



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU

MERU CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

A united, prosperous, green and a Happy County

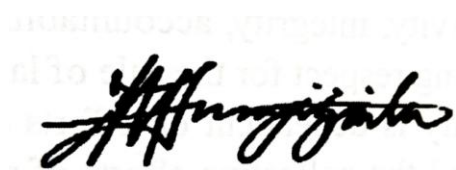
FOREWORD

This Climate Change Policy integrates environmental concerns into the County's policies, plans, programs, and projects in line with the provisions of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA, 1999) and other environmental legal frameworks. The Policy addresses environmental issues from various sectors in an integrated manner at the county level and their significance in development planning. It gives policy guidelines for achieving sustainable development in line with the County's quest to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Vision 2030, Meru County Vision 2040 and the County integrated Development Plan (CIDP). The policy has put forth a guide for government agencies, civil society and individuals in climate actions. Its implementation will be monitored through the Annual State of the Environment (SoE) reporting.

Meru County faces a numerous of environmental issues, including deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, water catchment destruction, poaching, domestic and industrial pollution, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, degradation of aquatic ecosystems and resources, droughts, floods and landslides and invasive and alien species. Moreover, climate change issues have been, underscored in the global agenda as it affects all spheres of human activity. Our commitment to ensure environmental management is critical, hence the need for the policy to give strategic guidance to stakeholders as they develop mitigation and resilience building actions.

The process for the production of this Policy was participatory, involving various stakeholders from institutions and sectors, including the public, private, and local communities at the county level. These consultative meetings provided the basis for the formulation of the Meru Climate Change Policy. This policy will provide harmony in the prioritization and implementation of environmental and climate change interventions at the County level for sustainable development as envisaged in Vision 2030, Meru County Vision 2040 and the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The participatory approach adopted in the policy development process enhanced environmental awareness among various stakeholders including the legal fraternity, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, institutions of learning and community based organisations (CBOs), therefore underpinning their relevance in sustainable development.

I look forward to all institutions (public and private), civil society and the public to be engaged in the implementation of this policy in order to achieve sustainable development in the county.



H.E. KIRAITU MURUNGI
GOVERNOR - MERU COUNTY

"Towards a low carbon resilient economy"

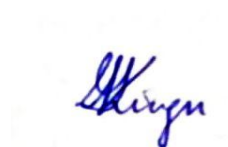
PREFACE

Meru Climate Change Policy is a tool that aims at integrating environmental concerns into development planning. The policy addresses environmental issues on climate change from various sectors in an integrated manner at the county level and their significance in developing planning. It policy directions for achieving sustainable development in line with Kenya's quest to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Vision 2030, Meru county visio 2040 and the Medium Term Plan (MTP). The report has identified actions to be taken by government agencies, civil society and individuals and more for incorporation into sectoral development plans and programs. Its implementation will be monitored through the Annual State of the Environment (SoE) Reporting.

This report will provide harmony in the prioritization and implementation of environmental interventions at the County level for sustainable development as envisaged in Vision 2030, Vison 2040 and the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Climate change mitigation action Planning is a multi-sectoral process that calls for a participatory approach in its preparation and implementation. Many institutions and individuals have contributed to the completion of this Policy.

The participatory approach adopted in the policy development process enhanced environmental awareness among various stakeholders including the legal fraternity, Ministry of Interior and co-ordination of National Government, institutions of learning and community based organizations (CBOs), therefore underpinning their relevance in sustainable development.

I look forward to all institutions (public and private), civil society and the general public to be engaged in the implementation of this policy in order to achieve sustainable development in the county.



PROF. KARWITHA KIUGU.

CECM –DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The process of preparing this, Meru County Climate Change Policy benefited from the support of many partners. Valuable inputs were received from among others Nature Kenya, Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and the County Government of Meru predominantly Department of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate change that steered the development of the Policy.

The County Climate Change Unit Secretariat has ensured that this Policy is produced in the most cost-effective manner. They worked diligently to ensure that the Policy underscores all pertinent environmental matters within the County comprehensively. The information and data provided by the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Department of Water and irrigation, Department of Physical Planning, Department of Public Health, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Water Resources Authority, civil societies among other stakeholders and lead agencies formed the basis of this policy and the participation of the various representatives is highly appreciated.

