



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

***FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
ABUJA***

...2018

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND NOTE TO THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY OF NIGERIA, 2018

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Forest Administration and Governance

Formal forest administration and management started in Nigeria towards the end of the 19th century when the colonial British Administration began the forest reservation phase by setting aside land that contained valuable tree species in order to provide industrial timber and maintain the forest resources. In 1902 a Forestry Department was established in the Colony of Lagos and Southern Protectorate of Nigeria and later in the Northern Protectorate.

The ownership and management of forest lands in the country is also reinforced by the provisions of the Land Use Act Cap L5 LFN 2004 enacted in 1978 which gives the responsibility to manage and administer land within the territory of each state to the Governor of that State, except Federal Government owned land. Furthermore, the Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Amendment Act, 2015 provides for the conservation and management of Nigeria's wildlife and the protection of some of her species in danger of extinction as a result of over-exploitation or habitat change, as required under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and other relevant agreements and protocols and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to which Nigeria is a signatory. These instruments enable the Federal Government to enforce the law and implement guidelines and policies on international trade in plant and animal species in Nigeria. Nigeria has also developed the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016 – 2020) as the national blueprint for the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization. It complements the National Forest Policy.

1.2 The Forest Resources

The forest resources of Nigeria are distributed over five main distinct ecological zones: - the Freshwater/Mangrove, the Lowland Rainforest, the Derived Savanna, the Guinea Savanna and the Sudan/Sahel Ecological Zones. There are also some tracts of montane forest belts on the plateau and highlands.

About 96,043 km² or 10 million hectares, which is about 10 per cent of Nigeria's land area of 923,767 km² were constituted as forest reserves and conservation areas during the reservation phase in Nigeria which attained its peak in the mid-1950s. The size has dropped from 10% to about 6% of the total land area, principally due to deforestation and forestland degradation, climate change phenomena, infrastructural development and other anthropogenic factors.

The protected areas are made up of 992 Forest Reserves (NBSAP, 2015), 7 National Parks, Game Reserves and Sanctuaries. The local communities however retain some usufructary rights to minor forest resources in the forest reserves. There are also forests and vegetation cover outside the protected areas in private land holdings, including individuals, communities, institutions and organisations, etc. The use of such land is governed by the Land Use Act while the extraction of timber and harvesting of other forest resources are regulated through permit system administered by the Forestry Service of each State and Local Government.

Forestlands outside the protected areas are generally used by the local communities and other land users for agriculture, hunting, grazing and harvesting of non-timber forest products, as well as sources for construction materials, foods, herbs, etc. In many communities, some areas are also dedicated as sacred groves.

The contribution of the forestry sector to the GDP is about 0.34%. This will be significantly more, as many of the forest goods and services, particularly in the informal sectors are not reflected in the national accounting system.

1.3. Forest Plantation Development

Forest plantation development within the forest reserves using fast growing indigenous and exotic species remains one of the country's strategies in addressing raw material needs and the depleting forest resources as well as providing some essential ecological functions. By the 1990s, the total forest plantations established in Nigeria was estimated as 269,000 ha. The plantations comprise about 109,377 ha of *Gmelina* planted to supply pulpwood to the nation's pulp and paper industries and 159,623 ha of other species mostly as industrial wood. The other species include *Tectona grandis*, *Terminalia ivorensis*, *Nauclea diderrichii*, *Triplochiton scleroxylon*,

Eucalyptus species, Pinus species and species of the Meliaceae family (*Entandrophragma* and *Khaya* species), etc. Most of the plantations were established at the expense of natural vegetation and other lesser known or utilized indigenous species, while others were established in degraded and deforested landscapes.

The rate of the establishment of industrial plantation over the years has reduced drastically due to dwindling funding by the public sector and Official Development Assistance (ODA) had also dropped significantly. The involvement of the private sector and local communities in plantation development has been low, and constrained by inadequate policies and legal frameworks on land tree tenure, benefit sharing and investment opportunities.

1.4 Shelterbelt Establishment

In order to address the problems of deforestation, land degradation and desertification in the semi-arid and arid zone states of Nigeria, shelterbelts have been established through the efforts of government at all levels and ODA with strong community participation.

1.5 Forest Governance in Nigeria.

Forest governance in Nigeria is administered by Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry (FDF), National Park Service (NPS), Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), States, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Local Governments, Universities, Communities, Private Sectors, and Civil Society Organisations (CSO).

1.6 Drivers of Deforestation and Forestland Degradation

1.6.1 Unsustainable Exploitation

- Rate of exploitation outstripped the sustainable supply from the forest
- No National Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)
- Lack of management plans
- High impact harvesting practices
- Drive for foreign exchange earnings through export of wood and charcoal from unsustainably managed and uncertified forests.
- Undue political interference in forest exploitation.

- Underfunding of forestry sector: the amount of budgetary allocation to forestry has been very low. This is one of the greatest constraints hampering forestry development in Nigeria.
- High rate of dereservation of the existing forest reserves for other development purposes without appropriate land use plan.

1.6.2 Deforestation and forestland degradation.

The rate of deforestation and forestland degradation in Nigeria is one of the highest in the world which averages 3.5% annually. Between 1980 and 1990 the forest area declined from 14.9 million ha. to 10.1 million ha. This translates to the loss of 350,000 to 400,000 ha per annum of productive forest land . The forest area has further declined to about 6.5% of the total land area of the country. The impacts are numerous and severe, including loss of biodiversity and productivity of the ecosystem, soil degradation, water contamination, siltation and drying up of water bodies, micro-climate change and the degradation/depletion of fauna and flora.

The Environmental Management Project (EMP, 1995) report on vegetation and land use changes in Nigeria showed that undisturbed forest decrease from 2.9% of total land area of Nigeria in 1976/78 to 1.3% in 1993/95 – (decrease of 1,383,700 hectares). Also the disturbed forest increased from 1.6% of total area of Nigeria in 1976/78 to 2.1% in 1993/95 – (an increase of 441,700 hectares). The report also revealed that the Riparian forest decreased from 0.8% to 0.6% - a decrease of 214,800 hectares within the same period.

1.6.3 Agriculture and Livestock Production

Agriculture is one of the major drivers of deforestation and forest land degradation. More than 20 million practice shifting cultivation due to poor access to improved farming tools, inputs and technology. As cultivated lands are depleted of nutrients, farmers turn to forested lands, including forest reserves for more fertile soils. The taungya farming system introduced by the forestry administration as a strategy for forest regeneration within the forest reserves while also allowing farmers access to fertile land has failed due to institutional problems and lack of commitment by the farmers to the scheme. Many such landscapes have been converted to agricultural fields.

The vegetation in the semi- arid zone of Nigeria has been modified by overgrazing. The zone contains over 60 percent of the nation's livestock

population (cattle, goats, sheep, donkey and camels). The growing human and livestock population is progressively putting more pressure on the ecological resources leading to deforestation and forest degradation. This trend has also spread to most of the other ecological zones in search for pasture lands.

1.6.4 Population Growth and Developmental Needs

The population of Nigeria is 193,392,517 with an annual growth rate of about 2.5% (NPC, 2017). Meeting the needs of the growing population for land for infrastructural development, human habitation, industries, agriculture, etc, has resulted in deforestation and forest degradation including conversion of forested land. This process is mainly attributed to cross-sectoral policy failures and uncoordinated development plans.

1.6.5 Fuel Wood

Fuelwood together with charcoal and other biomass resources account for over 50% of national primary energy consumption (FORMECU, 1996). World Bank (1991) puts fuelwood production in 1990 at 85 million m³ decreasing to 74 and 65 million m³ for the years 2000 and 2010 respectively. The demand for 2010 was 88.139 million m³ leaving a deficit of 23,138 million m³ to be unsustainably sourced from the forest. The unsustainable level of production of fuelwood in Nigeria is likely to continue for some time as long as the energy crisis facing the country remains unresolved. The prices of petroleum products (Kerosene and LPG) are beyond the reach of ordinary people, particularly the rural populace. The supply to the rural areas is also unreliable. The implication is the continuing dependence of a large percentage of people on woodfuel, which is already in short supply.

1.6.6 Forest Fires

There is no national or local level forest fire management plan or system to address annual loss of forests due to fire incidences and therefore no available data on forest fires. The consequences of fire outbreak are severe especially in the savanna belt which is more prone to desertification process, resulting in loss of fauna, flora and ecosystems services as well as impacting on the micro-climatic conditions of the affected landscapes.

1.6.7 Weak Institutional Capacity

The forestry sector is faced with weak governance at all levels due to inadequate manpower and resources in forestry public and private sectors. These also include, inadequate policy and measures, weak law enforcement, and lack of transparency and accountability in forest reserves administration.

1.6.8 The Need for a New National Forest Policy

The National Forest Policy 2006 sets out strategies for growing the sector. These included provisions for sustainable management and utilisation of the forest resources, enhanced public and private sector enhanced participation, sustainable ecosystem goods and services, equitable and fair benefit sharing and cross-sectoral engagements. There is an increasing awareness of the environmental, social, cultural and economic values of forestry, against the declining and unsustainably managed national forest resources. The national target of increasing the total forest cover from 10% to 25% by 2020 (Vision 20 20:20) appears far-fetched as the national forest cover is down to as low as 6% of the total land area of the country. The demand for forest goods and services is on the increase with the increasing population against an unsustainable supply regime. The forestry sector remains grossly underfunded, whereas it is an important natural capital asset in the attainment of the national development objectives of Nigeria, particularly in the generation of economic activities, employment, poverty reduction, provision of goods and services and environmental security and sustainability. There are also a number of international commitments relevant to sustainable management of the forest and its significance in addressing climate change. The sector has a critical role in climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local, national and global levels.

In the light of the many emerging concerns and imperatives, and the importance of the forestry sector to the people and country of Nigeria, there is a need to review the National Forest Policy, 2006 and develop the enabling strategies for more efficient and effective management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY.

The policy is guided by a vision of sustainable management of forest ecosystems, socio-economic growth, environmental sustainability and provision of goods and services for domestic purposes and export for the benefits of the nation.

