



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

## Ministry of Land and Environment

The National Directorate of Forest



# FOREST POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



Organização das Nações Unidas  
para a Alimentação  
e a Agricultura



GRUPO BANCO MUNDIAL



WWF





REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

The Cabinet

# **FOREST POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

Resolution nr. 23/2020  
Of March 10



## Preface

The review of political and legal framework of the forest sector, after 20 years of its validity, became necessary in order to give it conformity with the socio-economic and ecological dynamics of the country in the world in general.

The Government of Mozambique recognizes the importance of updated guiding instruments that respond to the challenges of environmental sustainability and the local and national socio-economic development of the current and future generations.

The Forest Policy and the National Forest Program as well as the 2019 - 2035 Agenda were designed by the technical team of the then MITADER (Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development), currently MTA (Ministry of Land and Environment), through DINAF (Nacional Directorate of Forests) and respective Provincial Services and formulated in a broad participatory and multi-sectoral process.

This document is the result of a participatory, holistic and comprehensive analysis of the sector in the formulation phase, engaging actors from different thematic areas relevant to forests and subsequent validation of the proposal for these guiding instruments for governance, administration and management of forest state through inclusive and transparent public consultations, covering all ten provinces of the country.

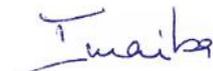
After the inclusion of contributions from stakeholders across the national territory, the consolidated proposal, harmonized by the other sectors, represents the common vision of Mozambicans and their aspirations for the development of the forestry sector in Mozambique in the period 2020-2035.

The approval of Resolution No. 23/2020, of March 27, 2020 by the Cabinet represents the government's commitment to honor and respond to the aspirations expressed in the policy, initiating the implementation phase of the prescribed and follow-up actions to achieve the objectives recommended, among which stands out the adequacy of the legal and institutional framework through the revision and updating of the Forest and Wildlife Law 10/99, of 10 July and the respective regulation as well as the institutional framework, as an immediate follow-up measure.

The strategic and technical support by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), within the implementation of the MOZFIP (Forest Investment Program) implemented by the Government of Mozambique, supported the development of the documents presented herein, through the multilateral fund managed by the World Bank under the mechanism for mitigating the causes of deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

The WWF, through the Forum of civil society organizations in the forestry area, was a mobilizing partner for the direct, active and effective participation of representatives from different communities across the country, the main users and guardians of the country's forest resources.

The Minister of Land and Environment



Ivete Joaquim Maibaze



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

RESOLUTION THAT APPROVES THE FOREST POLICY .....	III
<b>1. FOREST POLICY .....</b>	<b>13</b>
1.1 BACKGROUND .....	13
1.2 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FOREST SECTOR .....	17
1.3 SCOPE .....	19
1.4 OVERALL OBJECTIVE .....	20
1.5 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS .....	20
1.6 VISION .....	21
1.7 MISSION .....	21
1.8 PRINCIPLES .....	21
1.9 VECTORS .....	24
1.10 FOREST POLICY PILLARS .....	25
PILLAR 1: FOREST GOVERNANCE .....	25
PILAR 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....	26
PILAR 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND FOREST CONSERVATION .....	31
PILAR 4: EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES .....	32
PILAR 5: PROMOTION OF FOREST TRAINING AND RESEARCH .....	33
<b>2. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY .....</b>	<b>34</b>
2.1 FOREST GOVERNANCE PILLAR .....	34
2.1.1 Adequacy of the institutional framework on forest estate management and administration .....	34

2.1.2 Development of an inclusive legal framework, adequated and harmonized with other sectoral legislation .....	35
2.1.3 Forestry inspection .....	35
2.1.4 Promotion of forestry good governance .....	37
<b>2.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILLAR .....</b>	<b>39</b>
2.2.1 Sustainable use of Forest Estate and adoption of good practices .....	39
2.2.2 Support to the forestry industry and local transformation of forest products into finished products .....	40
2.2.3 Tax contribution from forest estate and public investment .....	40
2.2.4 Market access promotion .....	41
2.2.5 Creation of an enabling environment to investment in the development of plantations.....	42
2.2.6 Ensure access to land in the establishment and development of forest plantations.....	43
2.2.7 Incentives for the development of the forestry industry based on forest plantations .....	44
2.2.8 Adequate the legal framework on forest exploitation for energy purposes .....	44
2.2.9 Supply of forest plantations based woody fuels .....	46
2.2.10 Adoption of an integrated forestry and energy policy favorable to the use of certified wood fuels .....	46
2.2.11 Increase the knowledge of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP), valorization and its sustainable use .....	48
2.2.12 Increase the contribution of the forest sector to the local development and promote non-timber forest products based businesses .....	48
<b>2.3 FOREST CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PILLAR .....</b>	<b>49</b>
2.3.1 Integration of forests in to territorial planning and establishment of forest protection regimes .....	49
2.3.2 Creation of a forest legal framework favourable to the protection of the forest estate and mitigation of climate change .....	51
2.3.3 Reducing deforestation and increasing the contribution of forests in the mitigation of the effects of climate change and reduction of carbon emissions .....	52
2.3.4 Valuing the environmental services provided by forests .....	53
2.3.5 Promotion of restoration to protect fragile ecosystems and mitigation of climate change .....	54

<b>2.4 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PILLAR</b> .....	55
2.4.1 Promotion of local community involvement in forest management .....	55
2.4.2 Promotion of partnerships and channelling of benefits to local communities involved in sustainable forest management .....	57
2.4.3 Increase the contribution of the forest sector in the local development and promote non-timber forest products based businesses .....	58
<b>2.5 FORESTRY TRAINING AND RESEARCH PILLAR</b> .....	58
2.5.1 Development of a national multi comprehensive forest research program and funding mechanisms .....	59
2.5.2 Strengthening and improvement of research capacities and generational legacy .....	60
2.5.3 Development and improvement of a training and capacity building plan in the forestry sector .....	60
2.5.4 Sensitization and capacity building of stakeholders in the different stages of value chains and related cross-cutting themes .....	62
<b>3. ROLE OF DIFFERENT ACTORS</b> .....	64
<b>4. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS</b> .....	72
<b>5. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISMS</b> .....	73





REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE  
Cabinet

**Resolution 23/2020**  
**10th March 2020**

As it is necessary to boost the forest sector in order to ensure that the existing forest estate in the national territory contributes to the socio-economic development of the country without compromising the integrity of forest ecosystems, the sustainability of the resources and the benefits of current and future generations, under the provisions of paragraph f) nr. 1 of Article 203 of the Constitution of the Republic, the Cabinet determines:

Article 1. The approval of the attached Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy, which is an integral part of this Resolution.

Article 2. The Resolution 8/97 of the Cabinet, dated April 1st is hereby revoked.

Article 3. This Resolution shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

Approved by the Cabinet on March 10, 2020.

Publish it.

The Prime Minister, Carlos Agostinho do Rosário



# 1. FOREST POLICY

## 1.1. Background

- a) According to data from the national forest inventory conducted in 2017, the country has about 32 million hectares of natural forests, which covers 40% of the national territory. The miombo is the dominant forest formation, with about 21 million hectares, representing 62% of the forestry area. The growth of the miombo is slow, estimated at 0.5 to 1 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/year. The forest exploitation is selective and covers 20% of the 119 forest species identified and the remaining 80% are secundarized, with little demand in the market.
- b) More than ten thousand species of flora and fauna live in different terrestrial, marine, coastal and aquatic ecosystems, including the extensive areas of natural forests existing in the country. The number of plant species is about 5,743, of which 250 are endemic. The terrestrial fauna totals 4,271 species, including insects, birds, mammals and amphibians. Biodiversity is threatened due to human pressure, which manifests itself through the fragmentation and degradation of habitats, both terrestrial and marine, and the consequent drastic decrease of wildlife, especially large mammals and forest species with high commercial value.
- c) About 80% of the population obtains domestic energy from forests in the form of firewood and charcoal, food, medicines, construction materials, raw materials for the wood industry and create conditions for the development of agriculture, culture and tourism. Forests protect wildlife, soils, water sources, watersheds, landscapes and are fundamental in carbon dioxide fixation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change. They are also an important reservoir of biodiversity for the present and future generations of Mozambicans.