I acknowledge the efforts made by all persons who contributed directly or indirectly to the preparation of this Policy. In particular, I pay special tribute to the Meru County Department of Environment, Natural Resources and climate change for ensuring policy direction throughout the process, hence enriching the report and making quite relevant to the county's development agenda. We look forward for the policy to contribute in integrating environmental issues in the county's sustainable development and guide appropriately the process of development planning. I urge the policy makers, all institutions, experts and individuals from various sectors to make good use of this very fundamental document.



KINOTI MWEBIA

CHIEF OFFICER E, NR & CC

1.0 Preamble

Meru County economy just like the rest of the country is highly dependent on the natural resource base, and thus is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change. Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns, resulting in increased frequency and intensity droughts and flooding, threaten the sustainability of the County's development and livelihoods. In response to this realization, this Meru Climate Change Policy has been developed to guide the overall response priorities to climate variability and change.

The County is bound by the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 which has set out a legal commitment to attain ecologically sustainable development and all the international and regional protocols on climate change. This policy provides a firm basis to address the challenge of climate change while striving to attain the development goals set out in Kenya Vision 2030 and Meru Vision 2040. The County has further established a Directorate of Environment and Climate Change in accordance with the National Climate Change Act, 2016 to provide overall guidance to climate change responsive development in the County.

The primary focus of this Policy is on the nexus between sustainable County development and climate change. Climate change adversely impacts key sectors that are important to the economy and society: Environment, Water and Forestry; Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Trade; Extractive industries; Energy; Physical Infrastructure; Tourism; and Health. This Policy therefore elaborates options that can help to achieve the goal of low carbon climate resilient development in the County as a contribution to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

2.0 Evidence of Climate Change in Meru County

Meru County climate just like the general climate of Kenya, has over time been experiencing changes in frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration and timing of extreme weather and climate events. In recent past, evidence of higher frequency and intensity of droughts and floods has been noted in Meru causing immense suffering for some of the county residents.

The country's drought cycles have been reduced from 20 years (1964-1984), to 12 years (1984-1996), to two years (2004-2006), to a yearly occurrence of drought recorded in the period between 2007 and 2012 (Republic of Kenya, 2016). In Meru, all the wards in and bordering the Northern grazing zone (Buuri, Tigania East and West, Igembe North and Central) and the Eastern side of Imenti South and Central (Kiagu, Mitunguu, Abogeta East and Igoji East) have frequently been hit by extreme droughts.

In 2019, almost all permanent rivers in Meru County experienced extremely reduced water levels and/or dried up. This caused insurmountable losses to the county residents and resulted to intra and inter-county conflicts over the needed resource. In a response to the County Government of Meru held a Water Dialogue forum themed *"towards practical solutions to environmental and water crises"* in October 2019. Some strategies proposed from the forum shall be used in crafting policy options in this policy.

3.0 Rationale for this Policy

This Policy has been developed to facilitate a coordinated, coherent and effective response to the County, national and global challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. A mainstreaming approach

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has been adopted to ensure the integration of climate change considerations into development planning, budgeting and implementation in all sectors of the County Government. This Policy therefore aims to enhance adaptive capacity and build resilience to climate variability and change, while promoting a low carbon development pathway in the County.

4.0 Authority

This policy derives its authority from the Constitution of Kenya 2010 (Articles 69 and 70) which sets out a commitment to attain ecologically sustainable development. It further derives its authority from the National Climate Change Act, 2016, the regional and International Agreements and Protocols on climate change.

Please note that wherever there might be conflict between this Policy and any established Law(s), the latter prevails.

5.0 Key challenge areas

a) The Climate Change Governance Approach

The response to climate change in Meru County must adhere to the integrated approach to sustainable development. It must address the goal of attaining low carbon climate resilient development by focusing on appropriate mechanisms to enhance climate resilience and adaptive capacity of the residents and the transition to low carbon development. All sectors of the County government should plan and implement development through the lens of climate protection.

b) Climate Resilience and Adaptive Capacity

Key economic sectors in Meru County are susceptible to climate change impacts and this poses a threat to the huge development investment coming with devolution. It is imperative that the county must build and enhances its climate resilience and adaptive capacity to safeguard the gains so far made in development. A climate-resilient and adaptive County means an exhibited capability of the county government and residents to cope and return to normalcy in the face of climate change.