2.1 Guiding Principles

The general principles are based on the national development agenda of poverty reduction, improved livelihood, sustainable development, good forest administration and governance, transparency and accountability, biodiversity conservation, sustainable provision of forest goods and services as well as value chain addition, and fulfilment of international commitments. Specifically, the principles are based on the need to:

- i) Enhance the sustainable development and conservation of forest resources
- ii) Address the drivers of deforestation and forestland degradation including overgrazing, unsustainable agricultural practices, mining, infrastructural development with the engagement of all stakeholders.
- iii) Upscale the contribution of forests to economic development and growth particularly the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan whose three strategic objectives are:
 - Restoring growth
 - Investing in our people
 - Building global competitive economy
- iv) Sensitize and mobilise communities and civil society organization in forestry development.
- (v) Promote partnerships with the private sector and Civil Society Organisations and relevant government agencies.
- (vi) Promote investment by the public, private sector and CSOs in forest resources management and utilization, and the development of forest products value chain.
- (vii) Promote and sustain good forest administration and governance, including transparency, accountability, monitoring and compliance with policies, laws and regulations
- (viii) Contribute to food and nutrition security, health and improved livelihoods.

- (ix) Promote biodiversity conservation and environmental functions of forest ecosystems.
- (x) Support environmental friendly and sustainable social and cultural forestry practices.
- (xi) Meet international commitments on sustainable management and utilization of forests and forest resources including UNFF/Forest Instruments/ the New York Declaration on Forests, Climate Change Agenda/Paris Agreement (including the country's Nationally Determined Contribution) and other relevant instruments.
- (xii) Mainstream forestry activities into the Sustainable Development Goals.
- (xiii) Adhere to sustainable forestry utilization practices.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 FOREST POLICY OBJECTIVE AND OVERALL STRATEGIES

3.1 Policy Objective

The overall objective of the national forest policy is to achieve sustainable management of forests and forest resources that would ensure sustainable increase in the economic, social and environmental benefits for the present and future generation, including the need to:

- (i) Increase, maintain and enhance the national forest estate through sustainable forest management practices.
- (ii) Address the drivers of deforestation, forestland degradation and desertification.
- (iii) Promote and sustain good forest administration and governance
- (iv) Promote and sustain private sector investment in forestry development and forest products value chain, and encourage public-private partnerships.
- (v) Promote ownership and investment in forestry through improved land and tree tenure framework, policies and measures.
- (vi) Contribute to the promotion of green growth and development in urban centers.
- (vii) Create enabling environment for accessing local and global opportunities for forestry financing and development.
- (viii) Establish mechanisms for forest dependent persons, farmers and local communities, including the vulnerable group to improve their environment and livelihoods through new forestry initiatives and programmes.
- (ix) Sustain and enhance the role of the forestry sector in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and stakeholders' access to benefits.
- (x) Ensure sustainable forest resources management, biodiversity conservation and environmental services of forests including carbon sequestration, and water and soil biodiversity conservation.
- (xi) Rehabilitate and conserve all watershed forests and wetlands, sensitive habitats and ecotypes.
- (xii) Build capacity and develop institutions for the effective stakeholders participation in forest resources management, research and development at all levels.
- (xiii) Strengthen engagement with CSOs, including NGOs and CBOs to facilitate forest development.
- (xiv) Develop and support demand driven forestry research and development.

- (xv) Develop and implement relevant forestry programmes and projects.
- (xvi) Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination in the implementation of the national forest policy.

3.2 Overall Strategies for Sustainable Forest Management

Strategies for the Sustainable Management of Forests include:

- (i) Ensuring good forest administration and governance, decentralization of roles and responsibilities, the participation of all stakeholders and effective law enforcement.
- (ii) Institutionalisation of equitable and fair arrangements for forest ownership, tenure and benefits.
- (iii) Promotion of partnership with all stakeholders including the private sector, communities and CSOs (including NGOs and CBOs).
- (iv) Promotion of community participation, women, men, youth, elderly and other vulnerable group in forest resources management.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 POLICY PROVISIONS TO ACHIEVE THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Policies are implemented through the design and execution of programmes and projects. The principal elements of the policy are categorized into thirty-one thematic areas:

- (i) Forest Management
- (ii) Community Participation and Collaborative Forest Management in Forest Reserves and Off-Reserved Areas, Zoological and Botanical Gardens and Game Reserves
- (iii) Private Sector Involvement and Participation in Forest Development
- (iv) Biodiversity Conservation, National Parks and Games, Zoological and Botanical Garden of Conservation Interest
- (v) The Role of Forest in Addressing Climate Change
- (vi) Forest Industries and Products Value Chain
- (vii) Forest Administration
- (viii) Non-Timber Forest Products (NFFP)
- (ix) Environmental and Socio-cultural Services of Forests
- (x) Watershed Forests and Wetland Management
- (xi) Agroforestry
- (xii) Urban Forestry
- (xiii) Poverty Alleviation and Food & Nutrition Security
- (xiv) Supply of Seeds and Seedlings
- (xv) Forestry Research and Development
- (xvi) Forest Fiscal Policy
- (xvii) Forest Fires
- (xviii) Pests and Diseases Control
- (xix) National Tree Planting Campaign
- (xx) Woodfuels
- (xxi) Employment, Safety and Security of Personnel and Habitats
- (xxii) Gender Issues and Equity
- (xxiii) Youth Programme
- (xxiv) Manpower Development, Training and Capacity Building
- (xxv) Education and Awareness Creation
- (xxvi) Information and Data Base Management
- (xxvii) Land, Tree Tenure and Conflict Resolution
- (xxviii) Trade (Internal and External)
- (xxix) Cross-Sectoral Cooperation

- (xxx) National and International Cooperation
- (xxxi) Forest Sector Investment

4.1 Forest Management

The forest estate shall be managed primarily for:

- (a) Direct benefits which include:
 - (i) Sustainable supply of forest products for domestic use and exports; and
 - (ii) Increased revenue generation, employment opportunities and livelihoods.
- (b) Indirect benefits, such as which:
 - (i) Prevention of erosion;
 - (ii) Maintenance of stream flow and water conservation;
 - (iii) Protection of agricultural land;
 - (iv) Enhancing nutrition and food security;
 - (v) Preservation of aesthetic values;
 - (vi) Climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
 - (vii) Conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources.

4.1.1 Policy Statement:

Good forest management practices will be promoted to achieve sustainable delivery of forest goods and services in perpetuity.

4.1.2 Objectives:

- (i) Increase the total area under sustainable forest management in Nigeria to 25% and then upscale to 33% as recommended by the United Nation Forum on Forests.
- (ii) Develop principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forest resources.
- (iii) Engender protection of the environment for social and economic benefits.

4.1.3 Strategies

4.1.3.1 Strategies on Forest Reserve Management

- (i) Consolidate the existing forest reserves.
- (ii) Provide and implement forest management plan for each Forest Reserve.
- (iii) Provide Standardized Framework for Annual Allowable Cut
- (iv) Carry out periodic National Forest Resources Inventory.

- (v) Involve communities in the management of forest reserves with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- (vi) Promote equitable benefit sharing and designate roles and responsibilities amongst stakeholders.
- (vii) Protect the Forest Estate from fire and encroachment.
- (viii) Encourage multiple-use concepts in the management of forest reserves.
- (ix) Implement an open, transparent and competitive forest concession system.
- (x) Support the states to protect forests against deforestation and forestland degradation with strong community participation.

4.1.3.2 Strategies on Plantation Establishment and Development.

- (i) Establish forest plantations in appropriate ecological zones to supplement the supply of wood from the natural forests for domestic use, industrial purposes and export, as well as, environmental conservation, applying sustainable management principles
 - (ii) Provide incentives to encourage investment in plantation development by the private sector, communities, individuals, civil society organisations (NGOs, CBOs, Cooperative Societies, Faith-based Organisations, etc), in public or privately owned lands
 - (iii) Develop innovative financial sources for funding of the National Forestry Trust Fund and its access for plantation development.
- (iv) Give priority to the use of indigenous species and environmentally friendly technologies in plantation development
- (vi) Encourage Forest Industries to establish plantations to meet at least 60% of their raw materials requirements.

4.1.3.3 Strategies on Areas Outside Reserves (off-reserved areas)

Support to communities in the sustainable management of forests outside forest reserves (off-reserved areas) through;

- (i) Capacity building.
- (ii) Infrastructural development.
- (iii) Access to markets and information.
- (iv) Grants and soft loans and other economic mechanisms.
- (v) Application of the principles of community based forest management and partnerships involving all stakeholders.
- (vi) Introduction of the principles of sustainable forest management in off-reserved areas

4.1.3.4 Strategies on Agro-forestry

- (i) Support sustainable agro-forestry practices in off-reserved areas to enhance food and nutrition security, climate change resilience, rational use of resources, economic empowerment and poverty reduction.
- (ii) Encourage a wider adoption of agro-forestry at field level in the management of forest areas, especially in buffer zones and enclave communities, as well as in farming systems.
- (iii) Support capacity building and extension support services for agroforestry.

4.1.3.5 Strategies on Establishment of Model Federal Forest Reserves.

- (i) Identify and classify fragile and degraded ecosystems in all ecological zones.
- (ii) Establish Federal Forest Reserves as models in sustainable forest management systems in different ecological zones.
- (iii) Promote the establishment of Federal Forest Reserves in marginal lands and derelict forestlands.
 - (iv) Develop appropriate safeguards.

4.1.3.6 Strategy for Forest Valuation.

Develop techniques within the framework of national accounting system for appropriate valuation of forestry goods and services, including Non-Timber Forest Products and the intangible benefits associated with the forests.

4.2 Community Participation And Collaborative Forest Management In And Outside Forest Reserves And Game Reserves

Promote innovative approaches to community participation and collaborative forest management in both forest reserves and off-reserved areas outside forest reserves. This will enhance stakeholders commitment, participatory ownership and control of the resources, as well as increase in benefits to all participants and revenue to government.

4.2.1 Policy Statement

Encourage collaborative partnership with rural communities for the sustainable management of forest resources to ensure the supply of goods and services from the forest for the present and future generations.