- d) Approximately 17.2 million hectares, constitute a potential of standing commercial wood of approximately 800 million cubic metres, allowing sustainable exploitation, Annual Allowable Cut of about 446 thousand cubic metres for precious and first class species.
- e) Forest exploitation is mainly concentrated in two major products: woody fuels (93%), only for the domestic market and roundwood (7%) for domestic consumption and export. The extraction and commercialisation of wood fuels, as well as other non-timber forest products, is a source of income for many families, in the countryside and in the city and involves about 5% of the Mozambican population. Informality dominates this area, statistics are scarce and imprecise and the development potential is still unknown and under-exploited.
- f) In 2017, about 900 million meticaís were collected from licensing and infractions and about 5 billion meticaís from wood export taxes. However, there is little investment in forest sector development.
- g) The country has about 70 thousand hectares of plantations of fast growing exotic species (pines and eucalyptus), concentrated in the central and Northern Region. Most of these plantations have been established since the year 2000, some of which are already in the exploitation phase and contribute to supplying the domestic market with firewood, transmission poles, cuttings, wood and construction materials. The development of forest plantations in the country is still conditioned by access and land ownership, conflicts with local communities, illegal cutting of trees, uncontrolled burning, lack of incentives, a weak infrastructure network and an inadequate legal and institutional framework.
- h) In the period between 2003 and 2013, the country lost about 267 thousand hectares per year, corresponding to an average annual rate of 0.79%. The main causes of deforestation are related



to the expansion of agriculture, exploitation of firewood and coal, uncontrolled burning, construction of economic and social infrastructure and urbanization. The highest rates of deforestation were observed along the coast and in the development corridors of the central and Northern regions.

- i) The conservation and sustainable use of forests remain a great challenge for Mozambicans. Population growth and rapid urbanization, deforestation for food production, firewood and charcoal production, uncontrolled burning, illegal cutting and unbridled logging and mining threaten the conservation and perpetuation of forests in the country. There are 15 forest reserves in the country, however, most of them have been invaded by local communities and loggers. Challenges remain in governance and administration, in the elaboration and implementation of management plans and in the knowledge of the current conservation value. Subsistence agriculture, firewood and charcoal extraction, illegal logging, and mining are major threats to conservation areas. The weak knowledge about the main environmental services and consequently their valorization makes it difficult to attribute benefits derived from their conservation.
- j) The weak forest supervision capacity, absence of tracking and reporting systems and incentives to the different supervision intervenients facilitates the exploitation and illegal trade of wood. Currently, the country has around 680 forest inspectors with difficulties in communication, movement, prosecution, coordination and complementarity of actions with the other authorities in the judiciary system and in the protection of natural resources.
- k) Forests contribute with about 2% of GDP annually. This figure does not account for the goods and services provided by the forest, since they are not included in national accounts, such as the forest's



contribution to domestic energy, environmental services provided to society and income generated by local communities from informal business involving timber and non-timber forest products.

- l) Non-timber forest products such as honey, berries, natural dyes, medicinal plants used in the food, pharmaceutical, hygiene, beauty and welfare industries have a growing interest and demand internally and externally. The scarcity of data and knowledge about value chains has favoured the weak exploitation of the potential of these value chains and exclusion in the agenda and development plans of the forest sector.
- m) Local communities are the main guardians, knowledgeable and dependent on forest resources for their survival and well-being. The involvement of local communities in the management of forest resources is a long-term challenge that requires the development of forest extension programs, including the allocation of incentives and benefits to local communities for the sustainable management and use of forest resources.
- n) Research and forest extension at the appropriate scale and dimension does not exist in-country. There is a lack of knowledge and information on timber and non-timber forest products, the dynamics of different forest formations in the country, characteristics and physical-mechanical properties of secundarized native wood species, as well as the establishment and development of forest plantations. Sustainable forest management should be based on scientific knowledge and good customary practices and rational use of forests developed by local communities. Forest research and training are fundamental for the innovation and modernization of the sector.



- o) Coordination, collaboration, complementarity, articulation and consultation mechanisms should be improved and institutionalised, given the multi-overarching nature of forests. It is in this context that it is important to transform the forest sector and its institutional, political and legal framework, aiming at perpetuating the forest heritage, in order to contribute to Mozambique's development and to achieve global sustainable development goals.
  
- p) This forest policy is aligned with a diversity of policies and strategies in the areas of Lands and Spatial Planning, Agriculture and Forestry, Conservation of biological diversity, Energy, Sea and Inland Water, Industry and Trade, Economy and Finance, Tourism, Culture, Traditional Medicine, State Administration and Public Service, Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Social Action, Gender, Forest Education and Research, given the multidisciplinary nature of forest management and the contribution of forests to socio-economic development and food security, as well as to climate change mitigation. The country is also a signatory to several protocols, treaties and regional and international conventions in the area of climate, biodiversity, wetlands, river basins, combating desertification, benefit sharing derived from the use of genetic resources, cross-border trade and also the voluntary principles of sustainable forest management and responsible governance of forest property, land and fisheries.

## 1.2 Challenges and opportunities of the forest sector

**The following constitutes the main challenges of the forest sector:**

- a) Ensure the sustainable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment, through planning and territorial regulation, restoration, management, conservation and promotion, monitoring, supervision and responsabilization in the preparation and implementation of plans;



- b) Prioritize forest inventory and mapping at a scale of 1:250,000, basic cartography at a scale of 1:50,000 and 1:25,000;
- c) To implement policies and programs that provide alternative products to reduce the demand for forest products, currently extracted in the forest, derived from population growth (2.8%), especially the growing rate of urbanization (3.7%);
- d) To develop the timber and non-timber forest products processing industry to add value, contribute to employment generation, increase revenue and national income;
- e) To maximize the use of national potential for the establishment of industrial and conservation forest plantations;
- f) To strengthen the institutional and legal framework, as forest administration lacks human and technological resources for modern, articulated forest management based on information and communication technologies (ICTs); mainly at provincial and district levels;
- g) To strengthen knowledge and innovation in the forests, due to the poor knowledge of forest management and stewardship based on appropriate methodologies and technologies is a cross-cutting challenge for the development of value chains and improvement of the living conditions of Mozambicans;
- h) Mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as Mozambique has been cyclically affected by extreme environmental events such as drought, floods and cyclones.



## The main opportunities in the forest sector are:

- a) The existence of forest estate covering about 40% of the national territory made up of different types of forests, ecosystems and species of flora and fauna of inestimable ecological, economic and cultural value;
- b) Existence of vast areas with potential for the establishment of forest plantations, the base for a modern, competitive, sustainable forest industry, to supply the growing internal and external demand for forest products;
- c) Geostrategic location of the country and proximity to Asian emerging markets;
- d) The growing recognition of the importance of forests in mitigating climate change and building sustainable development with low emissions enhances the value of environmental services;
- e) Forests and their multiple services and products create opportunities for contributing to the increase of gross domestic product (GDP), diversification of the national economy and development of other sectors.

### 1.3 Scope

This Policy applies to the whole forest estate existing in the national territory and to all natural and legal persons, public, private, community and civil society organizations that directly or indirectly intervene in the protection, conservation, management, exploitation and sustainable use of environmental products and services from forest resources.



## 1.4 General objective

The general objective of this Policy is to ensure the perpetuation and increase of the existing national forest heritage and the generation of benefits derived from environmental goods and services through reforestation, restoration, sustainable use and adding value to forest products, encouraging inclusive and participatory management, especially of vulnerable groups, for the economic, social and environmental benefit of current and future generations.

## 1.5 Specific Objectives

**In the environmental domain:** ensure the protection, conservation, creation, valuation, restoration and sustainable use of the forest estate. In this domain, priority is given to the maintenance of the forest ecosystems, threatened or endangered species, preservation and enhancement of their services through the payment of environmental services, mitigation of climate change, maintenance of water services, soil stabilization and others.

In the socio-cultural domain: promote a favourable environment conducive to the active participation of all citizens and stakeholders in the sustainable management of forests, especially of local communities, fair and equitable sharing of benefits, valuing and respecting traditional knowledge of sacred forests, as well as socio-cultural relations.

**In the economic domain:** increase the contribution of forests to national and local economic development, promoting competitive commercial exploitation with greater added industrial value at the domestic level and contributing to the well-being of communities in reducing poverty and increasing food security. In the institutional and legal domain: strengthen and improve the legal and institutional framework for inclusive, transparent, coordinated and sustainable forest management, contribute to the fight against corruption, national and transnational environmental crimes and law enforcement and reduction of illegal practices in the forest sector.



## 1.6 Vision

Increase the contribution of forests in the framework of the objectives and agenda of socio-economic and cultural development of the country, through reinvestment for modernization and sustainable management, integrated and participatory involving local communities, men and women, the private sector, civil society, public bodies and local state authorities in the protection and conservation of biodiversity.

