# FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN EAST AFRICA

Outcomes & activities

# **ADVOCACY**

#### Outcomes

- Awareness of the impacts of climate change on forests and the role of forests in addressing climate change enhanced
- Increased political will to address climate change in the forestry sector

- Preparation and dissemination of policy briefs for all stakeholders incl. communities, politicians/legislators
  & forest managers
- Awareness raising & sensitization workshops and policy dialogues for stakeholders (*incl. decision makers*, *schools etc.*)

## **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### Outcome

• Enhanced capacity of individuals and institutions to plan, participate and manage processes necessary to support the implementation of climate change actions in the forestry sector

- Identify capacity development needs for forest related bodies, the private sector, community organizations etc. to implement adaptation and mitigation measures
- Prepare manuals & guidelines to support climate change mainstreaming into forestry
- Provide training and education programmes to relevant stakeholders (e.g. forest managers, CFUGs etc.) on vulnerability, risk & impact assessments to climate change
- Field support for forest managers to apply climate-smart forestry practices
- Facilitate training of trainers to support communities and indigenous groups to improve management (e.g. to reduce human induced fires & sustainable harvesting of forest products)

## **POLICY PROCESSES**

### Outcome

• Climate change integrated into forestry sector strategies and plan (e.g. REDD+ strategies, forest management plans) & forestry mainstreamed into climate change polices and strategies (e.g. NAPs & NDCs)

- Review of the existing national forestry & climate change policies, strategies and legislation for mainstreaming of climate change and forestry respectively
- Data collection & synthesis and stakeholder consultations to support review and revision of forestry & climate change policies
- Revise forest policies to ensure consistency with policies strategies and agreed priority actions related to climate change
- Contribute to the development and/or revision of national policy documents related to climate change to ensure the inclusion of forestry related issues

## RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING

### Outcome

• Data from research and resource assessments used to address impacts of climate change on forests

- Review existing forestry data and if necessary, conduct forestry resources assessments, forest inventories & other relevant studies
- Evaluate species distribution and response to climate change (*incl. species distribution modelling*) & identify climate-resilient species
- Analyze the supply & demand of wood and non wood forest products
- Protect vulnerable species (e.g. Acacia & Boswelia) and promote the use of alternative species (e.g. for woodfuels)

# KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

#### Outcomes

- Nexus between forests and climate change identified and used in policy formulation and forest management
- Best practices for adaptation and mitigation promoted in forestry

- Develop communication strategy for addressing climate change in forestry
- Communicate accurate, timely, relevant and consistent information on forests and climate change issues, impacts & response measures to decision-makers and to other stakeholders (*incl. media*) at all levels
- Collate and disseminate good practices in forest management to all stakeholders
- Organize study & information exchange visits between subregional experts
- Establish knowledge sharing networks/nlatforms

## ADAPTATION MEASURES

#### Outcome

• Enhanced resilience of forests & forest dependent communities to climate change (e.g. thru improved land management; restoration & rehabilitation of degraded lands; biodiversity, soil &  $H_20$  conservation & improved livelihoods, food security & nutrition)

- Restore and rehabilitate degraded lands to strengthen resilience of communities and ecosystems (incl. riparian zones & catchments)
- Establish nurseries & seed orchards to support restoration and rehabilitation efforts to improve resilience
- Protect species (e.g. Acacia & Vitellaria sp.), forest ecosystems (e.g. watersheds & catchments, drylands, rangelands) & genetic material vulnerable to climate change impacts (incl. fire, drought, pests & diseases)
- Conduct yield & productivity studies of forests under a changing climate
- Adjust forest management plans & harvesting schedules to maintain/increase yields

## ADAPTATION MEASURES CONT'D

- Introduce mixed species plantations to improve stand resilience to climate change
- Match species & varieties to current & projected site and climatic conditions
- Utilize new technologies (e.g. cloning & the use of hydrogels in tree planting) to increase yields
- Adjust silvicultural practices accordingly (e.g. thinning, pruning, species selection)
- Taxonomic classification of species within established forest zones
- Encourage enrichment planting (e.g using non-wood species i.e. Bamboo) in deforested/degraded areas
- Improve management (e.g. law enforcement) of protected areas
- Promote extensive grazing of livestock (e.g. thru exclusion) to prevent overgrazing and promote natural regeneration
- Establish biodiversity corridors to allow species (*flora & fauna*) migration and landscape connectivity

# ADAPTATION MEASURES CONT'D

- Construct water harvesting & soil conservation structures (e.g. choke dams, terraces, soil bands, rainwater harvesting etc.) to control erosion, prevent floods and ensure water storage & regulation
- Promote agro-silvopastoral systems and sustainable rangeland management practices to improve resilience of ecosystems and communities
- Promote the diversification of forest-based income generating activities (e.g. agroforestry, apiculture) to enhance livelihoods & food security & nutrition
- Re-settle pastoralists (with provision of the irrigation schemes and provision of social services such health, schools)
- Support community initiatives for the production & commercialization of NTFPs
- Ensure gender equity in access & use of forest resources and implement measures to safeguard the livelihoods of women

# MITIGATION MEASURES

#### Outcomes

- Emissions from forest management practices and forest products reduced
- C stocks in forests enhanced

- Conserve carbon stocks in forests by reducing illegal and/or overharvesting and other uses
- Establish nurseries to support the establishment of carbon plantations
- Restore degraded forests by planting or natural regeneration to increase carbon stocks
- Measure & monitor forest carbon stocks
- Promote sustainable forest management to conserve carbon stocks
- Promote the sustainable production and efficient use of woodfuels and/or alternative renewable energy sources (e.g. solar, wind, hydro)
- Promote the use of tehcnologies that reduce fuel consumption (e.g. improved stoves & improved charcoal kilns)

# FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

#### Outcomes

- Forests valued for ecosystem goods & services
- Investments in sustainable forest management increased

- Review information on forest ecosystem values and where required undertake valuations of forest ecosystem goods and services
- Assess the impacts of climate change on forest ecosystem goods and services & publish and disseminate information on the value of forests & the importance of addressing climate change
- Inform policy-makers on the benefits of schemes for PES & encourage them to establish such schemes
- Identify funding for climate change interventions in the forestry sector (e.g. FCPF, GEF, GCF, bilateral donors, national budgets)