4.2.2 Objectives

The objective is to promote sustainable forest management in forest reserves and off-forest reserved areas.

4.2.3 Strategies for the Implementation

- (i) Develop a supportive legal framework for tree tenure, access rights, and sharing of benefits from wood and non-wood forest products and environmental services.
- (ii) Strengthen and involve institutions and civil society organizations to build capacity, community participation, and appropriate partnerships for collaboration with local community and groups.
- (iii) Develop a clear legal and institutional framework for participation of all stakeholders (including women, elderly, youths and vulnerable groups) on access, use and benefits in forest management.
- (v) Develop a framework for grievances redress system and landuse conflicts in and around protected areas.
- (vii) Articulate a clear mechanism for access to land by private sector investors or individuals for reforestation and afforestation in the States.
- (viii) Incorporate traditional knowledge into the SFM principles

4.2.3.1 Strategies on Forest Reserves

- (i) Articulate the legal framework for use, tenure and rights in plantations established in Forest Reserves.
- (ii) Provide economic, social and financial incentives to encourage commercial tree growers and sustain collaborative partnerships
- (iii) Recognize and guarantee the rights of host communities to fair and equitable share of the revenue and participation in resource control and management
- (iv) Provision of rural infrastructure and facilities by government in partnership with forestry based entrepreneurs and the civil society organisations
- (v) Incorporate indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights in applying sustainable management principles to enhance buy-in/ ownership and partnership building.

4.2.3.2 Strategies in Off-Forest Reserved Areas

- (i) Articulate fair and equitable institutional mechanism to guarantee user's tenurial and tree rights in plantations development, naturally growing trees and individually owned trees.
- (ii) Ensure strict adherence and compliance to environmental protection and management principles.
- (iii) Include social responsibility agreement in all arrangements relating to sustainable management of non-timber forest resources, involving the government and all other relevant stakeholders.
- (iv) Assist communities to build technical and institutional capacity for forest management and alternative livelihood options such as beekeeping, mushroom production and other agroforestry practices.
- (v) Encourage sustainable forest management on private lands and foster positive impact of forest dependent activities on the environment.

4.3 Private Sector Involvement And Participation In Forestry Development

The private sector could be made to play a major role in investment in primary raw material production, besides involvement in forest industries and ecotourism. There are some constraints to the active involvement of the sector in financing and skills development in the forestry sector. These include:

- (i) Poor regulatory oversight and standards over harvesting and value chain development of forest produce.
- (ii) Lack of clear land and tree tenure arrangements to encourage commercial tree growing,
- (iii) Access to affordable and appropriate environmentally friendly technologies, including quality and availability of seed and seedlings for plantation development,
- (vi) Unfavourable economic (credit regimes) and trade policies and social safeguards to promote sustainable investment and re-investment in forestry development,

4.3.1 Policy Statement

Government would recognise and support the role of the private sector in forestry development as a business and adherence to environmentally friendly business principles.

4.3.2 Objectives:

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

4.3.3 Strategies

4.3.3.1 Strategies on Land Tenure

- (i) Support state governments and communities to create enabling environment, including appropriate framework on access to land tenurial rights to encourage private sector involvement in forest plantation development.
- (ii) Support the review of the land tenure system as a cross-sectoral issue and establish appropriate land and forest ownership, usage rights and tenure .

4.3.3.2 Strategies on Economic and Social Incentives

- (i) Define and allocate social and economic responsibilities to partners.
- (ii) Support favourable economic measures at all levels through:
 - Low interest rate regimes
 - Tax rebates and other macro-economic policies.

4.3.3.3 Strategies on Benefit Sharing

- (i) Evolve acceptable formula for benefit sharing, where applicable.
- (ii) Support mechanisms to enable participants mutually identify and agree on roles and responsibilities as well as on benefit sharing formulae.

4.3.3.4 Strategies on Tree Ownership

- (i) Guarantee tree ownership rights within the enabling laws, traditional practices and customs.
- (ii) Subject forest plantations to sustainable forest management principles.
- (iii) Support mechanisms for mediation between stakeholders through the active involvement of government and the civil society organisations

4.4 Biodiversity Conservation, National Parks, Games Reserves, Forest Reserves, Zoological And Botanical Gardens Of Conservation Interest.

The Government is committed to the conservation of Nigeria's rich forest biodiversity to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. The government will promote the conservation and rational utilization of representative samples of all ecosystems and ecotypes in the country.

Natural vegetation is the main repository of the genetic diversity which is crucial to improvements in agriculture and medicine, as well as the sustained supply of products and raw materials to industries. Nigeria is endowed with about 4,600 plant species. The country has an endemic flora of 91 species belonging to 44 families with Rubiaceae accounting for the highest number. According to the IUCN Red List 2013, there are a total of 309 threatened species in the following taxonomic categories: mammals (26), birds (19), reptiles (8), amphibians (13), fishes (60), mollusks (1), other invertebrates (14) and plants (168). The categories of biodiversity related sites in Nigeria include: 7 National Parks of Old Oyo, Cross River, Gashaka-Gumti, Okomu, Chad Basin, Kainji Lake, and Kamuku; 27 Important Bird Areas including all National Parks and 60% in the 11 Ramsar Sites; 994 Forest Reserves; 32 Game Reserves; 1 Biosphere Reserve; and many forest sacred groves at varied level of protection.

Nigeria is a signatory to a number of International Agreements and Conventions on forest issues covering conservation, access to genetic resources, trade in endangered species and cross border cooperation and it will continue to support and implement these obligations.

4.4.1 Policy Statement:

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

4.4.2 Objectives:

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

- (iv) To promote host community's participation and empowerment.
- (v) To provide incentives including subsidies that are not harmful to biodiversity conservation.

4.4.3. Strategies

4.4.3.1 Strategies To Support, Improve and Sustainably Manage Species

Composition (Fauna and Flora):

- (i) Identify, delineate and inventorize species and sites of conservation interest.
- (ii) Develop in-situ conservation areas as National Parks, Game Reserves, Biosphere Reserves, Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserves Strict Nature Reserves, Sanctuaries, Cultural/Herbal Heritage Centres.
- (iii) Develop ex-situ conservation areas – Zoological and Botanical Gardens, as centres for genetic improvement of endangered species and ecotourism.
 - (iv) Promote Herbarium/Arboretum establishment – support the establishment and development as both national and state priority.
 - (v) Develop transparent mechanisms for responsibility and benefit sharing among Federal, States and Local Governments, communities and other stakeholders.
 - (vi) Develop appropriate legal and institutional framework and ensure the enforcement of the National Wildlife Species Protection Act and compliance with the obligations of CITES and other international instruments to which Nigeria is signatory.
 - (vii) Initiate the development and dissemination of relevant awareness and education materials on biodiversity conservation.
 - (viii) Promote the traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of host communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use.

4.4.3.2 Strategies on Host Communities-Partnership and Empowerment.

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

4.5 The Role Of Forest In Addressing Climate Change

The critical role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation is now widely recognised. Forests contribute significantly to climate change mitigation through their carbon sink and carbon storage functions. They play an essential role in reducing vulnerabilities and enhance adaptation of people and ecosystems to climate change and climate variability.

4.5.1 Policy Statement

Government will enlarge the sustainable management of the forest estate (both government and private) in addressing climate change.

4.5.2 Objectives

The aim of this policy is to integrate climate change into National Forestry Programmes in a participatory manner to support forest related responses to climate change.

4.5.3 Strategies For Climate Change, Reducing Emission From Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Carbon Credit Trading and Other Similar Mechanisms

- (i) Address climate change through afforestation and reforestation in forest reserves, community forests and other off-forest reserved areas to increase carbon capture, and reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
- (ii) Provide for appropriate institutional/legal frameworks at national and local levels for tenure and carbon rights, carbon accounting & auditing, access to carbon markets and benefits/credits.
- (iii) Promote sustainable alternative livelihood options to encourage reduction in deforestation

4.6 Forest Industries and Product Value Chain

There is an active and highly competitive domestic market in wood products particularly in the construction and manufacturing sectors and a growing export window for semi processed lumbers. There are some disincentives and domestic market distortions resulting in inefficiencies, high levels of wood waste generation and low investment in the forest industries.

- There is waste due to inefficient machinery. Conversion rates during processing as low as 40%.

- Timber is undervalued. The on stumpage is administratively fixed and not based on economic valuation. Raw materials are cheaply sourced. This has led to low level of available funds for re-investment in forest management by government and communities, and weak incentives to improve efficiency in primary wood processing.
- Weak enforcement and compliance mechanism for forest harvesting and exploitation with an increase in illegal harvesting resulting in market distortions and loss of revenue to government
- The development of wood based products through secondary and tertiary processing measures is low, thus reducing economic opportunities and incentives to reduce wood wastage.

The private sector will play the major role in developing and managing the forest products processing industries and will capture the potential for value addition through high quality processing. The role of government is to facilitate and regulate these activities. The State Governments will be encouraged to develop and maintain a strong regulatory framework, which will control illegal practices, monitor best practices, measure environmental and social impacts, and collect dues. Governments at Federal and State levels will also create a positive investment climate to encourage private investment in the processing industry.

4.6.1 Policy Statement:

To encourage sustainable management and utilization of forest resources and guarantee the perpetual supply of raw materials to the forest industries.

4.6.2 Objectives

- (i) To have a forest industry that embraces and practises forest resource exploitation in a way that promotes sustainable forest management and utilization.
- (ii) To develop strategies for waste reduction and utilization at all stages of industrial activities.
- (iii) To ensure that forest industry operations are carried out in an effective, efficient and environmentally friendly manner.
- (iv) To enhance the value of products from the forest.
- (v) To promote activities that will generate and sustain increased job opportunities.
- (vi) To involve forest industries in forest plantation development

4.6.3 Strategies

4.6.3.1 Strategies on Efficiency in Forest Harvesting, Conversion and Production

- (i) Develop and enforce guidelines on low impact logging.
- (ii) Promote measures to encourage tree-takers to plant and nurture a minimum of four seedlings for every tree felled .
- (iii) Enforce the use of trained personnel and appropriate forest technologies in all operations.
- (iv) Reduce illegal forest activities through effective education, community engagements, enforcement of forest laws, good governance and forest protection.
- (v) Encourage the establishment of integrated and Micro, Small-Medium Enterprise (MSME) forest based industries in forest areas.