## 1.7 Mission

The mission of this policy is to promote the production, management and sustainable use of the forest estate, conservation of biodiversity, planning, production, management, control of sustainable and environmental use, ensuring the aggregation of value of its products, for the qualitative improvement of the welfare of communities and satisfying the needs of current and future generations.

## 1.8 Principles

The Forest Policy adopts the following principles:

- a) **State Property:** the existing native forests throughout the national territory are the property of the State and it is the State's exclusive competence to define the terms and conditions of access, use, commercialisation, management, reproduction and protection, aiming to achieve the sustainable development objectives;
- b) **Public domain of the State:** the existing native or planted forests in the protection areas constitutes a state public domain forest heritage;



- c) **Public domain of forest exploitation areas:** The zoned and defined areas in the territorial planning instruments, as of greater forestry potential, constitute areas of public domain of the State intended for the sustainable exploitation of forest resources and environmental services and therefore cannot be subject to the allocation of land use and exploitation rights, notwithstanding those acquired by local communities;
- d) **Conservation and sustainable use:** the access, use, transformation and commercialisation of forest products and services must take into account the current and future national development needs, aiming at the perpetuation of the existing biological, ecological and forestry diversity;
- e) **Good governance and transparency:** decision-making regarding access, exploitation, commercialisation of forest products, revenues, reinvestment and channelling of benefits should be guided by good governance and transparency;
- f) **Equality, inclusion, access to information and public participation:** Every citizen, regardless of place of birth, sex, gender, race, religion or party affiliation, has the right to access information and to participate in the management, exploitation and conservation of the forest assets and the obligation to participate in their protection and supervision;
- g) **Involvement of local communities:** In the adoption of legal and operational instruments, the effective involvement of local communities must be ensured, strengthening their capacities and empowering them in the decision-making processes on the management of forest resources, especially vulnerable groups and those who depend on them for food security;



- h) **Precaution, prevention and mitigation:** In the process of forest regulation and in the implementation of legislation, the scientific and technical basis for decision-making on protection, use, processing and commercialisation of environmental products and services should be privileged and, in case of doubt, the conservation and maintenance of ecosystems should be adopted;
- i) **Processing and marketing of finished products:** The access and sustainable use of the forest resources is, primarily, assured for the supply to the transformation industry of finished products, competitive and intended for the national market and export, preserving the values of biodiversity and the normal functioning of ecosystems;
- j) **Preference right:** Mozambican individuals, local communities or their members, in equal circumstances and classification, have the right of preference in the allocation of rights of access and use of forest management units;
- k) **Priority of food and nutritional security:** the forest activity should contribute to food and nutritional security
- l) **Fight against corruption:** In the process of licensing and allocation of authorizations concerning access, exploitation, management, marketing and use of forest resources, the Government shall create legal and administrative procedures that prevents and detects acts of corruption;
- m) **Objective responsibility:** all individuals and legal entities and local communities are responsible for the cost of restoring the quality of the damaged environment or the cost of mitigating the damage caused by them;



- n) **Polluter and payer:** The State shall hold natural and legal persons and local communities responsible for the cost of replacing damaged forests or for the costs of preventing or eliminating pollution caused by them in the exercise of any activity in or around forest areas;
- o) **Institutional development and coordination:** the State should develop an autonomous institutional framework, appropriate with motivated, equipped and trained personnel, capable of ensuring the implementation of the forestry regulatory framework in coordination with different activity sectors, giving priority to the principles of decentralization and administrative deconcentration;
- p) **International cooperation and collaboration:** in the protection, control and monitoring of the forest estate, strategies should be developed that include the establishment and implementation of memorandums, agreements and international treaties for collaboration and assistance between States;
- q) **Gradualism:** The implementation of forest policy considers an incremental and flexible approach, allowing for legal and institutional adjustment and harmonization and the creation of technical and financial capacities to implement the defined strategic actions.

## 1.9 Vectors

The vectors of forest policy are as follows:

- a) **Sustainability:** The preservation of the forest heritage in the country and the promotion of the balance between the production of wealth, social welfare and the preservation of natural capital will be through the sustainable use of resources while not compromising the maintenance, conservation and improvement of ecological systems for the present and future generations;



- b) **Holistic approach:** consists in the recognition of the interdependence between conservation, management and marketing of forest resources with the daily lives of the populations and the integrated territorial administration, where the multiple functions of the forest contributes to sustainable development.

## 1.10 Forest Policy Pillars

The forest policy pillars are the main axes for the development and gradual implementation in **short** (0 to 6 years), **medium** (6 to 12 years) and **long** (over 12 years) terms;

### Pillar 1: Forest governance

The legal, institutional and forest governance framework constitutes the Forest Policy pillar that assumes the Government's commitment to the establishment of a participatory, inclusive and harmonized policy and legal framework to be implemented by its own institution, capacitated in human, material and technological means in the context of decentralization, deconcentration and simplification of procedures.

In this pillar, a paradigm shift is foreseen with legal and institutional reforms that should create solid foundations at central and local level of a new model of participatory and inclusive management of the forest sector in Mozambique having local communities as the main beneficiaries.

**In the short term:** The Government will update the existing legal framework taking into account the vision, mission, objectives and principles established in this Policy, including the revision of Law No. 10/99 of July 7 (Forest and Wildlife Law) and complementary or related legislation, harmonized with the political-legal frameworks on land, territorial planning, conservation, environmental security, local state bodies, environment and others, as well as the development of forestry information system and the use of a digital platform capable of



improving the management of the legal technical situation of the operators and other forest users within the framework of good governance of the country's forest patrimony, tracking of forest products, digital applications and technologies for the improvement of supervision, communication and management of the sector.

**In the medium term:** The Government shall develop an adequate institutional framework capable of ensuring the coordination of the protection, management and inspection activities of the forest patrimony throughout the national territory, with representation at district, provincial and central level, institutionalizing and autonomizing the forest inspection services capacitated in human, material and technological means to ensure the prevention, detention, reprehension and penalization of infractions and forestry crimes, aiming at combating illegal exploitation, throughout the national territory.

**In the long term:** The improvement of forest governance is foreseen, namely transparency in decision making and fund management, participation and accountability of all actors, respect for legality, increased legal predictability and environmental improvement for private investment, fair and equitable allocation of forest sector benefits.

## Pillar 2: Economic Development

This pillar recognises that the forestry patrimony is one of the main sources of contribution to the national economy in the framework of the country's national development strategy, which advocates the diversification of the economy as a basis for stable economic growth and comprehensive and sustainable forestry patrimony management. This includes the main value chains of the forest sector: (i) wood from native forests; (ii) wood from plantations; (iii) wood biomass energy and (iv) non-timber forest products;



## Native forest

The native forest is of special importance for the goods and services it provides to the society. Its sustainable use is fundamental to ensure the benefits of present and future generations.

**In the short term:** the Government should ensure the adequate exploitation of forest resources in sustainable regimes, provide fiscal incentives, promote good practices and national standards internationally acceptable. The Government shall establish a roadmap for a change from an extractive attitude to a full and sustainable management of forest management units agreed upon among various stakeholders. It should also promote economic growth based on ecosystems and their services, encouraging the aggregation of value of timber and non-timber forest products, the use of less known and exploited species, the supply of finished and competitive products in national and international markets, job creation as well as technology transfer, training and technical capacity building of all sectoral actors.

Forest exploitation is carried out on species in a healthy ecological condition and the Government should develop legal mechanisms that allow for the immediate suspension of overexploited species.

**In the medium term:** the Government shall regulate the production, processing, trading, export of forest products and the reinvestment of revenues in the forest sector, adopting measures that prioritize the export of manufactured forest products with higher added value.

**In the long term:** The Government should promote actions to maximise the profitability of the wood value chains so that producers obtain higher financial returns and the creation of a profitable forestry industry, competitive in the national and international market and committed to the sustainability of the forestry resource.



## Forest Plantations

Mozambique has great potential of areas with adequate agroclimatic conditions for the establishment and development of forest plantations, combined with the strategic location and proximity of the country to emerging world markets and the country's dependence on imports of these products and on agroforestry systems for food security of rural populations, production of timber and non-timber products for self consumption and income, conservation of the environment and biodiversity at local level.

The development and establishment of plantations should, when possible, avoid compromising biodiversity, especially key areas and of high biodiversity value and other sensitive ecosystems.