This adaptive capacity includes adjustments in community behaviour, investments and new technologies in confronting climate change related risks and disasters. The sustainable development of Meru County significantly depends on the design and implementation of programmes that trigger and enhance climate change resilience and adaptive capacity in all the devolved functions.

c) Low Carbon Growth

Although Meru County is among counties that have exceeded the national tree-cover target (currently at 18%), the robust and transformational development envisaged in her Meru Vision 2040 shall involve development of industries, agriculture and infrastructural projects that shall have effects on the environment. The County Government shall take steps to ensure outlined in this policy that shall ensure green-economy development and in turn contribute to the low carbon development meant to combat climate change.

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d) Mainstreaming Climate Change into the Planning

The County Government of Meru places a premium on integrated planning and implementation of development programmes. This is further underpinned by the County Government Act, 2012 which demands coherence in county planning and development. The County shall ensure mainstreaming of climate change issues in the County Integrated Development Plan, Annual Development Plans and Sectoral plans.

To attain climate change mainstreaming, the government shall make investment from the County development budget to climate-proof all development projects. This shall be complemented by continuous capacity building of the County Departments on climate resilient development. The Directorate of Environment and Climate Change shall provide technical support to ensure other Departments plan and implement climate resilient and adaptive development projects.

e) Enabling Regulatory Framework

Meru County shall in accordance with the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the National Climate Change Act, 2016, the National Climate Change Action Plan, 2018-2022 and regional and international Agreements and Protocols enact a legal and regulatory framework to spearhead climate change initiatives in the county. The Department of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change shall continuously provide technical advice and policy directions to mitigate emerging issues in the sector.

6.0 Overarching Policy Statement

Recognizing, the critical purpose for environmental protection and the vulnerability of the key sectors of the county's economy to the effects of climate change. Further recognizing that, Meru County has a responsibility and contribution to ensure the achievements of the NDCs (UNFCCC, 2015). Pursuant to the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the County Government Act, 2012, the National Climate Change Act, 2016, the regional and international Agreements and Protocols on climate change, this policy provides direction and guidelines for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Meru County.

7.0 Scope of application

This policy shall apply to:

- a) All County Government Departments on matters mainstreaming climate change concerns in design and implementation of development programmes
- b) All county residents on matters infrastructural development, protection of fragile ecosystems and general environmental conservation
- c) All National Government Departments in the design and implementation of national development programmes in Meru County.
- d) All development partners in the design and implementation of national development programmes in Meru County.

8.0 Policy Goal, Objectives and guiding principles

a) Policy Goal

The goal of this Policy is to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change, and promote low carbon development for the sustainable development of Meru County.

b) Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- i. Establish and maintain an effective and efficient institutional framework to mainstream climate change responses across relevant sectors and into integrated planning, budgeting, decision-making and implementation in the county.
- ii. Reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity, enhancing climate change resilience and strengthening capacities for disaster risk reduction.
- iii. Spur Meru County transition to cleaner, lower emission and less carbon intensive development in accordance with Meru Vision 2040.
- iv. Encourage private sector involvement and investment in building climate change resilience and engaging in low carbon development opportunities in the county.
- v. Promote countywide public awareness, participation, ownership and oversight of Meru County's climate change response efforts and action plans.
- vi. Provide a mechanism to mobilize resources for Meru County's climate change response and ensure effective and transparent utilization of the resources.
- vii. Adopt intergenerational, special needs and gender mainstreaming approaches across all aspects of County's climate change response.
- viii. Provide the policy framework to facilitate effective implementation of regularly updated and scientifically informed Climate Change Action Plans.
- ix. Enhance research and use of science and technology in policy decisions and sustainable management of resources.

c) Guiding Principles

The implementation of this Policy will be guided by the following principles:

- (i) ***Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities:*** under the UNFCCC (UNFCCC, 1994) Kenya has a common but differentiated obligation in the global effort to address climate change because of its negligible historical responsibility for causing global climate change, and its limited capability to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts in light of its stage of development. On the same breadth, Meru County is an integral component of Kenya its development shall have an implication on the overall country emission. Against this backdrop, Meru County shall cause low carbon resilient development.
- (ii) ***Right to a clean and healthy environment:*** under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment and a duty to safeguard and enhance the environment.