4.6.3.2 Strategies Grading Rules, Quality Control, Certification, Log Tracking and Standards.

- (i) Develop and apply grading rules and standards to ensure the production of value added high quality forest products acceptable in local and international market.
- (ii) Develop a chain of custody and certification mechanism for SFM that includes effective log tracking to ensure the legality, standard acceptability of export of wood products in the international market.
- (iii) Ensure effective inspection of wood products at the port terminals in compliance with national and international standards.
- (iv) Strengthen monitoring and evaluation at the Federal Level on wood and wood products for international trade
- (v) Support states to maintain quality and standards on wood and wood products.

4.6.3.3 Strategies on Training in Sawmilling, Saw Doctoring and equipment and tools maintenance.

- (i) Resuscitate and upgrade training and maintenance/workshop facilities in the country to enhance efficiency in wood conversion, treatment, preservation and maintenance of sawmilling equipment and tools.
- (ii) Build capacity and engage competent personnel in sawmilling operations.

4.6.3.4 Strategies on Utilisation of Lesser-Used Species.

- (i) Conduct research on mechanical and physical properties of lesser used species to promote uptake and appropriate utilisation.
- (ii) Conduct research and develop appropriate machines that efficiently convert smaller diameter logs.

4.6.3.5 Strategies on Safety and Forest Health.

- (i) Recognise and ensure the rights of workers to a healthy, safe and productive environment free from the threat of injury or damage from environmental abuse and degradation of the ecosystems.
- (ii) Train tree felling crews in appropriate felling techniques to mitigate against forest accidents.
- (iii) Provide appropriate tools, Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), and first aid kits for workers in the forests and sawmills.
- (iv) Consider ergonomic principles in the design and layout of mills and forest harvesting.
- (v) Ensure workmen engagement and compensation in accordance with the Labour Act, International Labour Organisation and international labour standards.
- (vi) Promote compliance with health and safety standards in all operations.

4.6.3.6 Strategies for Capacity Utilisation and Resource Exploitation.

- (i) Embark on massive afforestation programme with the use of growing indigenous species to provide raw material for the industry
- (ii) Collaborate with the industries, on massive afforestation and reforestation programme with the use of fast growing species to produce raw materials for the industries in the long term.

4.6.3.7 Strategy on Value Added Downstream Products.

Encourage the integration of primary, secondary and further downstream wood processing sectors in order to add value, and conserve our forest resources and obtain economic benefits.

4.6.3.8 Strategy on Waste and Residues Utilization.

Promote the use of wood residues for briquetting, particleboard, craft, charcoal, power generation, etc.

4.7. Forest Administration.

The effectiveness of a forest policy depends on effective and efficient forestry administration at the Federal, State and Local Government levels as well as cross-sectoral linkages with other sectors. In bridging the gap between policy formulation and various agents of implementation in the country, the Federal Department of Forestry shall play the lead role in forest management throughout the country.

4.7.1 Policy Statement:

Government will establish and maintain a competent forest administration manned by efficient forest officers at Federal, State and Local Government levels.

4.7.2 Objectives:

Promote efficient forestry administration through improved planning, decision-making and management capability for the overall achievement of satisfactory performance of policy objectives and targets.

4.7.3 Strategies

4.7.3.1 Strategies on Institutional Management and Empowerment at all Levels

- (i) Strengthen the administrative capacities at the Federal, State and Local Government levels with clearly defined mandates in terms of responsibilities, staffing, training and funding.
- (ii) Decentralize decision-making process to involve stakeholders at Federal, State and Local Governments, Private Sector and Communities levels.
- (iii) Operationalise Forestry Trust Fund at Federal, States and Local Government levels.
- (iv) Define roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.

4.7.3.2 Strategies on Communities and Private Sector Empowerment.

Forests play important roles in rural livelihood, especially of the poor. Widespread deforestation has led to environmental degradation and forest resources insecurity. Government alone would not be able to reverse the ugly trends. Of particular concern was reduced access by local communities to forest products, such as fuelwood and fodder that were critical to the maintenance of rural livelihoods. The promotion of community participation in forest resources management is therefore an identifiable implementation strategy that would

address widespread forest loss and its consequent environmental degradation and negative impact on rural livelihoods. The strategies are:

- (i) Involve communities, private sectors, Non-Governmental Organisations, civil society, etc, in forest administration.
- (ii) Strengthen Forestry Unit at the Local Government level to administer local government forestry matters.

4.7.3.3. Strategies on Roles and Responsibilities amongst Stakeholders:

The following roles and responsibilities are assigned to the various stakeholders in the forest arena in support of sustainable forest management.

- (i) Federal Government should be responsible for:
 - Advisory Services.
 - Policy Formulation and Legislation on national forestry issues.
 - Manpower Development and Training.
 - Research and Development.
 - Monitoring and Evaluation, Coordination and Review of the National Forest Policy.
 - International Cooperation (Agreements, Conventions, Treaties, etc).
 - Natural Resources Assessment Accounting and Auditing.
 - Establishment and Management of Model Federal Forest Reserves.
 - Support forestry projects in States
 - Public Awareness Creation and enlightenment.
 - Implementation of the National Forest Policy.
 - Compliance of any national legislation on forests
- (ii) State Forestry Service should be responsible for:
 - Consolidation of jurisdiction over Forest Reserves.
 - Sustainable Management of the Forest Estate in collaboration with the Local Government, NGOs, Communities, and civil society organisations.
 - Personnel training and development.
 - Inventory of Forestry Reserves.
 - Awareness Creation and Public Enlightenment.
 - Enforcement of Forestry Laws and Regulations.
 - Monitoring and Evaluation.

- Establishment of Plantations, Demonstration and Pilot Projects.
- Provision of extension services.
- Input service delivery.

(iii) Local Government Authority should be responsible for:

- Local Land-Use Planning and Ecosystem Planning to ensure Sustainable Management of the Forest Resources.
- Forest Protection.
- Community Mobilization.
- Enforcement of forestry laws, regulations and bye-laws.
- Monitoring and Evaluation, Coordination and review.
- Establishment of Demonstration Plots.
- Community Awareness Campaigns.
- Establishment of woodlots, roadside and amenity plantings.

(iv) Community level roles should be:

- Formation of Cooperative Groups.
- Awareness Creation among members.
- Participation in the management and protection of Forest Estates and non-reserved forest areas.
- Establish the framework for effective community based forest management systems.

4.8 Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

Forest and trees provide an appreciable source of edible fruits and foods, fodder, medicine and cash income for many rural people. In Nigeria, over 150 indigenous woody plants from the various vegetation zones have been identified as yielding edible products for man and animals. For many people in Nigeria the forests play the role of a pharmacy from where they obtain plant parts for the treatment of ailments. Economic products such as cane/rattan used for the production of baskets, chairs and other furniture, raphia products for the production of mats and ropes, wrapping leaves, fishing-bait, chewing sticks, and honey are obtained from the forest.

4.8.1 Policy Statement:

Promote the development and conservation of NTFPs in all the ecological zones for the benefits of the present and future generations and to increase NTFPs' contribution to the national economy.

4.8.2 Objectives:

- (i) Promote community partnership in NTFPs management.
- (i) Mobilise the community for sustainable management, multiplication, processing, packaging, value addition and marketing of NTFPs.
- (ii) Address the imperfection in NTFPs trade and market

4.8.3 Strategies

- (i) Undertake surveys and studies to identify and assess the distribution and economic viability of NTFPs.
- (ii) Carry out in situ and ex situ conservation, resource valuation, sustainable management and development of NTFPs.
- (iii) Carry out multiplication/breeding of NTFPs for enhanced economic production, food security and development of alternative livelihood opportunities in the rural community.
- (iv) Sustain capacity building and empowerment in NTFPs' management and conservation with the active involvement of stakeholders.

4.9 Environmental Services of Forests

The many valuable ecosystem services provided by forests, including climate stabilization, carbon capture, regulating hydrological functions, and biodiversity conservation are now gaining some attention. Unfortunately, our forests are under severe threat. The rate of deforestation in Nigeria is put at about 350,000 hectares per annum. Deforestation and forest degradation have impacted on those services provide within the forest ecosystems.

4.9.1 Protection

4.9.1.1 Policy Statement on Protection

Government will recognize and emphasize the protective role of forests in watersheds, buffer zones around rivers and hills, and sensitive ecosystems to sustain and protect the environmental and ecological services of forests.

4.9.1.2 Objectives:

- (i) To ensure the capacity of forests to protect watersheds, buffer zones around rivers and hills, sensitive ecosystems services, prevention of water and wind erosion, siltation of water courses and support for carbon sequestration.

- (ii) To ensure the capacity of the forests to provide recreational facilities and aesthetic values.

4.9.1.3 Strategies:

- (i) Public enlightenment on ecosystems services and values
- (ii) Develop and implement appropriate legal and institutional framework to protect and sustain the integrity of forest ecosystems
- (iii) Encourage the formation of environment vanguards from the host communities.

4.9.2. Social Forestry

Social Forestry is the management and protection of forest and afforestation of degraded and deforested lands with the purpose of helping environmental, social and rural development.

4.9.2.1 Policy Statement on Social Forestry

Create the understanding and recognition of the social values of forests and how forest social benefits can be delivered

4.9.2.2 Objectives:

- (i) Promote social sustainability as a means of sustainable forest management.
- (ii) Empower local communities through training and other support to be able to manage their forest resources.

4.9.2.3 Strategies:

- (i) Encourage multiple-use plantation establishment by the rural people so as to meet the growing demand for timber, fuel wood, fodder ,etc., thereby reducing pressure on forest areas
- (ii) Undertake amenity plantings such as woodlots, strips, and roadside plantings as well as parks and gardens establishment for recreational and aesthetic values.
- (iii) Provide and develop marketable environmentally friendly recreational facilities.
- (iii) Encourage the development of affordable alternatives to wood fuels.

