use of natural resources, which does not compromise the ability to use the same by future generations or degrade the carrying capacity of ecosystems and habitats;

“Wetlands” means areas of marsh, fen, peat land, or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, static or flowing, fresh, brackish, salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6 meters. It also incorporates riparian and costal zones adjacent to the wetlands.

“Wildlife” any wild and indigenous animal plant micro-organism or parts thereof within their constituent habitat or ecosystem on land or in water as well as species that have been introduced into or established in Kenya.