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- (iii) **Right to sustainable development:** the right to development will be respected taking into account economic, social and environmental needs. Meru County under Vision 2040 seeks to achieve people-centred development that builds human capabilities, improves people's well being and enhances quality of life.
- (iv) **Partnership:** building partnerships, collaboration and synergies among various stakeholders from the public, government, non-governmental organisations, civil society and private sector, as well as vulnerable communities and populations including women and youth, will be prioritized to achieve effective implementation of this Policy.
- (v) **Cooperative government:** embracing a system of consultation, negotiation and consensus building in government administration between and within the County and National governments as encapsulated in the Constitution.
- (vi) **Equity and social inclusion:** ensuring a fair and equitable allocation of effort and cost, as well as ploughing back of benefits in the context of the need to address disproportionate vulnerabilities, responsibilities, capabilities, disparities, and inter- and intra-generational equity.
- (vii) **Special needs and circumstances:** the special needs and circumstances of people and geographic areas that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change will be prioritized. This includes, but is not limited to, vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disability.
- (viii) **Avoiding maladaptation:** the climate change response will be conducted in such a way so as to avoid maladaptation, defined by the UNFCCC as any changes in natural or human systems that inadvertently increase vulnerability to climatic stimuli.
- (ix) **Integrity and transparency:** the mobilisation and utilisation of financial resources shall be undertaken with integrity and transparency in order to eliminate corruption and achieve optimal results in climate change responses.
- (x) **Cost effectiveness:** the selection of climate change interventions will take into account available alternatives in order to identify appropriate choices that provide most benefit to society at least cost.

9.0 Key Policy Priority Areas

- i. Towards Low carbon resilient development
- ii. Mainstreaming Climate Change
- iii. Climate Change Governance
- iv. Public Awareness and Civic Education
- v. Research and Technology
- vi. Knowledge Management and Access to Information

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10.0 Towards Low carbon resilient development

10.1 Enhancing mitigation capacity

Meru County is a low contributor to greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions as compared to the counties and country at large due to low industrialization. It has 18% forest cover and striving to attain 30% by the year 2040. However, with devolution and in view of Meru Vision 2040, the County anticipates rapid development that responds to the rising economic demands of the residents and also the aspirations of Kenya Vision 2030.

It is envisaged that Meru shall be an economic hub being at the centre of the LAPSET project with huge industrial investment in cottage and agricultural value addition industries. These shall demand high energy investment at production and transportation. In turn they shall increase the GHGs emission from the county. The backbone of the Meru county economy is agriculture and livestock production. It is a fact that livestock are the major emitters of GHGs especially methane gas from animal dung. With envisaged expansion of the dairy sector in the county, the emissions from this sector are likely to increase

Policy Statements

In view of the above scenario, the County Government of Meru shall;

1. Mainstream low carbon resilient development in county policies and plans and develop and enact laws and policies that protects and conserves the environment.
2. Promote and encourage effective partnerships in production and utilization of green energy options in the county as well as mitigation and building resilience to climate change and related disasters.
3. Promote and invest in farm forestry (bamboo, avocado, macadamia, miraa), community forestry, urban forestry, conservation of fragile ecosystems and afforestation to enhance sequestration and increase the carbon sink
4. Promote dry land forestry for all the arid areas of the county and regulate forest products utilization.
5. Promote the creation of green jobs by establishing an enabling policy framework for investment, and creating business friendly regulatory environments in key areas such as renewable energy, efficient transport, clean manufacturing and sustainable agriculture.
6. Promote circular economy and climate-friendly solid and liquid waste management.

10.2 Enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity

In the recent past, Meru County has witnessed increased frequency and the magnitude of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. In most cases, these have caused insurmountable sufferings to residents by disrupting livelihoods and at times loss of lives. The prevalence of

poverty and pockets of marginal areas aggravates the suffering. The resilience and adaptive capacity of the residents should be enhanced as a preparedness mechanism to such incidences.

Resilience and adaptive capacity of the residents refers to the ability of the residents to be able to cope with disruption caused by climate disasters. It means the residents have the skills, knowledge and tools to be able to return to the normal function in the face of such disasters.