4.10 Watershed Forests And Wetlands Management

Forests are commonly associated with a range of environmental services delivered at a watershed and wetlands, including:

- Regulation of water flow – that is maintenance of dry season flows and flood control.

- Maintenance of water quality – that is minimization of sediment load, nutrient load (e.g. of phosphorus and nitrogen), chemical load, and salinity.
- Control of soil erosion and sedimentation and enhancement of productivity.
- Reduction of land salinization and/or regulation of ground water levels.
- Maintenance of aquatic habitat (e.g. reductions of water temperature through shading rivers or streams, and ensuring adequate wood debris and habitat for aquatic species).

4.10.1 Policy Statement

Watershed protection forests will be established, rehabilitated and conserved, while all wetlands will be monitored and managed in accordance with international standards.

Government will promote the rehabilitation and conservation of forests that protect the soil and water in the nation's key watersheds and river systems. Achievements on watershed protection through forestry will result from the adoption of appropriate farm forestry methods on degraded private lands, from the improved management of natural forests on private lands, and from the restoration of degraded hills on public lands.

4.10.2 Objectives

- (i) Promote the rehabilitation of degraded forests in water catchments areas and bare hills through private, community and farm forestry initiatives.
- (ii) Develop and promote guidelines on the management of riverside forests.
- (iii) Develop and promote awareness, educational and community mobilization programmes to promote good integrated land use practices in hilly areas, and protected watersheds from degradation.

4.10.3 Strategies:

Strategies for the implementation of this policy statement will include:-

- i. Identify and delineate protective forest cover along the rivers and water bodies.
- ii. Reduce human encroachment through public enlightenment.

- iii. Encourage the planting and replanting of trees in degraded watershed and catchment areas.
- iv. Provide enlightenment and support educational campaigns on the protective roles of the forest.
- v. Carry out inventories of wetlands and draw up management plans for wetlands.
- vi. Support the review and enforcement of laws to adequately protect watersheds and catchment areas.
- vii. Facilitate the formation of environmental vanguards by host communities.
- viii Promote National Tree Planting Campaigns.

4.11 Agro-Forestry

Agroforestry is the practice of integrating trees planting and agricultural crops/livestocks production as a multiple landuse systems in forestry and agricultural landscapes to meet economic, social and ecological needs.

4.11.1 Policy Statement:

Agroforestry practices would be aimed at increased wood and fibre production, nutrition and food security, socio-economic development, and integrated land use management as well as provide environmental protection.

4.11.2 Objective

- (i) Address the eradication of hunger through basic, pro-poor food production systems in disadvantaged areas based on innovative agroforestry technologies.
- (ii) Reduce rural poverty through market-driven, locally led tree cultivation systems to generate income and build assets;
- (iii) Advance the health and nutrition of the rural poor through agroforestry systems.
- (iv) Engender biodiversity conservation through integrated conservation – development solutions, based on agroforestry technologies, innovative institutions, and better policy.
- (v) Protection and conservation of watershed services through agroforestry based solutions that enable the poor to benefit from the provisioning of the service.
- (vi) Assist the rural poor to better adapt to climatic change, and to benefit from emerging carbon markets, through tree cultivation.

- (vii) Build human and institutional capacity in agroforestry research and development.

4.11.3 Strategies:

- (i) Encourage the planting of improved varieties of indigenous multipurpose trees for income generation and soil improvement.
- (ii) Promote the production and supply of quality seedlings of timber and non-timber trees to farmers for cultivation.
- (iii) Federal, State and Local Governments to promote agroforestry in the buffer zones around Forest Reserves.
- (iv) State and Local governments to assist individuals and communities in land preparation, planting and maintenance of cultivated estates for at least the first rotation of the species at agreed terms.
- (v) Federal and State Governments to assist farmers have access to markets for better prices for their commodities.

4.12 Urban Forestry

The government is committed to improving the livelihoods and well-being of urban people by supporting urban forestry and improving the urban landscape and environment. The private and Non-governmental Organizations, the civil societies will be encouraged to play a major role in the development of urban forestry. They would be given adequate support and incentives, in collaboration with urban/municipal authorities.

Urban and peri-urban forests improve the quality of life in both tangible and intangible ways. The consumable products include firewood, food, fodder and poles. Intangible benefits include the reduction of air pollution, and noise, the control of water runoff, soil erosion, windbreaks and the enhancement of the landscape for recreation. With continued and accelerated urbanization in the country, the demand for these goods and services will grow, and so too will the role of urban and peri-urban forestry.

Urban and Peri-urban forestry could be private, government and municipal land. They may generate commercial or non-commercial revenue, and they may be of benefit to peri-urban farmers or the urban public.

4.12.1 Policy Statement

Urban forestry will be promoted in order to provide aesthetics, recreational, social and economic values and benefits to the people as well as biodiversity conservation of endangered species of fauna and flora.

4.12.2 Objectives

To promote and maintain the greening of the urban environment, conservation of endangered species (fauna and flora) and to meet the increasing demand for forest products by urban centres.

4.12.3 Strategies:

- i. Encourage roadside and amenity plantings.
- ii. Encourage the enactment and enforcement of Town Planning laws and regulations on the establishment of green areas.
- iii. Encourage the establishment of botanical and zoological gardens in urban centres.
- iv. Encourage the development and maintenance of urban ornamental and amenity nurseries as well as identifying relevant stakeholders in the management of urban forestry.

4.13 Poverty Alleviation And Food & Nutrition Security

Forest resources contribute to the improvement of livelihoods, and complements other key components of poverty reduction. The poor people get subsistence goods such as fuelwood, medicines, wood for building, protein (bush meat), fodder, mushrooms, honey, edible leaves, roots, fruit from trees and forests. In addition, arts and crafts, timber and other wood products are obtained from the forests. Indirect benefits such as land for other uses, social and spiritual sites, environmental services including watershed protection and biodiversity conservation are also got from trees and forests.

4.13.1 Policy Statement:

Ensure that forests provide timber and other arrays of goods and services on sustainable basis in order to improve human livelihoods.

4.13.2 Objectives:

- (i) Encourage the expansion and sustainable utilisation of forest reserves to meet the needs of the rural people.
- (ii) Promote sustainable management of forest resources.
- (iii) Reduction of rural–urban migration and enhancing income generation through the promotion of rational exploitation of non-wood forest products and engaging the rural populace in sustainable agro-forestry practices.

4.13.3 Strategies:

- (i) Develop participatory approach and build ownership in the establishment and management of forest capital resources.
- (ii) Promote the establishment of multipurpose tree species, including gum arabic, shea butter, locust beans, breadfruit, ogbono and medicinal plants species.
- (iii) Promote Agro-forestry practices for food and nutrition security (Apiculture, Mushroom production, Snail breeding and Wildlife domestication).
- (iv) Promote the establishment of co-operatives to secure appropriate pricing of NTFPs.
- (v) Provide adequate funds for agroforestry research and development

4.14 Supply Of Seeds And Seedlings

Tree growing depends on the quality of planting stock to meet the purpose of the venture and the site conditions. Appropriate technology will be employed to ensure that stakeholders' needs for planting materials are satisfied.

Quality seed procurement, tree improvement and genetic resource conservation will be promoted through capacity building and funding of research and development in these areas. Priority will be given to indigenous tree species and those endangered

The private sector has a major role to play in the collection and distribution of tree seeds and planting stock. The Government will help to build capacity in the private sector to enable effective seed supply and marketing, and develop mechanisms to ensure high standards and quality control.

4.14.1 Policy Statement

Appropriate technology and innovative mechanisms for the availability of affordable quality tree seed and planting stock will be developed.

4.14.2 Objectives

- i. To produce sufficient and affordable high quality planting materials for different site conditions for the afforestation and reforestation as well as other tree planting programmes.
- ii. To enhance forest productivity, food and nutrition security, landuse management, ecological services and integrity, etc.
- iii. To ensure the success of forestry projects.

4.14.3 Strategies

- (i) Determine and monitor national seed demand and supply.
- (ii) Identify, establish and manage seed sources for priority tree species.
- (iii) Produce, market and promote the use of high quality tree seed.
- (iv) Support linkages to national, regional and international research and development to improve tree seed and access modern germplasm propagation techniques.
- (v) Develop standards and guideline for seed collection, handling and distribution to ensure quality control.
- (vi) Develop capacity for the supply and distribution of tree seed through the private sector.
- (vii) Build capacity in the private sector for tree nursery management.
- (viii) Ensure that the special needs of the different ecological zones for seed supply and nursery management are met.
- (ix) Carryout gene conservation of high priority endangered indigenous tree species to guarantee sustained availability.
- (x). Establishment of seed orchards and banks.
- (xi) Strengthening and improvement of existing nurseries and establishment of new ones.
- (xi). Encourage the improved breeding of indigenous trees species.
- (xiii). Enhance capacity building (staff training and retraining).
- (xiv). Encourage the establishment of community and school nurseries for the supply of seedlings at local levels.
- (xv) Support the strengthening of plant quarantine services.
- (xvi) Enhance capacity for supply and distribution of seeds and seedlings through private sector.

(xvii) Synchronize nurse and seedlings production with planting season.

4.15 Forestry Research And Development

Research and development (R&D) is an essential part of human advancement. Through R&D, the forestry sector will benefit from the use of appropriate technologies, scientific methods, quality inputs and materials to enhance forestry development

4.15.1 Policy Statement:

Forestry Research and Development will be promoted through intensive research and development in areas of forest conservation, biotechnology, silviculture, agro-forestry, resource assessment, wildlife management, socio-economic issues and optimum utilization including the development, exploitation and marketing of NTFPs.

