

**ACCESS TO ENERGY FOR THE POOR: THE
CASE FOR INVESTING IN FORESTRY AND
FARM FORESTRY**

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IMPORTANCE OF TREES & FORESTS

- Forests and trees are important for economic and environmental services, social and environmental values.
- Forests provide utility products such as Timber, Pulp and Paper, Poles, Posts, Woodfuel for Industrial and Domestic Use.
- Forests are important for: a. Conservation of biological diversity, b. Regulation of water supplies; c. Carbon-dioxide sequestration; d. Providing habitat for wildlife; e. Providing a wide range of non-wood forest products.

**KENYA POPULATION GROWTH
(Million)**

1999	2005	2010
28.6	34.2	37.5

**GROWING DEMANDS ON KENYA'S
FORESTS AND TREES**

- The increase in population continues to exert pressure on forest resources through a growing demand for forest products, services and for alternative uses.
- The need to conserve soil, water, wildlife habitats and biological diversity continues to grow.

**NATIONAL ANNUAL WOODFUEL
DEMAND & VALUE**

Charcoal (Million tons)	2.4	48 Billion (Ksh) (0.7 Billion US \$)
Fuelwood (Million tonnes)	14.9	14.9 Billion Ksh. (0.2 Billion US \$)

**REQUIRED NATIONAL FOREST
RESOURCES**

Total National Land Area (Ha)	58,167,700
10% Required Minimum Forest Cover (Ha)	5,816,770
Current Level of Forest Cover (Ha)	988,851
Deficit (Ha)	4,827,919
Required investment to attain Minimum Forest Cover (US \$)	3.2 Billion

National Sustainable Supply Requirements For Woodfuel

Product	Area per year (Ha)	Investment cost/Year US \$/Year)
Charcoal	298,000	196,680,000
Fuelwood	240,000	156,400,000
Total	538,000	353,080,000

REASONS FOR LIMITED SUPPLY OF WOOD FUEL - 1

- Lack of a policy and regulatory framework to facilitate sustainable production and use of woodfuel – Until 2004/2005/2006 – Even with a policy and regulatory framework in place, **investment emphasis** is on conventional energy sources like – electricity and LPG.
- Lack of organized markets for wood products hence no incentive for farmers to plant trees on a continuous basis.

REASONS FOR LIMITED SUPPLY OF WOOD FUEL - 2

- Limited tree planting due to lack of appropriate tree seeds and seedlings at the right time,
- Limited information on appropriate management of tree resources as a result of inadequate research and extension services and poor information packaging.
- Limited understanding of environmental implications of unsustainable harvesting of wood resources,

REASONS FOR LIMITED SUPPLY OF WOOD FUEL - 3

- Limited or no planting by the majority of households because of limited access to land by young households and the male biased decision making authority that limits women's participation, and
- Wasteful utilization of the limited wood resources that are available (over 80% are reported to be wasted).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS

- Promote tree growing as a cash crop – e.g. tea, sugarcane – outgrower schemes – investment magnitude of Mumias Sugar Company Level.
- Develop markets for wood based products.
- Provide adequate financing for tree planting – loans if markets are well established because farmers will be able to repay the loans.
- Provide appropriate and adequate technical information from research – documentation and proper packaging of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS

- Provide adequate funding for research on fast growing indigenous tree species – to take care of biodiversity needs.
- Ensure that there are institutions at the community level to ensure sufficient planting and harvesting of trees. E.g. Locational Forest Communities
- Invest in efficient utilization technologies – e.g. Energy Saving Stoves like Fireless Cookers and Charcoal Kilns.