Policy Statements

The County Government of Meru shall;

1. Mainstream climate resilience into county government development plans, processes and implementation.
2. Ensure climate risk and vulnerability assessment and climate-proofing of all development projects in all the Departments of the county
3. Put in place mechanisms for sustainable utilization of natural resources to enhance climate resilience and adaptive capacity to protect the natural capital of the Meru.
4. Develop incentives to promote climate resilient actions among public, private and other actors.
5. Identify and implement priority adaptation actions across key social, environmental and economic sectors under the framework of a County Adaptation Plan.
6. Promote public and stakeholder consultation and participation, including with vulnerable groups, to enhance adaptive capacity and climate resilience.
7. Develop mechanisms to build capacity to mainstream climate change into disaster risk reduction and management programmes.
8. Establish a robust county climate change information centre with appropriate information dissemination mechanisms.

11.0 Mainstreaming Climate Change

Climate change affects almost all fundamental sectors of the County Government of Meru. To mitigate and build resilience and adaptive capacity for climate change in the county therefore requires a multi-sectoral and integrated approach. This will ensure that climate change considerations and policy responses are integrated in all county development projects.

Policy Statements

The County Government of Meru shall;

1. Mainstream climate change into county planning processes, including County Integrated Development Plans, Annual Development Plans, Performance Contracts, and the short to medium term budget making process.
2. Ensure that the county planning processes and documents account for climate risk analyses and vulnerability assessments, and identify opportunities to build climate resilience and achieve low carbon development.

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3. Establish the institutional framework and build capacity to coordinate and enhance climate change mainstreaming.

12.0 Climate Change Governance

12.1 Enabling legal and institutional framework

A robust and coherent regulatory framework is critical to the implementation of an integrated climate change responsive development in the county. This is particularly so because of the cross-sectoral nature of climate change. Meru County aspires to realize sustainable development as envisioned in the Constitution, Vision 2030 and the Meru Vision 2040. This development shall be realized through the performance of the various sectors of the County Government of Meru.

To ensure effective coordination and implementation of climate change responsive policy actions by different sectors in the county, there is need to have an integrated legal and institutional framework that shall guide and steer actions.

Policy Statements

The County Government of Meru shall;

1. Enact an overarching county climate change legislation to provide the framework for coordinated implementation of climate change responses and action plans.
2. Establish a County level climate change committee comprising of the County Executive Committee Members to coordinate the mainstreaming of climate change into the county development processes.
3. Put in place a technical institutional framework to guide policy and functional implementation of climate change legal obligations of the national and county governments.
4. Put in place and regularly review subsidiary legislation as may be necessary to support implementation of various interventions through the county climate change legislation.
5. Regularly review and amend relevant sectoral laws and policies in order to integrate climate change policy considerations and implement priority actions in respective sectors.
6. Put in place mechanisms for public consultation and participation in climate change governance in the county.
7. Strengthen coordination and capacity for liaison between the county and national government.

12.2 Climate Change financing

Mitigation and building of adaptive and resilience capacity for climate change risks and disasters, demands adequate and predictable financial outlays. In view of competing priorities, financial resources allocated through the annual recurrent and development budget for counties are

diminishing. This poses a major challenge in securing finances to address climate change issues in the county albeit their increasing frequency and magnitude.

However, due to the critical nature of the dangers and risks posed by climate change, the county must make deliberate steps to mobilize resources from her budget, the national government, international partners, civil society, communities and individuals with an interest in matters climate change.

Policy statements

To realize adequate financial resources for matters climate change, the county government shall:

1. Adopt a climate finance strategy and establish an appropriate funding mechanism that enables implementation of priority actions for climate resilience and adaptive capacity and low carbon growth.
2. Explore possible avenues to attract internal and external climate finance from national government and international partners.
3. Adopt and implement sector specific transparency, accountability and integrity mechanisms to safeguard prudent management of climate finance.
4. Promote Public-Private Partnerships in the climate change response.
5. Put in place a framework for coordination and monitoring and tracking sources, application and impacts of climate finance.

12.2 Enhancing Gender and Social inclusion in Climate Change Action

Women in Meru still face discrimination due to entrenched patriarchy. Most women in Meru can only access land indirectly on the strength of their marriage yet virtually all livelihoods have their basis on land. Customary institutions still make key decisions regarding rangeland management, such as formulating and enforcing customary rules relating to access to and utilization of rangeland resources, planning of grazing patterns and resolving disputes arising therefrom. Yet customary leadership is hereditary and dominated by old men to the exclusion of women and youth.