**In the short term:** The Government will create an enabling and attractive environment for the establishment of forest plantations and the dissemination of agroforestry systems, namely the adequacy of the legal and institutional framework, the zoning of the territory and the definition of areas for the development of forest plantations, facilitating access and land ownership by national and foreign investors. It should also promote research and professional technical training for the production of forest, timber and non-timber products, both for domestic and international consumption, specially the production of treated poles and posts, construction materials, woody biomass energy production, flooring, veneers, plywood, particle panels, furniture, paper and other products.

**In the medium term:** In this pillar the legal framework affecting this sector should be harmonized and plantations developed to mitigate the impacts of environmental degradation through the establishment of dunes and stabilization of watersheds, recovery of degraded areas, fragile ecosystems and other areas subject to erosion or whose integrity of environmental services is threatened, developing strategic actions that will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to minimize the effects of global warming and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change.



**In the long term:** the State should ensure the contribution of the forestry sector to the national economy through the creation of a forestry industry of timber and non-timber products, manufactured on the basis of forest plantations to reduce dependence on imported forest products, job creation, opportunities for partnerships with local communities and small producers, diversification of income sources and exports of higher value-added manufactured products.

## Woody Biomass Energy

The importance of the forest in the supply of domestic energy to the Mozambican population and the forecast that this dependence will continue in the near future, with harmful impacts on deforestation and environmental degradation, particularly in areas of exploitation of woody fuels for growing urban consumption raises the need to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination for the development of energy policies and strategic actions to capitalize on other fuel sources with lower environmental impact, as well as regulate the value chain of production, marketing and sustainable use of firewood and charcoal for domestic and industrial fuel supply.

**In the short term:** the Government should establish forestry management units and regulate the exploitation of forest resources from native forests for the sustainable production of woody fuels to supply urban centers, promoting the emergence of organizations, associations, cooperatives and forums representing producers of woody fuels and increasing the processing efficiency. At the consumer level, the Government should adopt measures to reduce the consumption of woody fuels and family expenses through the efficiency of the stoves used and substitution by other fuel sources.

**In the medium term:** the Government should adopt measures so that the production of wood fuels to supply urban consumption is made through associations and cooperatives of organized charcoal and firewood producers, registered and primarily from commercial plantations with native and/or exotic species of rapid growth in peri-urban areas and degraded or multiple use forests.



The Government should promote the use of agro-industrial waste and alternative energy sources such as solar, aeolian, gas and electricity.

**In the long term:** the Government is required to adopt an integrated energy policy aimed at promoting environmental awareness among urban consumers for the purchase of wood fuels in accordance with the legal framework and based on sustainable forest use and management. On the other hand, encourage the consumption of alternative energy sources, the use of waste by agro-industries, as well as the adoption of regulatory fees, subsidies to other energies to reduce dependence on wood fuels in urban centers and multisectoral coordination in the energy policy.

## Non-timber Forest Products

Non-timber forest products, including wildlife, are of special importance to local communities, providing building materials, food, medicines, household utensils, income, cultural and spiritual patrimony that should be recognized, valued and preserved.

**In the short term:** It is important to increase the knowledge of non-timber forest products and to value their contribution to the local and national economy.

In the medium term: The integral use and management of the forest is fundamental, encouraging good practices and their integration in the inventories and management plans of the forests and forestry management units in order to increase resilience to climate change, sustainable use, value addition and income generation, based on non-timber forest products.

**In the long term:** development of value chains for non-timber forest products (NTFPs) based on sustainable use and competitive products in the national and international markets. The integration of non-timber forest products in the development agenda of the country and the forest sector contributing to the holistic vision of the forest patrimony.



## Pillar 3: Environmental Services and Forest Conservation

The recognition of all stakeholders on the role of forests in the protection and conservation of biodiversity, especially endemic and endangered species of forestry eco-regions, is a global priority for the survival of living beings. The vulnerability of the country to climate phenomena and the importance of forests for the mitigation of climate change and other related problems affecting infrastructure, crops and human lives, are the foundation of Forestry Policy through this pillar. The valorisation of the contribution of forests in environmental services is fundamental for the survival and well-being of humanity, achievement of sustainable development objectives and other goals established in international agreements and conventions to which Mozambique is a signatory.

**In the short term:** The Government prioritizes land use planning and the integration of registration systems and geographic information considering, among others, the role of forests for the integrated development of the territory, the preservation of genetic capital and forestry and fauna diversity, establishing forestry protection regimes, promoting the restoration of degraded areas to increase the country's forestry coverage and ensure the supply of environmental services.

**In the medium term:** the Government should adopt a legal framework enabling the establishment and management of forestry protection and conservation areas of private domain and a compensation regime for environmental benefits and counterbalances for restoration and forest promotion.

**In the long term:** the Government will develop measures to encourage the valorisation of forests and payments for environmental services in order to ensure their contribution to GDP and sustainable development models.



## Pillar 4: Effective Participation of Local Communities

The Government should create political and legal mechanisms that ensure the active participation of the communities in decision-making on forestry management, benefit sharing, fulfillment of their obligations and exercise of rights. The participation of local communities in the management of forest resources constitutes the recognition of all stakeholders of the role of local communities as guardians and beneficiaries of forest resources.

**In the short term:** the Government and partners shall strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations as promoters and active partners in sustainable forestry management, in monitoring forest resources, combating their illegal exploitation, deforestation, adopting good practices and good customary standards of sustainable forest management, as well as the implementation of community enterprises, promoting attractive partnerships between these and other actors.

The Government shall ensure the creation and development of areas for community protection and conservation, reforestation and forest exploitation of timber and non-timber products by local communities, as a mechanism for the delegation of management powers and accountability to communities.

**In the medium term:** Attractive partnership models will be developed and operated in the forestry management units that will promote the generation of benefits through the viability of individual or collective businesses based on timber and non-timber forest products, environmental services and equitable and transparent sharing of these benefits by the communities.

**In the long term:** Communities in collaboration with the private sector will be active players in promoting rural development at the local level through income generation and effective, active, participatory and transparent management of environmental goods and services provided by forests.



## Pillar 5: Promotion of Forestry Training and Research

Forestry training and research results from the recognition of the importance of forestry education and research for the production of capabilities, information and scientific and technological knowledge fundamental to meeting the economic, environmental and social challenges of the forest sector. It recognises the skills and competences of the different players involved in the conservation, management and sustainable use of the forestry patrimony, biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.

**In the short term:** the Government and its partners should develop a coordinated and multi-overarch national forestry research program (forests, biodiversity, environment, climate change) and multi-sectoral coordination for curriculum alignment of forestry technical professional education at different levels, elaboration of an extension program and forestry capacity-building;

**In the medium term:** The design and establishment of funding mechanisms and mobilization of funds for both the implementation of the forestry research program and the technical capacity building, training and extension program, as well as the expansion of professional technical education, equipping laboratory facilities and facilitating access to capacity-building through scholarships, internships and interchanges is fundamental.

**In the long term:** the need to value practical-scientific knowledge on forests and biodiversity, innovation and modernization to improve the management of the forestry sector. It is also intended to achieve quality education and professional and vocational capacity-building to ensure adequate technical assistance to communities, forestry operators and other stakeholders to meet the challenges of the sector.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### 2.1 Forest governance Pillar

Implementation will be ensured through the following strategic objectives:

#### 2.1.1 Adequacy of the institutional framework on forestry patrimony management and administration.

To achieve this strategic objective, the following actions will be undertaken:

- a) Create a specific and autonomous entity to ensure the management, regulation and administration of the forestry patrimony at national level;
- b) Carry out the institutional framework of activities related to the development of Forest Plantations in a single central body with a mandate to boost the development of Forest Plantations;
- c) Strengthen the mechanisms for planning, intra- and inter-sectoral coordination and implementation of the legal framework in collaboration with all stakeholders;
- d) Create the National Forest Forum, multi-sectoral, as a government consultation body on forests including monitoring of the legal framework with its own statutes, mandate and funds, which includes the public and private sector, civil society organizations, education and research institutions, cooperation partners, representatives of local communities and the media.



## 2.1.2 Development of an inclusive legal framework, appropriate and harmonized with other sectoral legislation

The achievement of this strategic objective will be ensured, among others, by carrying out the following actions:

- a) Promote the approval of a Forestry Law and its regulations, drafted in an inclusive and participative way, integrating all matters of ordinary nature related to the protection, conservation, use, commercialisation and inspection of the forestry assets harmonized with the other legal frameworks related to it and international conventions, treaties and agreements ratified;
- b) Disseminate the legal framework among all actors, especially local communities.