4.15.2 Objectives:

To develop appropriate technologies for research in various aspects of forestry, wildlife management, forest products utilization and development, biodiversity conservation, agroforestry, watershed management, sericulture, biotechnology, forest pests and diseases, etc

4.15.3 Strategies:

- (i) Identify research needs of relevant stakeholders.
- (ii) Promote intensive research and development in all areas of forestry development.
- (iii) Facilitate experience sharing and collaboration with international forestry research organisation and allied institutions.
- (iv) Train and retraining of research personnel as well as forestry staff at all levels to enable them apply the results of research to the best advantage.
- (v) Provision of adequate funds for research and development.
- (vi) Conduct non-detrimental finding of endangered species of fauna and flora.
- (vii) Identify and adhere to national and sectoral research focus as well harmonise research activities among research institutions

4.16 Forest Fiscal Policy

Both the forest fiscal policy and policies in other sectors of the economy affect sustainable forest management practices. The Nigerian forest revenue system is characterised by low product price levels and inadequate monitoring which result in widespread tax evasion, illegal logging and wastes. The various states in Nigeria operate different types of charges. These charges per tree also varies from state to state depending on the species. These imperfections contribute in inappropriate valuations of goods and services within the national accounting system.

4.16.1 Policy Statement

Government will ensure that the forest revenue system is reformed in order to create an enabling environment for sustainable forest management.

4.16.2 Objectives

- (i) To promote a sustainable forest management
- (ii) To promote equity in the distribution of forest benefits to all stakeholders
- (iii) Promote rural development and stability of the forest resources.

4.16.3 Strategies

- (i) Involve all stakeholders in decision-making about forest revenue system formulation, revenue collection and sharing
- (ii) Harmonize existing sectoral policies to eliminate and resolve areas of conflict.
- (iii) Provision of a tariff system for forestry goods in a way that reflects their true market value
- (iv) Ensure transparency in the administration of forest concessions and permit system.

4.17 Forest Fires

Fire is one of greatest hazards to forests. Wild fire leads to loss of flora and fauna and the rich biodiversity, and negatively impacting on the ecosystem and the economy. It also contributes to global warming. The Government would adapt global best practices of forest fire prevention, detection and control to national and local circumstances in Nigeria.

4.17.1 Policy Statement

Evolve effective and efficient measures for prevention, control and management of forest fires.

4.17.2 Objectives:

- i. Protect forest estates from forest fires and bush burning.
- ii. Enhance better forest fire management
- iii. Ensure effective forest fire control and prevention.

4.17.3 Strategies

- i. Establish a national framework for a forest fire management
- ii. Ensure public awareness and education on the dangers associated with forest fires.
- iii. Support the development legal and institutional framework for the implementation of insurance policy on forest fires including incorporating forest fires in the National Agricultural Insurance scheme.
- iv. Build capacity and provide adequate training for forest personnel in forest fire management.
- v. Strengthen collaboration with Federal and States' Fire Services as well as the erection of fire towers in Forest Reserves and all forestry projects.
- vi. Sustainable management of forest harvest residues, dead vegetation and wastes.

4.18 Forest Pests And Diseases Control

Pests include insects, plant pathogens, weeds and vertebrate pests that cause damage or interfere with the forest ecosystems. Diseases may also manifest in natural forests and plantations, therefore constant vigilance is required to detect the first signs or symptoms as early as possible.

4.18.1 Policy Statement:

The Nation's Forest Estate shall be protected from pests and diseases.

4.18.2 Objectives:

- i. To ensure healthy growth and high productivity of forest resources.
- ii. To promote the quality, health and standards of forest goods and services.

4.18.3 Strategies:

- i. Develop guidelines and standards for forest pest and disease control and management
- ii. Maintain appropriate hygiene in all forestry operations
- iii. Encourage and strengthen networking among various research institutions, national and international stakeholders.
- iv. Adopt environmental friendly techniques for pests and diseases management and control.
- v. Strengthen capacities for forest pests and diseases control and management
- vi. Rapid response to outbreak of pests and diseases.
- vii. Establishment a forest pest and diseases control and management unit.

4.19 Annual National Tree Planting Campaign

The National Tree Planting Campaign (NTPC) was first introduced in 1981 to mark the World Environment Day which is observed on June 5 every year. The ceremony involved the planting of a commemorative tree at the launching site by the highest office of the land (Mr. President). NTPC is a strategy by Government to sensitise the citizenry and create public awareness on the need for forest management and conservation, and to impart tree planting culture in the citizenry as one of the strategies for environmental sustainability.

4.19.1 Policy statement

National Tree Planting Campaign Programme shall be continuously promoted to ensure that the citizenry imbibe the culture of tree planting.

4.19.2 Objectives:

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

4.19.3 Strategies

- (i) Provision of affordable and adequate quantities of quality seedlings of economic and ornamental tree seedlings.
- (ii) Encourage each household to plant a minimum of two trees in addition to planting of ornamentals
- (iii) Support effective extension services delivery
- (iv) Promote effective Enlightenment programmes
- (iv) Development of tree care culture for planted trees.
- (v) Mobilise CBOs, communities and other stakeholders for effective participation in National Tree Planting Campaign,
- (vi) Promote tree planting in educational institutions focusing on primary and secondary schools.

4.20 Woodfuels

In Nigeria about 75 – 80 per cent of the population rely on fuelwood for their domestic energy supply. The annual consumption of wood is estimated to range between 80 – 88 million m³, out of which 80% is consumed as fuelwood. About N1,666 billion of fuelwood is consumed annually. As deforestation increases, fuelwood becomes scarcer to meet national needs, particularly in the arid and semi-arid zones of the country leading to unsustainable harvesting. Many rural poor and villagers mainly women and children have to spend more time and resources searching for wood. Biogas is a viable alternative to fossil fuels substitution in the domestic energy supply chain and potential contribution in mitigating the impact of climate change. There is therefore the need to make the fuelwood and other biomass energy sources available and affordable.

4.20.1 Policy Statement

The establishment and sustenance of woodlots shall be encouraged and supported through the provision of quality and improved seedlings and other enabling incentives. The development of affordable and readily available alternatives to wood fuels will be encouraged so as to reduce the pressure on the forests.

4.20.2 Objectives:

- (i) To ensure the sustainable supply of wood fuels.
- (ii) To conserve and protect the environment.
- (iii) To provide income generating opportunities for communities.

- (iv) To promote viable alternatives to wood fuels.
- (v) To promote efficiency in the use of wood biomass as domestic and industrial form of energy

4.20.3 Strategies:

- (i) Communities and private sector should be encouraged to establish and maintain woodlots to supply fuel woods on sustainable basis.
- (ii) Sustain research on fast growing plant species and affordable alternative sources of energy.
- (iii) Sustain advocacy and awareness campaigns on effects of deforestation.
- (v) Facilitate the provision of subsidy on available alternative energy sources.
- (vi) Promote the development of cheaper and readily available alternatives to wood fuels.
- (viii) Promote sustainable harvesting of woodfuels from natural forests and replacement planting by the entrepreneurs.
- (ix) Promote use of LNG for domestic cooking/heating.

4.21 Employment

Forests and forest industries constitute important fields of employment. This importance is specific and fourfold. First, the employment in the forests of resident workers during forest exploitation is traditional. The large timber firms usually maintain hundreds of skilled and semi-skilled workers. Secondly, the emphasis on artificial regeneration (that is plantation establishment) has provided a dependable avenue for the employment of a large labour force and improved earnings of the workers. Thirdly, the employment of workmen in forest industries has led to the establishment of forest villages thereby preventing rural-urban drift. Fourthly, to ensure the safety and security of forest workers

4.21.1 Policy Statement:

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

4.21.2 Objectives:

- (i) Provide regular employment for skilled and non-skilled forestry workers in an environment that is healthy, safe and secured.

- (ii) Encourage self-employment through active engagement in sustainable agroforestry practice and small-scale community forest based industries and reduce rural, urban migration.

4.21.3 Strategies:

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

4.22 Gender Issues

Vulnerable group, such as, women, youth, the aged and poor people are often marginalized in development processes. They are mostly dependent on forest resources for their subsistence livelihoods, particularly in rural areas. The government will ensure that they participate and benefit from the development in the forest sector.

4.22.1 Policy Statement:

Active involvement of women and other vulnerable groups in forest policy development, implementation and sustainable management of forest resources shall be promoted

4.22.2 Objectives

- i. To improve the socio-economic status of women and other vulnerable groups.
- ii. To ensure efficient utilization of wood and non-wood products.
- iii. To facilitate women and other vulnerable groups involvement in the conservation and protection of the environment for sustainable use.

4.22.3 Strategies:

- (i) Create awareness to enable women and other vulnerable groups to appreciate the benefits derivable from involvement in forest resources management.
- (ii) Build capacity on gender issues.
- (iii) Developing grass root women group promoters' capacity to motivate and empower women on their rights to forest resources management Vis a Vis other development opportunities.
- (iv) Promote an environment for visibility and credibility for actors in advocacy.
- (v) Cultivate a sharing and learning cultures by linking up grassroots level learning and challenges to national and international fora.
- (vi) Support women and vulnerable group to undertake forestry development and agroforestry

4.23 Youth Programmes

There is a high rate of youth unemployment and more acute in the rural areas in Nigeria where limited opportunities exist. However, there exist vast opportunities within the forestry sector for self-employment and income generation.

4.23.1 Policy Statement:

Programmes and measures will be developed to attract the youths to engage in forest based activities.

4.23.2 Objective:

To provide employment and income generation activities through forest-based industries and handicrafts.

4.23.3 Strategies:

- i. Promote awareness campaigns and education programmes in schools, colleges, etc, on sustainable management practices to stimulate and sustain the interest of the youths.
- ii. Promote and sustain foresters clubs in schools.
- iii. Enhance the employment of youth in forestry income generating activities.

4.24 Manpower Development, Training And Capacity Building

Forestry is taught as a professional course in a formal education system at the tertiary level. In the secondary and primary school levels, it is integrated into other subjects like agricultural science within a very narrow context. The facilities for forestry education and training are inadequate with low level of funding.

4.24.1 Policy Statement.

Labor development, training and capacity building will provide qualitative manpower, facilities and training with a view to providing the necessary skills and enhancing efficiency in the management of forests at all levels.