Given gender disparities in social and economic roles mean that women and men experience the effects of climate change differently. Women suffer more because of vulnerability arising from the gender division of labor and allocation of power at the household, work, and other levels. Climate change exacerbates these inequalities, and it is, therefore, necessary to understand the risks and impacts of climate change on women and men. This disaggregation should be applied not just across genders but also amongst the members of each gender, as the factors that exacerbate vulnerability to climate change vary.

The youth represent a crossover between the present and future generations, and therefore play a critical role in socio-economic development, including addressing climate change. It is necessary to

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carve out specific roles and opportunities for youth participation in decision-making in climate change governance and to pursue opportunities that arise through climate change response by the county.

Meru County shall adapt a gender and youth mainstreaming to climate change adaptation. This will involve assessing the implication any planned climate change action on women and youth including legislation, policies or programmes to achieve equality.

The County Government shall:

1. Ensure that its climate change response is equally beneficial to women, youth, persons living with disability, and men while enhancing gender equality.
2. Undertake systematic vulnerability analysis of its climate change response, through the collection and utilization of gender-disaggregated data, age-vulnerability data and special needs data to develop responsive actions.
3. Ensure that marginalization and vulnerability arising from age and gender disparities as well as disabilities are addressed at all stages of climate change response.
4. Put in place mechanism to ensure and enhance the participation of the youth, women and differently-abled persons in climate change governance and position them to take advantage of emerging opportunities.
5. Ensure that marginalization and vulnerability arising from gender disparities are addressed at all stages of climate change response.
6. Adopt a gender mainstreaming approach at all stages of the climate change policy cycle from research to analysis, to the design and implementation of actions.
7. Put in place mechanisms to ensure and enhance the participation of the youth in climate change governance and position them to take advantage of opportunities.
8. Undertake a systemic analysis of the various special needs and ensure that planning and climate change responses mainstream participation and protection to persons with special needs.
9. In collaboration with other stakeholders, enhance gender equality in land ownership, decision making, planning and management of rangeland resources.
10. In concert with relevant stakeholders and to avoid any backlash from the custodians of culture (predominantly senior male members of the society), progressively deal with retrogressive and harmful cultural practices that perpetuate gender discrimination, in line with the provisions of the Constitution and other enabling statutes.

13.0 Public Awareness and Civic Education

The importance of education and awareness on development in general and sustainable development, in particular, cannot be overstated – it equips an individual with the knowledge and skills for their personal growth and development and that of the society at large, in light of existing and emerging sustainable development challenges.

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Increasing public awareness on climate change impacts and interventions can help to facilitate the role of the public as a positive agent in climate change response. Climate change interventions, such as building resilience or enhancing adaptive capacity are closely related to how people understand the impacts of climate change. Indeed, these interventions can support the transition of people from victims of climate change, to positive agents working against climate change.

The County government shall;

1. Put in place a strategy for identifying, refining and disseminating climate change knowledge to the public in user-friendly formats.
2. Collaboratively work with the national government to mainstream climate change in basic, secondary and tertiary level education curricula.
3. Incorporate climate change knowledge into all public awareness initiatives including civic education, peace building and extension programs.
4. In collaboration with the County Directorate of Civic Education, work with civil society groups to incorporating climate change knowledge into advocacy and public awareness-raising programs.
5. Strengthen the capacity and ensure sufficient resourcing of institutions engaged in climate change public awareness.
6. Establish climate change desks at the county, sub-county, ward and village levels while also ensuring linkages with the county's complaints and feedback mechanisms including a platform for the same.

14.0 Research, Knowledge management and Access to information

Research, knowledge management and access to information is critical to any dynamic phenomenon like climate change. A lot of innovations and technological interventions are constantly being developed for mitigation and adaptation in respect to climate change events. There is a need to keep updated databases for various aspects of climate change to inform decisions and actions.

In this respect, the County Government shall;

1. Encourage stakeholder engagement in research and innovations that respond to mitigation, adaptation and resilience building on matters climate change.
2. Develop a robust county environment and climate change documentation centre with capacity and tools for all stakeholders.
3. Develop a comprehensive communication strategy that takes into account both internal and external stakeholders
4. Facilitate stakeholder fora to share emerging trends, lessons learnt and innovations in the field of climate change

15.0 Policy review

This policy shall be reviewed from time to time as need arises to make it responsive to new realities, policy shifts and technologies in climate change action.