## 2.1.3 Forestry supervision

This strategic objective will be ensured through the development and implementation of a National Forest Supervision Strategy containing actions for the prevention, detection and reprehension of illegal activities, involving local communities, including the following actions:

- a) Reorganize and decentralize supervision services, providing adequate human, material and technological resources for supervision throughout the country and tracking throughout the forestry production chain;
- b) Develop and implement a participatory and inclusive gender-focused surveillance strategy involving sectoral actors, in particular local communities, with actions in the field of prevention, detection and reprehension of illegal activities;



- c) Ensure the effective implementation of the Forestry Inspector Statute, guaranteeing incentives, the participation of sectoral stakeholders, society in general and the communities in forestry surveillance;
- d) Create and facilitate the functioning of the inter-institutional coordinating body in forestry surveillance, at central, provincial and district levels;
- e) Establish and implement real incentives to encourage public and private reporting of beakers of forest legislation;
- f) Ensure the sharing by local communities of the amount resulting from fines for transgression of forestry legislation;
- g) Ensure transparent mechanisms for effective compliance with punitive measures applied to offenders;
- h) Develop and implement surveillance campaigns involving the private sector, associations of forestry operators, civil society organizations and local communities;
- i) Supervise and penalize, with the support of the local communities, all those who produce firewood and charcoal without the proper authorizations;
- j) Establish coordination mechanisms between the different actors involved in the natural resources surveillance process.



## 2.1.4 Promoting good forest governance

In order to ensure the achievement of this strategic objective, the following actions will be undertaken:

- a) Promote the conduction of strategic forest inventories and global monitoring and capacity building at the provincial level for its execution;
- b) Ensure the conduction of biodiversity inventories aiming at knowledge and forestry valuation at all levels;
- c) To modernize and promote the use of technology, artificial intelligence and digital transformation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of responsible institutions for forestry management and administration;
- d) Include all actors and stakeholders in the natural resources management process, through the institutionalization of a mechanism for communication, promotion and dissemination of image and functional and efficient participation;
- e) Simplify and disseminate at all levels the procedures related to the access, use and exploitation of forest resources for commercial purposes;
- f) Inspect and supervise all administrative bodies and services related to the management and administration of forestry assets, through hierarchical control, inspections, audits, accountability and public information, among others;



- g) Establish grievance mechanisms, reporting and settlement of forestry conflicts;
- h) Holding local authorities accountable for illegal exploration or use activities in their area;
- i) Establish mechanisms for the approximation and involvement of citizens in the supervision and surveillance of acts performed by public forestry asset management entities;
- j) Establish the forestry development fund.



## 2.2 Economic Development Pillar

The implementation of this pillar will be done through the following strategic objectives:

### Native forest

#### 2.2.1 Sustainable use of Forest Estate and adoption of good practices.

This strategic objective will be achieved by developing actions for the sustainable use of forest resources without compromising biodiversity namely:

- a) Promote sustainable commercial forestry production of native and exotic forestry species driven to value addition, job creation and sustainable economic development;
- b) Identify forestry management models based on good forestry use and management practices that are functional and replicable, taking into account the local cultural and biophysical mosaic;
- c) Ensure that the management and use of forest resources is based on existing scientific and technical knowledge and current information on the social, economic and ecological reality;
- d) Establish attractive incentives for investment in the forestry sector that safeguard the interests of local communities;
- e) Promote sustainable forest management and use;
- f) Promote specialized technical assistance and use of skilled labor in all forestry activities.



## 2.2.2 Support to the forest industry and local transformation of forest products into finished products.

The accomplishment of this strategic objective will require the following actions:

- a) Establish an incentive package and enabling environment to investment in the forestry industry of transformation of timber and non-timber forest products into finished products;
- b) Develop policies that promote the export of finished forest products;
- c) Promote access to financing for the forestry industry;

Promote the establishment of secondary processing industrial parks and the increase of efficiency in the transformation and improvement of quality standards and competitiveness of national forest products.

## 2.2.3 Tax contribution from forest estate and public investment.

In order to achieve this strategic objective, the following actions will be carried out:

- a) Foresee criteria for the definition and updating of occupancy rates of the area, access, exploitation, use, transport and marketing of forest products according to the potential, economic value, ecological and social value of the forest products;
- b) Establish and operationalize effective mechanisms for collecting and channelling fees, which are reliable, modern, transparent and auditable;
- c) Encourage the forest industry to invest in the whole chain, adding value to wood and obtaining a higher proportion of income;



- d) Consign part of the value of the fees for public investment in the sector, benefiting local communities taking into account their efforts and results in the conservation, surveillance and management of forestry asset;

Establish mechanisms that ensure transparency in planning and decision making on the management and allocation of funds from forest taxes.

## 2.2.4 Market access promotion.

In the promotion of market access, as a strategic objective, it will be ensured by the following actions:

- a) Promote market studies, forest products fairs, commercial premises for forest products and cooperation and collaboration agreements aiming at knowledge and access to international forest products markets;
- b) Regulate trade of forest products by prioritizing the export of processed and finished forest products and restrict the export of non-manufactured forest products;
- c) Promote the participation of small producers in consultation, decision making and forest business promotion forums;
- d) Promote the association of small and medium enterprises of timber and non-timber forest products along the value chains;
- e) Improve the classification of logs and other forest products;
- f) Promote the knowledge and valuation of seconded forest species, in order to contribute to the reduction of pressure on the most demanded species at national and international levels, as well as the protection of endangered species;



- g) Promote the implementation of national acceptable principles, criteria and standards of certification internationally acceptable;
- h) Stimulate the consumption of finished forest products by the State.

## Forest Plantations

The development of forest plantations and the increase of their contribution to economic development will be ensured considering the following strategic objectives:

### 2.2.5 Creation of an enabling environment for investment in the development of plantations.

This strategic objective will be ensured through the implementation of the following actions:

- a) Develop an adequate and coordinated legal and institutional framework aiming at promoting investments in the area of forest plantations;
- b) Develop appropriate strategies for community involvement in small and medium enterprises, including community capacity building for the development of forest plantations and management of their benefits;
- c) Establish a strategy to register and monitor the establishment of forest plantations;
- d) Promote the participation of companies, associations or reforestation cooperatives in decision making processes;
- e) Create financial incentives for the establishment of forest plantations and associated industries;



- f) Define the responsibility for the socio-economic infrastructures to be developed by the investor within the scope of the assumed commitments in the community consultations;
- g) Create fiscal incentives for forest certification and the development of national standards;

Stimulate partnerships among forestry area entities, educational institutions, Armed Forces for the Defence of Mozambique (FADM) to carry out reforestation and restoration activities by channeling reforestation surcharges.

### **2.2.6 Ensure access to land in the establishment and development of forest plantations**

This strategic objective will be ensured through the implementation of the following actions:

- a) Prepare and approve the land use planning instruments aiming at zoning and legally allocate areas with potential for the establishment of forest plantations;
- b) Participate in the elaboration of the District Development Strategic Plans (PEDD) taking into account the local potentialities in the development of plantations and the forestry industry in order to ensure and make viable the electric, road, railway and other public and private infrastructures necessary for this activity;
- c) Simplify procedures for access to land for the establishment of forest plantations and facilitate dialogue and negotiation, settlement of disputes and conflicts between investors and local communities;
- d) Allocate a percentage of the value of the forest exploitation rates to reforestation and institute utilisation mechanisms.



## 2.2.7 Incentives to the development of the forest industry based on forest plantations

This strategic objective will be ensured through the implementation of the following actions:

- a) Create incentive systems for investment in the forest industry based on forest plantations for the production of wood, poles, charcoal and other non-timber forest products;
- b) Encourage the participation of local communities, including women, in the establishment of forestry nurseries and development of forest plantations.

## Biomass energy

The use of biomass energy and its contribution to economic development will be ensured considering the following strategic objectives:

## 2.2.8 Adjusting the legal framework on forest exploitation for energy purposes

The following actions are required to achieve this strategic objective:

- a) Harmonize the legal framework taking into account existing biomass policies and strategy;
- b) Create reliable mechanisms for setting and updating the commercial prices of alternative fuels that ensure competition and advantages over wood biomass energy;
- c) Establish forest management units for the production of wood fuels managed by associations, cooperatives or in partnership agreements;



- d) Establish a licensing, registration, sustainable exploitation, restoration, forest enrichment and sprout management regime, giving preference to the production of wood fuels from forest plantations for commercial, industrial and energy purposes, whenever this action is not intended and contributes to the devastation of the existing natural forest;
- e) Review the value chain of charcoal and its players and encourage the generation of greater income for producers;
- f) Formalize the markets for the sale of wood fuels and establish commercial stations and community fairs for commercialisation of wood fuels in ways that offer greater profitability to local communities;
- g) Encourage the creation of associations or cooperatives of firewood and charcoal producers and promote their participation in debate forums in the sector;
- h) Establish community areas for exploration, charcoal and firewood production, promoting adequate rotation and fallowing;
- i) Promote the production of charcoal briquettes from alternative materials to wood resources (paper, agricultural waste, coconut remains, etc.) and create new business opportunities;

Promote incentives to stimulate the use of charcoal briquettes by consumers.