4.24.2 Objectives:

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

4.24.3 Strategies:

- (i) Provide adequate manpower, facilities and training with a view to promoting efficiency in Sustainable Forest Management at all levels.
- (ii) Carry out skill gap analysis and training needs assessment at all levels.
- (iii) Train-the-trainers to achieve trickle down effect of acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- (iv) Enhance institutional responsibilities for forestry training at all levels.
- (v) Establish linkages with appropriate training institutions.
- (vi) Encourage collaborative and in-plant training programmes.
- (vii) Encourage capacity building amongst all stakeholders at all levels.

4.25 Education And Awareness Creation

Government's capacity to deliver forestry advisory services has greatly reduced due to inadequate education and public awareness in the forestry sector.

4.25.1 Policy Statement:

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

4.25.2 Objective:

To evolve a highly sensitized society that is aware of the importance of forests and the need for a participatory approach in Sustainable Forestry Development.

4.25.3 Strategies:

- (i) Promote forestry extension and create awareness on the roles of forests in wood production, environmental amelioration, poverty reduction, food security and socio-economic development.
- (ii) Disseminate and promote the adoption of research findings to update the public on emerging technologies.
- (iii) Actively involve the print and electronic media in education and awareness creation programmes.
- (iv) Institutionalize the National Tree Planting Campaign as an effective means of sensitizing the populace on the importance of tree planting, environmental conservation and Sustainable Forest Management.

4.26 Information And Database Management

Inadequate database remain a major constraint to forest policy formulation, project planning and implementation of forestry development programme. The lack of regular forest inventory is responsible for the dearth of technical data that could be used in forestry sector

4.26.1 Policy Statement

National Monitoring and Information Systems should be developed for sustainable management of forests.

4.26.2 Objectives:

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

4.26.3 Strategies

4.26.3.1 Strategies on Effective Networking

- (i) Support regular capacity building and exchange programmes.
- (ii) Provide appropriate information technology equipment to facilitate networking.
- (iii) Support inter and intra networking.

4.26.3.2 Strategies on Processing and Management of Information

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

4.26.3.3 Strategies on Reliable and Timely Data Acquisition

- (i) Support periodic (5 years interval) forest data gathering and exchanges at all levels.
- (ii) Create and support effective biometric units at all levels.
- (iii) Support mechanism to engender transparency and accountability in data management.
- (iv) Training and retraining of staff in information and data management

4.27 Land, Tree Tenure And Redress Mechanism

Ownership of land in Nigeria is by individuals, communities, families, corporate bodies, governments, etc. Two main systems of ownership, namely, customary and statutory. There is considerable sensitivity over land ownership, land and tree tenure, and users' rights which could result in conflict. Statutorily, the use of such land is governed by the Land Use Act while the extraction of timber and harvesting of other forest resources from any land are regulated through permit system administered by the Forestry Service of each State and local Government. However, in off-forest reserved areas which are not "owned" by government, there are no absolute tree tenure and ownership rights by landowners unlike in the case of agricultural crops. Access to land for investment in forestry primary production by private entrepreneurs is encumbered by unfavourable economic policies and bureaucratic bottlenecks in obtaining statutory title to land (Certificate of Occupancy) under the Land Use Act, acting as disincentive to investments.

4.27.1 Policy Statement:

Legal and Institutional Framework on tree tenure and ownership, as well as, appropriate forest resources grievances redress mechanism should be put in place at all levels of forest governance.

4.27.2 Objectives:

- (i) Reduce conflicts between stakeholders in forestry and other land users.
- (ii) Promote cooperation and partnership building among stakeholders and other land use sectors.
- (ii) Ensure certainty and security in tree tenure and ownership.

4.27.3 Strategies:

- (i) Develop and sustain appropriate community based grievances mechanism for conflict resolution among various land use sectors through an open system of communication
- (i) Develop guidelines and principles on education and advocacy for the acquisition and marketing of forest goods and services.
- (ii) Encourage the participation of all stakeholders in decision making on forest products acquisition, processing and marketing.
- (iii) Encourage regular stakeholders' discussions and exchange of ideas.

4.28 Trade (Internal And External)

Forest crimes, including corruption and illegal logging are some of the major problems affecting domestic and international trade in forest products in Nigeria. Market imperfection is also a contributing factor. Good forest governance, effective monitoring and law enforcement are necessary to address the situation with the active involvement of forest industries, civil society organisations, government institutional and security agencies, international community, etc

4.28.1 Policy Statement

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

4.28.2 Objectives

- (i) To reduce illegal logging in forest reserves and off-forest reserved areas
- (ii) To encourage and embark on certification on wood and non-wood products

- (iii) To regulate and harmonize activities in the forest industries.
- (iv) To encourage the use of appropriate machinery in the forest industries.
- (iv) To promote production of high quality forest products.
- (v) To create and/ or identify markets for forest products.

4.28.3 Strategies

4.28.3.1 Strategies Product Quality and Certification

- (i) Enforce the use of appropriate forest harvesting technologies, including equipment and processing facilities
- (ii) Institute mechanism for certification and standards in forest operations and forest-based industries

4.28.3.2 Strategy On Competitiveness In Value-Added Products:

Promote the production of high quality value added wood and allied products to make them competitive in local and international market.

4.28.3.3 Strategy On Market Information:

Develop effective forest market information system and networking.

4.28.3.4 Strategy On Carbon Trading

Support and promote carbon trading through the international carbon market system

4.29 Inter-Sectoral Cooperation

Forestry development involves landuse based activities with several other competing sectoral interests, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, mining and quarrying. There is need for intersectoral coordination and cooperation in the overall interest of the accomplishing the national development agenda .

4.29.1 Policy Statement

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

4.29.2 Objectives

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

4.29.3 Strategies:

- (i) Increase the intersectoral discussions and exchange of information.
- (ii) Support and sustain collaboration with other land using stakeholders.
- (iii) Evolve appropriate mechanisms for the valuation of sectoral contributions to the national economy.
- (iv) Establish effective mechanisms for mediation and early response to crises.

4.30 International Cooperation

Nigeria has ratified or is signatory to several international environment conventions, treaties and agreements that are relevant to the forestry development. However, some of these instruments have legal obligation and to have force of law in the country they must first be domesticated by national and states legislatures. Government will ensure that it meets all international obligations and commitments

4.30.1 Policy Statement

The government will participate fully in the development and implementation of international multilateral and bilateral agreements:

- (i) Respect and honour treaties and conventions to which Nigeria is a signatory.
- (ii) Sustain and comply with bilateral and multilateral agreements.

4.30.2 Objective

To ensure the implementation of conventions, treaties, agreements and other international multilateral and bilateral instruments to which Nigeria is a signatory.

4.30.3 Strategy

Maintain and sustain membership of international organizations, such as African Timber Organization (ATO), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), FAO, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

4.31. Forest Sector Investment

Government's economic policy recognizes the role of the private sector in industrial growth and development. The forestry sector will draw on the favourable economic environment to foster greater private sector participation in the sector. Investment in the forest sector will involve micro, small, medium and large scale investments, as considerable potentials exist for these investments to deliver significant benefits to investors, farmers, forest owners, local communities, and the country as a whole.

4.31.1 Policy Statement

Government will create favourable policies and financial environment, and strengthen the existing financing mechanism to attract private sector investment.

4.31.2 Objectives

The objective is to embark on forest-based industry development, and large-scale agroforestry and forest plantation development using indigenous species and complemented with exotic species in order to realize the potentials of the nations native forests for their economic, social, cultural and environmental values and achievement of sustainable forest management

4.31.3 Strategies

The primary strategies are identified to overcome the constraints to private sector investment:

- (i) Provide adequate financial mechanisms and technical assistance support for small and medium scale forest enterprises.
- (ii) Develop markets for forest environmental services (biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and carbon sequestration),
- (iii) Combat illegal logging and other related corruption,
- (iv) Develop appropriate forest product value chain mechanism to enhance investment opportunities.
- (v) Ensure sound Environmental and Social Assessment procedures and safeguard policies to act both as an incentive to investment by responsible companies and as a deterrent to companies that engage in non-sustainable socially and ecologically damaging logging operations.
- (vi) Arrive at a consensus on independent forest certification in order to promote the adoption of new forest management standards.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 ELEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREST POLICY

The seven critical elements of support for the implementation of the forestry policy are:

- (i) National Forest Programme
- (ii) Institutional Arrangement
- (iii) National Forestry Legislation
- (iv) Gender Mainstreaming
- (v) Funding Mechanism
- (vi) International and Regional Cooperation
- (vii) Forest Sector Monitoring and Evaluation.

5.1 National Forest Programme

A National Forest Programme (NFP) will provide a strategic framework for the development of the Forestry Sector. The development of the NFP will take into consideration the thirty priority areas of the policy. It will be regularly updated to keep pace with changes. This will be supported by a process of regular forest sector reviews. The objective of a National Forest Programme is to ensure the conservation, management and sustainable development of forests to meet local, national, regional and global needs and requirements for the benefit of the present and future generation.

Various national forest forestry programmes/action plans have been developed in the country:

- National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP), 1996.
- The 1999 approved Forestry Development Programme (FDP)- A holistic programme involving forestry development in all the ecological zones
- The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Deforestation and Afforestation 2000 (IMCA): A review of the 1999 (FDP) incorporating cross-sector issues like energy and agriculture.
- The 2004 National Council on Shelterbelt, Afforestation Erosion and Coastal Zone Management; A revision of the IMCA report and incorporating erosion control and coastal zone management
- 2011 Presidential Initiatives on Afforestation (PIA): Focused on massive afforestation and reforestation nationwide.

- National Forest Investment Plan (2018 -2022) (NFIP) developed with the support of ECOWAS and FAO as a forest sector investment document in Nigeria

The NFIP contains the current action plan/strategies for turning the forest policy into action, with short, medium and long-term goals and programmes.

Organisational and institutional roles and responsibilities will be redefined to conform to the new sector vision and changes reflected in a new legal and operational framework.

5.1.1 Sectoral Implementation and Investment Strategy

Forestry is a profitable economic venture. Government should develop favourable investment climate for private and public investment in the sector. This requires a coordinated programme of support based on investment by the public sector, private sector, development partners, and International funding.