Annex

Terminology in Climate Change discourse (Adapted from the Sessional Paper No. 5 of 2016 on National Climate Change Framework Policy)

Adaptation - Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

Adaptive Capacity - The ability or potential of a system to respond successfully to climate variability and change, and includes adjustments in both behaviour and in resources and technologies.

Capacity building - In the context of climate change, the process of developing the technical skills and institutional capability in developing countries to enable them to address effectively the causes and results of climate change.

Carbon market - A trading system through which countries or other entities may buy or sell units of greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to meet their national limits on emissions, either under the Kyoto Protocol or under other agreements, such as that among member states of the European Union. The term comes from the fact that carbon dioxide is the predominant greenhouse gas, and other gases are measured in units called "carbon dioxide equivalents."

Carbon sequestration - The process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and depositing it in a reservoir or "sink", such as soil or trees

Climate - The average pattern for weather conditions occurs over a long time period. Weather refers to the atmospheric conditions at a specific place at a specific point in time. Climate has always varied because of natural causes. Increasingly, however, human increases in GHG emissions causing changes in climate as well.

Climate Change - Changes in global or regional climate patterns, including changes in temperature, wind patterns and rainfall. In particular, climate change refers to a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to human activities that increase levels of GHG emissions, especially atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels. Climate change is sometimes referred to as global warming, which specifically refers to the long-term trend of a rising average global temperature.

Climate Finance - Local, national or international financing that may be drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing, and is critical to addressing climate change because large-scale investments are required for adaptation and mitigation.

Climate Resilience - Closely linked to adaptation, building climate resilience includes reducing vulnerability to climate change, making sure that the impacts of climate change are avoided or cushioned, and enabling people to respond to climate risks.

Conference of the Parties - The supreme governing body of the UNFCCC, which meets once a year to review the Convention's progress. The word "conference" is not used here in the sense of "meeting", but rather of "association".

Deforestation - The long-term or permanent loss of forest cover. The term implies transformation of forest into another land use, which is caused and maintained by a continued human-induced or natural perturbation.

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Greenhouse gases - The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Less prevalent -- but very powerful -- greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - Established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Programme, the IPCC surveys worldwide scientific and technical literature and publishes assessment reports that are widely recognized as the most credible existing sources of information on climate change. The IPCC also works on methodologies and responds to specific requests from the UNFCCC's subsidiary bodies. The IPCC is independent of the UNFCCC.

Kyoto Protocol - An international agreement standing on its own, and requiring separate ratification by governments, but linked to the UNFCCC. The Kyoto Protocol, among other things, sets binding targets for the reduction of GHG emissions by industrialized countries.

Low Carbon Development Pathway - A national development plan or strategy that encompasses low-emission economic growth. Transitioning to this pathway means taking actions, where possible, to encourage GHG emissions that are lower than business-as-usual practice; and reducing the human causes of emissions by moving toward a resource efficient economy that is as low-carbon as possible and enhancing carbon sinks.

Mitigation - In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching to solar energy or wind power, improving the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other "sinks" to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Measurement, Reporting and Verification Plus (MRV+) - An integrated framework proposed for Kenya to measure, monitor, verify and report results and impacts of mitigation, adaptation and climate finance actions, and the synergies between them.

National Adaptation Plan - A document prepared by developing countries that identifies urgent and immediate needs for adapting to climate change.

National Climate Change Action Plans - National plans of action, prepared at five-year intervals, that set out in detail the requirements and costs for the design and implementation of the various climate change interventions required for Kenya to attain low carbon climate resilient development.

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) - Public-Private Partnerships are an association between government and private sector through which private financing is utilized to perform a public function, at a profit to the private sector.

REDD+ - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. REDD+ is a mechanism under the UNFCCC designed to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands.

Sustainable development - Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Technology Transfer - A broad set of processes covering the flows of know-how, experience and equipment for mitigating and adapting to climate change among different stakeholders.

United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - An international treaty signed by 195 countries that entered into force in 1994. The objective of the Convention is "...stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate systems..."

Vulnerability - The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity.

Critical Reference Materials

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