## 2.2.9 Supply of forest plantations based wood fuels

With this strategic objective the Government intends to reduce the pressure on the natural forest resource for the supply of biomass energy, which will be ensured through the following actions:

- a) Encourage the establishment of private commercial forest plantations and medium and large scale agroforestry, community and family systems for energy purposes;
- b) Encourage the production of seedlings as a business opportunity and the use of native and/or exotic fast growing species for energy production plots;
- c) Create networks of family producers with planted plots to supply wood fuel to the charcoal production industry;
- d) Promote collecting, processing, storage and distribution networks of forestry species seeds;
- e) Promote and encourage the use of wood fuels from forest plantations and/or residues by industries consuming these fuels;
- f) Establish restrictive measures for the industrial consumption of wood fuels from native forests.

## 2.2.10 Adoption of an integrated forestry and energetic policy enabling the use of certified wood fuels

This objective will be ensured through the following actions:

- a) Promote multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration between the forest sectors, of the environment, biomass energy, energy and other



fuel sources, aiming at the dissemination of new and renewable energies, the diversification of the energy matrix, the increase of efficiency and the energy supply based on the sustainable exploitation of natural resources;

- b) Establishment of incentives, subsidies and compensations derived from other energy sources to support the forest sector;
- c) Introduce mechanisms that allow the national certification of wood fuels;
- d) Research, develop and promote the use of other sources of alternative wood fuels to wood biomass;
- e) Promote and disseminate the industrial and domestic use of renewable energy systems (wind, solar) and other energy sources;
- f) Promote biomass energy production based on waste (branches, sawdust, costaneries) and the use of coal-burning by-products;
- g) Introduce the origin/provenance seal of wood fuels, standardize the charcoal bags and facilitate the allocation of seedlings for reforestation.

### **Non-timber forest products**

The use and valuation of non-timber forest products, including wildlife and their contribution to economic development will be ensured considering the following strategic objectives:



## 2.2.11 Increase the knowledge of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP), valuation and their sustainable use

- a) Create a database of the main non-timber forest products, inventory system, mapping and monitoring to improve knowledge, transformation processes and valuation of traditional products;
- b) Adjust the legal framework for the valuation and sustainable use of NTFPs and their integration in the country's development agenda;
- c) Inventory, registry and territorial planning considering the main NTFPs including wildlife;
- d) Promote good practices in the management, harvesting, use and processing of NTFPs and wildlife.

## 2.2.12 Increase the contribution of the forest sector to local development and promote non-timber forest products based businesses

This strategic objective will be accomplished through the following actions:

- a) Facilitate and create small family and community business models in partnership with the private sector for the conservation, planting, exploitation, processing and sale of non-timber forest products;
- b) Define legal mechanisms for the access and sustainable use of forest resources by local communities including incentives for the development of small industries and value chains of non-timber forest products;



- c) Promote access to appropriate micro-credits and financial systems to the local reality and in particular favoring access to women and vulnerable groups in order to enhance the value chains of non-timber forest products;
- d) Support the domestication and replantation of species with local and commercial value (medicinal, food, among others);
- e) Develop new products, markets and ensure their certification;
- f) To promote handicraft based on non-timber forest products.

## 2.3 Forest conservation and environmental services pillar

This pillar is based on the following strategic objectives:

### 2.3.1 Integration of forests in the land use planning and establishment of forest protection regimes.

For this strategic objective the following actions will be developed:

- a) Classify and zoning the forest resource areas according to their functional categories and integrate these areas in the National Territorial Management Plan;
- b) Ensure that the forest areas with the highest productive potential are delineated in forestry management units and maintained as permanent forest areas under sustainable management and integrated in the national territorial management plan;
- c) Establish a minimum conservation and protection area within the forest management units;



- d) Demarcate, map and launch into the national land use and respective land use planning instruments, the forest reserves and trees declared of public and scientific concern in collaboration and involvement of local leaders and communities in the demarcation and decision making process;
- e) Clear definition of conservation values and their dissemination at all levels, with particular focus on the local community level;
- f) Identify and promote life alternatives for the communities living around the conservation areas;
- g) Promote community management for rational and sustainable use of existing wildlife forest resources in the conservation areas;
- h) Establish the management and administration of forest reserves and areas declared of public and scientific concern, according to the respective categories of protection, considering:

Total forest reserves aimed at the integral conservation of the forest ecosystem, covering forests located in integrated natural reserves, cultural monuments and mangroves;

Dune protection, abrupt slopes, land heavily affected by erosion, river basins, alleys of watercourses of a torrential nature, vegetal settlements of considerable economic value for landscaping and tourism, or any other vegetal formations that may be of concern for military defense, sanitary defense and conservation of water resources;

Partial Forest Reserves aimed at reconciling good sustainable forest management and exploitation practices with other ecosystem and habitat conservation and protection measures, covering provincial, district and municipal areas of sustainable use;



Protected areas intended to the protection of singular protected trees declared of public concern located in areas titled to private individuals or of state public domain, for scientific, historic-cultural, landscape or other reasons;  
Private domain forest reserves intended to protect the initiative of individuals or local communities for the protection of forests located in areas titled by individuals, companies or communities for the exclusive development of forestry conservation activities and environmental services and benefiting from environmental incentives or payments under the terms of applicable legislation. Forests located in community conservation areas, sanctuaries, wildlife farms and municipal ecological parks are also included in this category.

- i) Facilitate the establishment of public-private, associative and community management partnerships in the management of forest protection and conservation areas;
- j) Approve incentive packages for individuals, companies or communities interested in the development of forestry protection;
- k) Ensure the collection, cultivation and conservation of representative species of threatened or endangered forest ecosystems outside their natural growth areas.

### **2.3.2 Creation of a forestry legal framework enabling the protection of the forest estate and mitigation of climate change**

For this strategic objective, the following actions will be undertaken as a matter of priority:

- a) Develop an enabling and attractive legal framework for investment and co-management of forest reserves and other protection and conservation areas of environmental components;



- b) Ensure compliance with the recommendations contained in the political-legal framework and international conventions and treaties on the protection, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources;
- c) Strengthen national and local authority for CITES, promote surveillance, research and ensure decision-making on the protection of threatened or endangered forest species;
- d) Improve a legal framework that encourages and ensures forest production for the multiplication and conservation of germplasm aiming to mitigate the action of climate effects, integrate aesthetic effects, improve life quality and preserve knowledge;
- e) Develop and ensure the implementation of a legal framework that ensures respect for protected forests, trees and other sites of use and historical, cultural or aesthetic value;
- f) Establish surveillance mechanisms to ensure penalties for failure to comply with territorial planning or biodiversity conservation instruments.

### **2.3.3 Reducing deforestation and increasing forests' contribution to mitigate the climate change effects and reducing carbon emissions**

This strategic objective considers the implications and effects of climate changes in forest asset management and that the increased demand for wood represents an opportunity and a challenge for the State on forest asset management, which requires the development of the following actions:

- a) Develop conservation actions inside and outside the natural growth areas of biodiversity in order to mitigate the climate change effects;



- b) Maintain the integrity of environmental services, forest ecosystems, productivity and potential involvement of forests;
- c) Carry out a participatory and inclusive exercise to assess opportunities for restoration of forest landscapes, ensure their prioritization and implement their restoration;
- d) Encourage the establishment of agroforestry systems and promote the conservation agriculture and use of organic fertilizers aiming to improve productivity and reduce the expansion area;
- e) Promote fire management, agroforestry systems, conservation agriculture and the use of organic fertilizers aiming to improve productivity and reduce the agricultural expansion area and emissions;
- f) Create regulations with coercive measures on uncontrolled burning and a system of accountability and incentives to leaders for the occurrence or not of uncontrolled burning;
- g) Develop water conservation and watershed protection models in compliance with international legislation and agreements;

Promote the establishment of forest plantations aimed at soil conservation and rehabilitation of natural forests.