5.1.1.1 Public Sector

A public sector investment programme will be developed using economic values for forest resources, including analyses of the different impact of costs and benefits in forestry development. This will include conservation and environmental protection, and wider social and economic development issues. There are several areas where the government can increase its capacity to generate revenues:

- evolve efficient and effective forest revenue collection system;
- rationalize the prevailing royalty rates that have historically been well below the true economic and environmental values; and
- Review the revenue sharing arrangements with stakeholders to make these realistic, equitable, transparent and sustainable.
- Operationalisation of the National Forestry Trust Fund

5.1.1.2 Private Sector

A positive investment climate will be created for the private sector. This will include new financial incentives, the removal of market distortions, review of legislation on land leases, and the development of more transparent and accountable systems of forest governance. State governments should encourage partnership with private investors in the rehabilitation of degraded areas.

5.1.1.3 Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Continued support from development partners will be solicited for improved financial and technical support in forestry development. The government with donors will move towards coordinated funding mechanisms to support a sector-wide forestry development programme, +within the context of national forestry development programme

5.1.1.4 International Financial Institutions

Funding from other international funding sources will be actively pursued, including carbon credits markets.

5.1.1.5 Foreign Direct Investment

Favourable environment in terms of financial instruments, security, etc will be provided to attract and sustain foreign direct investment in forestry development.

5.1.1.6 Forestry Sector Coordination

The National Forestry Development Committee (NFDC) will be supported and strengthened to provide a forum for forest sector-wide planning and coordination. The NFDC is the highest statutory advisory body on forest issues in Nigeria. It is composed of all State Directors of Forestry, Heads of Department of Forestry in the Universities, Executive Director of Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Forestry Association of Nigeria (FAN) and some NGOs, representative of private sector in Forestry and other relevant CBOs. The Federal Director of Forestry is the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee will be supported to meet at least twice in a year to review the implementation of the forestry development agenda. Inter-sectoral coordinating mechanism will be developed to include relevant stakeholders.

5.2 Institutional Reform

The Institutional framework for the forest sector will be strengthened to implement the forest policy. This will be based on decentralization of function; a reform agenda in which governments at Federal and State levels should withdraw from activities that can be carried out more effectively by the private sector or other stakeholders but maintain core functions of policy development and coordination, including:

- (i) Increased role for the private sector and non-governmental organization in service delivery.

- (ii) Innovative approaches to the development and strengthening of civil society organisations
- (iii) Improve regulation of the forestry sector.
- (iv) Redefine relationship between the organizations in the sector and the establishment of memorandum of understanding, and partnership between state and civil organization. This includes the need to encourage State Departments of Forestry to engage in competitive tendering in the allocation of concessions for forest exploitation to increase revenue accruing to State governments and ensure sustainable forest management.

5.2.1 Strategy Roles and Responsibilities

5.2.1.1 The Role of Federal Government

The Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Environment is responsible for forestry development, will:

- (i) Ensure the integration and coordination of the interests of all relevant Ministries,, the private sector, the civil society and all other stakeholders in forestry issues;
- (ii) Coordinate the sector programme support being provided by donor partners and the international organisations.
- (iii) Maintain an oversight of sectoral planning
- (iv) Develop forestry sector policy
- (v) Regulate the forestry sector
- (vi) Monitor the provision of forestry advisory services
- (vii) Forestry research and development
- (viii) Enforcement of the National Forestry Act.
- (ix) Establishment and management of National Parks and Model Forest Reserves and Biosphere Reserves.
- (x) Support afforestation programme nationwide.
- (xi) National Forest Resources Assessment
- (xii) Public Awareness creation and enlightenment
- (xiii) Forestry extension and Advisory Services
- (xiv) Manpower Development and Training.
- (xv) Mainstreaming forestry development programmes into the Sustainable Development Goals.
- (xvi) Regulate wood and non-wood export
- (xvii) Monitoring and Evaluation

5.2.1.2 The Role of State Government

- (i) Consolidation of new and existing forest reserves
- (ii) Management of forest estate in collaboration with local government, NGOs, Communities, societies and private sector
- (iii) Manpower development and training
- (iv) Forest Resources Assessments
- (v) Establishment of forest plantations, and woodlots and demonstration plots
- (vi) Awareness creation and public enlightenment
- (vii) Provision of forestry extension and advisory services
- (viii) Enforcement of state forestry laws and regulations
- (ix) Input service delivery
- (x) Monitoring and Evaluation
- (xi) Forest protection.
- (xii) Re-investment of forest revenues in the sector

- (xiii) Mainstreaming State forestry development programmes into the Sustainable Development Goals.

5.2.1.3 Local Governments

Efforts will be made to clarify the role of local governments in management of forest resources on government and private land; and to build capacity for the management of local forest reserves. As much as possible local government will be encouraged to devolve responsibility for management down to community level. Roles of local government will include:

- (i) Development of effective systems and processes for planning, management and regulation of forestry practices
- (ii) Re-investment of forest revenues in the sector
- (iii) Integration of forest management plans with local government development plans.
- (iv) Development and enforcement of supportive byelaws.
- (v) Community mobilization and awareness campaigns
- (vi) Forest protection.
- (vii) Establishment of forest reserves.
- (viii) Establishment of plantations, woodlots, roadside, amenity planting and agroforestry.
- (ix) Manpower development and training.
- (x) Monitoring and Evaluation.

5.2.1.4 The Private Sector

- (i) Plantation and woodlots establishment
- (ii) Production and marketing of improved seeds and planting stock
- (iii) Promotion of research and development
- (iv) Promotion of entrepreneurship in forestry

Towards achieving these, government will support greater private sector participation in forestry development particularly in forest plantation establishment with:

- (i) better technical advice and support
- (ii) improved economic incentives
- (iii) more transparent administrative processes; and
- (iv) greater security of tenure over resources created under private initiations.

Along with this support, there will be improved regulation of private sector operations where there are public interests at stake, including the application of sustainable environmental and social best practices in forest management.

5.2.1.5 Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Based Organisations

The NGOs and CBOs will have a major role to play in service delivery and advocacy for sustainable forest sector development. In recognition of their technical expertise, their sensitivity to gender and poverty and their contacts with the grass-roots, the roles of NGOs and CBOs will include:-

- (i) Mobilization and sensitization of the local people
- (ii) Strengthening, and building the capacity of civil society
- (iii) Supporting the active local participation of communities in the management of forests and trees
- (iv) Supporting the provision of advisory services
- (v) Ensuring that the concerns of the under privileged are incorporated into National Development Processes.
- (vi) Conservation of forest estates

5.2.1.6 The Role of Community

The community should be involved in the active management of forest Resources in their domain in order to ensure sustainable forest management. The role of communities will include:-

- (i) Formation of community development or cooperative groups
- (ii) Awareness creation

- (iii) Active participation in management and protection of forest estate and trees off-forest reserved areas

5.3 Development and Implementation of a National Forest Legislation

A national forest legislation will be put in place to give legal backing to the forest policy in order to ensure its full implementation

5.4 Gender and Equity

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

5.5 Funding Mechanism for Forestry Development

In order to successfully implement the forest policy, adequate and timely financing will be required. Government cannot shoulder this responsibility alone. The funding of forestry development programmes should be participatory, involving all the stakeholders including the Federal, State, Local Governments, the private sector, the communities and international donor agencies. A tripartite arrangement should be mutually considered and agreed upon by the three tiers of government. An acceptable funding arrangement will also be devised to harness contribution from the private sector, communities, NGOs and external support agencies.

5.5.1 Strategies for Funding

5.5.1.1 Government Funding

The bulk of the funding for forestry sector will be from annual appropriations for sectoral programmes, including access to special intervention funds such as the Ecological Fund and the National Forestry Trust Fund.

5.5.1.2 Community Funding

The Community-Driven Approach enunciated in this policy implies that communities would show considerable initiative in promoting self-help projects according to their needs. In this regard, communities should accept

some level of responsibility by contributing an agreed percentage in cash or kind as necessary for sustainable forest management.

5.5.1.3 Funding by Other Stakeholders

The private sector, NGOs and CBOs have important roles in funding forestry development programmes. They would be encouraged to establish linkages and collaboration with other agencies in order to build up their capabilities and expand scope of action. Extending credit facilities to micro, small and medium scale enterprises to contribute meaningfully to forestry development and stakeholders' participation

5.5.1.4 Funding by International Organisations

In the development of the National Forestry Programme, the role of international organizations and donor agencies in the funding of Forestry Development Programmes was recognized. Funding of forestry programmes by these organizations will complement government efforts.

5.6 International and Regional Cooperation

Nigeria is a signatory to a number of International Agreements, Treaties and Conventions that influence the forest sector. Government will maintain cooperation and meets its obligations with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes, international and regional organizations, institutions and major groups in order to facilitate enhanced cooperation and collaboration to achieve sustainable management of the nation's forest resources

5.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

Government will undertake monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the policy and strategies based on the following policy performance indicators:-

- (i) Sustainable use of the resource base
- (ii) The maintenance of vital ecological services and conservation of biodiversity
- (iii) The growth of the economy in forest related business and
- (iv) The poverty reduction amongst the rural and urban populations who depend on forest goods and services for their livelihoods.

5.8 Forest Information System

Well-defined Forest Information System (FIS) will be established with reliable data on agreed indicators. All forest sector investment programmes

will set out plans for monitoring and evaluation, and develop specific indicators to show progress and impact. The results of the forest sector monitoring and evaluation will be published regularly.

5.9 Periodic Review of the National Forest Policy

In view of the fact that the issues, challenges and opportunities relevant to sustainable forest management change over time, it will be necessary to review the National Forest Policy (not later) every ten years, so that necessary modifications in objectives, strategies and priorities areas can be introduced to ensure that the policy remains adequate to the contemporary times.

The responsibility for coordinating and conducting periodic reviews of the policy with the active participation of stakeholders rests with the Federal Department of Forestry in the Federal Ministry of Environment. The policy is processed through the National Forestry Development Committee and then the National Council on Environment and with the final approval by the Federal Executive Council.