### 2.3.4 Valuing of environmental services provided by forests

This strategic objective will be ensured by carrying out the following actions:

- a) Develop participatory plans to control, prevent and combat uncontrolled burning, deforestation and forestry and environmental degradation;



- b) Inventory and evaluate the capacity of forests to provide environmental services and develop strategies, legal instruments and procedures for payment for additional efforts and results on conservation and protection of forests and their environmental services;
- c) Integrate carbon sequestration, water and biodiversity to highlight the value of environmental services and feasibility of payments for environmental services;
- d) Ensure the sustainable management of forests taking into account wildlife by protecting wildlife corridors and nesting areas, effectively combating poaching and illegal trade of forest and wildlife products;
- e) Develop a program to reduce the use of agrochemicals aiming at the protection of pollinating agents and their habitat;
- f) Promote the supervision of forest conservation areas and the cooperation and participation of all actors in this activity;

Promote awareness of local communities on environmental and forest conservation issues, especially those living in and around conservation areas and high conservation value.

### **2.3.5 Promotion of restoration aimed at protecting fragile ecosystems and mitigating climate change**

This strategic objective will be ensured through implementation of the following actions:

- a) Promotion of ecosystem restoration and use of agroforestry systems through community involvement and public-private partnerships aiming at local adaptation to climate change;



- b) Promote the planting and management to fix and stabilize dunes, mangroves and erosion endangered areas;
- c) Create incentives for communities to engage in restoration and reforestation of fragile ecosystems for adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

## 2.4 Community participation pillar

This pillar is based on the following strategic objectives:

### 2.4.1 Promoting the involvement of local communities in forest management

This strategic objective will be ensured through the implementation of the following actions:

- a) Establish simplified mechanisms of local community representation, procedures for its constitution and legitimization, mandate, sustainability and functioning of its bodies;
- b) Create mechanisms and encourage the operationalization of community forestry enterprises to generate income based on the sustainable use of the resource through partnerships between communities, investors and the State;
- c) Support the training of youth and community members in the forest area by facilitating scholarships, creating the basis for a future informed and active local community on sustainable management of natural resources;



- d) Promote the mapping, inventorying, demarcation and registration of forestry management units, with the involvement of the communities and ensure access to information by community members;
- e) Promote the creation of databases and records of community organizations and share this information with communities;
- f) Support partnerships between civil society organizations, community-based organizations including training and capacity building actions;
- g) Develop inclusive, transparent mechanisms and model contracts between investors and communities that reflect the consensus reached in consultation, hearing or negotiation with local communities;
- h) Ensure the translation into the respective local language of signed contracts and agreements within the scope of establishing partnerships;
- i) Promote the involvement and active participation of local communities, strengthening the articulation between the Government and the communities in the signing of forest management agreements with forest operators, encouraging community concessions and the creation of partnerships, paying special attention to issues related to capacity building in matters of community surveillance, entrepreneurship, gender equity, conflict management, sustainable management of natural resources, protection of fragile areas and sacred forests, climate change and other cross-cutting issues;
- j) Put into practice mechanisms of community empowerment and active participation in decision making on the management of



forest resources and making the communities responsible for non-compliance with their commitments and agreements;

- k) Support activities of income generation and of diversification of forest products and income at community level;

Create mechanisms for local registration and control of extraction of forest products.

## **2.4.2 Promotion of partnerships and channelling of benefits to local communities involved in sustainable forest**

### **management.**

This strategic objective will be materialized through the implementation of the following actions:

- a) Review, simplify, define and disclose legal and administrative mechanisms of allocation of forestry exploitation fees and other benefits and their transparent channeling to local communities for the efforts and results in conservation, exploitation and sale of forest products;
- b) Identify and disseminate partnership models appropriate to value chains in the local context;
- c) Establish procedures that guide the process of negotiation and formalization of partnerships between communities and the private sector to capitalize on business opportunities;

Diversify the mechanisms of channelling the benefits and compensations for environmental services, in water catchment areas, areas at risk of erosion and fragile ecosystems, giving priority to the guardian communities of these ecosystems in the payment of environmental services.



### 2.4.3 Increase the contribution of the forest sector to local development and promote non-timber forest products based businesses

This strategic objective will be materialized through the following actions:

- a) Facilitate and create small family and community enterprise models in partnership with the private sector for the conservation, planting, exploitation, processing and sale of non-timber forest products;
- b) Define legal mechanisms for access and sustainable use of forest resources by local communities including incentives for development of small industries and value chains of non-timber forest products;
- c) Promote access to micro-loans and financial systems that are adequate to local reality and in particular favoring access to women and vulnerable groups in order to enhance the value chains of non-timber forest products;
- d) Create a database of the main non-timber forest products, inventory system, mapping and monitoring to improve knowledge and valuation of these products;
- e) Support the domestication and replanting of species with local and commercial value (medicinal, food, among others).

### 2.5 Forest training and research pillar

This pillar is based on the following strategic objectives:



## 2.5.1 Development of a national multi-overarch forest research program and funding mechanisms

The following actions will be developed in collaboration with research, higher education and technical professional institutions and institutions in the forest and environment areas:

- a) Develop a national program and forest research priorities;
- b) Establish mechanisms and priorities for funding the national research program;
- c) Adequate the institutional framework of forest research with the necessary technical, human and administrative capacity to ensure the implementation of the National Forest Program;
- d) Facilitate and promote partnerships between national and foreign research institutions on the development of research projects through interchange in different domains;
- e) Promote applied forest research, aimed at generating relevant information for the conservation of biodiversity, economic valuation of each specie, management and sustainable forest stewardship, improving the quality of processed products and the efficiency of production, mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- f) Promote the development of participatory research aiming at the appreciation of traditional knowledge of flora and fauna, non-timber forest products, reproduction and domestication cycles in order to protect the assets and create opportunities for local income generation.



## 2.5.2 Strengthening and improvement of research capabilities and generational legacy

This objective considers the need for long-term research for the study, documenting and monitoring of activities and impacts on slow processes and forest dynamics, which will enable gathering of information, knowledge and improve informed decision making by current and future generations.

This objective will be materialized through the following actions:

- a) Adequate laboratories and national reference centers for accreditation on specific themes (soils, biomass, seeds, ethnobotany, geographic information systems, biotechnology, wood analysis and properties, among others) in order to improve the quality and credibility of the research;
- b) Establish representative permanent plots for observation and monitoring of the forest formations to study the structure, composition and long-term dynamics;
- c) Establish satellite monitoring systems of deforestation and environmental degradation and other recommended technologies;
- d) Ensure access and dissemination of forest research results.

## 2.5.3 Development and improvement of a training and capacity building plan in the forest area

This objective aims to promote forest training at a technical professional and higher level in the different domains of forestry science and environment to improve technical assistance to forest estate users through the following actions:

- a) Develop the training plan, prioritizing the timber and non-timber



forest products industry and the appropriate implementation of the components of the national forests program;

- b) Adequate the general and technical-professional education to the challenges of the sector;
- c) Promote the expansion of technical forestry education at all levels, especially vocational and professional education at elementary, basic and secondary levels;
- d) Develop and implement the forest extension program, including mechanisms for its financing;
- e) Develop a training program, technological updating and capacity building of the players involved in the forestry and environmental supervision process in the prevention, detection and repression of illegal forestry activities;
- f) Develop programs to prevent and fight against uncontrolled burnings through environmental education and promotion of appropriate agricultural techniques;
- g) Build the capacity of local authorities and communities in good practices of conservation, regeneration, forest management, community benefit management and local credit mechanisms, aiming at ensuring sustainability;
- h) Empower and build the capacity of local community representative bodies on natural resource management issues;
- i) Create technical and professional capacity building programs on the establishment, management, protection and sustainable



exploitation of forest plantations in the vocational, basic, medium and higher domains;

- j) Promote the analysis capacity of forest products markets for the creation of business opportunities at national and international level.

## **2.5.4 Sensitization and capacity building of stakeholders on different stages of value chains and related cross-cutting**

### **themes**

This objective considers the importance of environmental education and the generation of knowledge and skills, participation and empowerment of women and vulnerable groups through the following actions:

- a) Promote the dissemination of the sector and educational programs on a regular basis about forests and their value;
- b) Promote environmental sensitization, environmental preservation, forest management, dissemination of the legal framework in the communities, schools, religious centers and inclusion of these topics in the education system;
- c) Develop sensitization and environmental education campaigns in communities and primary and secondary education institutions for the reduction of human activities that contribute to deforestation, itinerant agriculture and uncontrolled burning;
- d) Promote the exchange of experiences, study trips and support networks to forest producers and local communities;
- e) Promote technical assistance, forest extension, training of extension workers on forestry issues, and monitoring of local communities on



sustainable management of forest resources and use of the benefits and its application;

- f) Develop, in local languages, handbooks for the social preparation of the communities;
- g) Develop a handbook for the interpretation and application of forest legislation that can be implemented at community levels and other local State bodies;
- h) Build capacity and sensitize communities and local government on forest legislation;
- i) Produce adequate Information, Education and Communication material on best practices of conservation, management and forest exploitation by the communities;
- j) Develop and disseminate knowledge and technologies to enhance efficiency in the production of wood fuels (improved ovens) and firewood and charcoal consumption (improved stoves) and develop training handbooks with appropriate language accessible to producers and users;
- k) Promote training of specialized personnel in various areas of forest industries in order to improve product quality and production efficiency;
- l) Build capacity of the intervenients on seed collection and treatment, seedling production and establishment of plantations, management of plantations and silvicultural treatments, and forest exploitation.

## 3. ROLE OF THE DIFFERENT PLAYERS

In the implementation of this Policy, the Government, local communities, the private sector, associations, cooperatives, non-governmental organizations, cooperation partners, and teaching and research institutions are considered as the main players to be mapped according to their rights and responsibilities.

### 3.1 The role of the Government is as follows:

- a) Ensure the development, approval and implementation of the politicolegal and administrative instruments necessary for the attainment of the principles and objectives defined in this Policy;
- b) Ensure the conduction of forest inventories at national level;
- c) Recognize the importance of biodiversity and forest resources for the country and promote zoning and integration of this asset in the other planning instruments;
- d) Create an adequate institutional framework for the implementation and supervision of forestry policy and legislation;
- e) Define vertical and horizontal multisectoral coordination and harmonization mechanisms between the different levels and sectors, including the articulation between the different stakeholders, public, private and associative, necessary to the achievement of the defined objectives;
- f) Define the role and level of intervention of local state bodies, including community councils and committees on protection,



conservation, management, licensing and supervision of the forest assets;

- g) Develop the mechanisms and procedures for the establishment, creation, registration and operation of bodies representing local communities, in order to reduce ambiguities and provide greater legal security to other stakeholders;
- h) Establish criteria and access and exploitation rates for sustainable and competitive forest resources in the national and international market, taking into account the values of substitute products and the need to promote or restrict their use;
- i) Promote the development of human resources, mobilization of additional financial resources, and mechanisms for collaboration and cooperation with governments and specialized national and foreign entities;
- j) Promote the development of sustainable community programs and projects of forestry business or related to it;
- k) Promote and develop public-private and community partnerships for the management of forestry reserves with shared benefits between them and the State;
- l) Approve and implement, in collaboration with other actors, the National Forest Program;
- m) Sign international and regional agreements and/or treaties aiming at strengthening cooperation mechanisms in the areas of control and supervision of illegal exploitation and traffic in forest products;



- n) Create an incentive package to stimulate sustainable forest management practices and industrialization of the forest sector;
- o) Promote environmental and education sensitization, in partnership with schools, civil society and the private sector.

### **3.2 The role of the local communities is as follows:**

- a) Participate in the management and administration processes of the forest estate;
- b) Intervene in the creation, allocation, licensing, management and supervision of conservation and forest exploitation areas;
- c) Carry out the protection, conservation, management of the forest assets in the areas under its jurisdiction;
- d) Ensure the establishment and registration of their legitimate representatives and grant clear and binding mandates to ensure legal security between them and other public and private entities;
- e) Contribute to the environmental education of local community members.

### **3.3 The role of the private sector is as follows:**

- a) Develop actions to protect and conserve the forest estate;
- b) Participate, collaborate and carry out studies and legally required plans for the conservation, access and exploitation of forest resources;



- c) Create, produce and promote finished forest products taking into account the need to add value and export products at competitive prices in local and international markets;
- d) Develop forest plantations for several purposes under the defined terms in the legal policy framework on the matter;
- e) Benefit from incentives in the establishment of plantations and local processing industries;
- f) Contribute to the alleviation of rural poverty by creating jobs, especially for local communities;
- g) Contribute to the materialization of Government policies on gender and youth equity, through the valuation of women and capacity building of youth in forestry or related activities;
- h) Develop, apply and adequate modern technologies and methodologies for the management, exploitation and transformation of forest products that ensure the competitiveness of the resulting products;
- i) Develop technical skills for the provision of services related to the management, conservation, exploitation, and processing of forest products;
- j) Promote environmental education of local communities;
- k) Obtain, whenever necessary, the forest certification.



### 3.4 The role of the civil society is as follows:

- a) Participate in the development and implementation of the political and legal framework on forest management and administration;
- b) Collaborate and participate in the development of measures that ensure the sustainability of the management, exploitation and use of the forest estate;
- c) Support the dissemination and promotion of technologies that contribute to the sustainability of forest resources and the achievement of the objectives of this Policy, especially sustainable forestry management and agroforestry systems;
- d) Carry out the sensitization and dissemination of the political and legal framework on forest assets, in collaboration with public entities, administrative authorities and local communities;
- e) Participate and support in the formalization, creation and registration of committees and other forms of community organization;
- f) Collaborate and liaise with the entities that oversee the management and administration of forest resources, the local authorities of the State, aiming at harmonising methodologies and defining priorities for intervention;
- g) Advocate on the protection of the women rights, elderly and other vulnerable groups, ensuring their effective participation in forest planning, protection, conservation and sustainable management and the enjoyment of the benefits from forest exploitation;
- h) Mobilize, sensitize and educate citizens in order to adhere to programs and actions for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of forests;



- i) Defend the citizens' and local communities' rights in terms of access, use, protection, conservation and management of forest resources and the economic results derived from the exploitation of resources;
- j) Support local communities in conflict mediation in the scope of natural resources management and use;
- k) Articulate partnerships and networks for the generation of knowledge by integrating traditional knowledge with scientific-academic knowledge;
- l) Collaborate on monitoring the implementation of forest policies, strategies and legislation.

### 3.5 The role of cooperation partners is as follows:

Carry out actions that are closely aligned with the objectives of the country, the government, and that reflect the needs of the communities, namely:

- a) Support the Government in forest asset management and administration, taking into account the objectives of this Forest Policy;
- b) Mobilize financial, material, and technological resources for the implementation of the approved National Forest Program and other public and private initiatives;

Promote and facilitate technical-administrative cooperation in the various areas of the forest sector, between national and international public entities;



### 3.6 Education and research institutions should:

- a) Promote and carry out research activities on conservation, planting, exploitation, sustainable management and use of the forest asset, aiming to ensure the contribution of forest resources to the country's development;
- b) Promote research production on production systems that combine forest production with food and nutritional security, especially synanthropic agroforestry systems;
- c) Develop forestry cover monitoring and analysis systems through remote tracking technologies;
- d) Collaborate with public entities that oversee the management and administration of forest assets in carrying out applied studies and research;
- e) Propose the signing of collaboration and coordination agreements with the public entities in charge, aiming at the implementation of the Forest Policy and of the legal framework;
- f) Promote the development and dissemination of publications and studies related to the forest asset;
- g) Participate in the process of creating an institution dedicated to professional technical training according to the needs of the forest sector and market;
- h) Develop curricula that integrate subjects related to the protection, conservation, planting, management and sustainable exploitation of the forest assets and on the rights and duties of the different stakeholders;



- i) Develop institutional and technical professional capabilities for the provision of services in the areas of studies development, inventories, zoning, management plans and other instruments of forest asset management;
- j) Develop, approve and disseminate the priorities in the areas of investigation and research;
- k) Develop forest extension programs.

## 4. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Government shall ensure the implementation of the following priority actions:

- a) Revision of Law 10/99, of July 7 and its respective Regulation through the participatory development of the Forest Law proposal and its regulation;
- b) Raising funds for the implementation of the National Forest Program;
- c) Regulation of the Forest Law, through a comprehensive and unique integral forest code containing all the elements and procedures on protection, conservation, use, exploitation, processing, sale, import and export of forest products;
- d) Identification, classification and legal creation of forest concessions as areas of forest public domain to be concessioned through public tender, under the terms and conditions, considering the limitations of the national private sector to be defined by the legal framework;
- e) Establishment of an appropriate entity, capable and equipped to ensure coordination and implementation of the forest policy and legal framework;
- f) Review of the benefit allocation system to local communities and of corporate social responsibility.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISMS

The operationalization of the Forest Policy will be materialized through the National Forest Program.







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