

**THE FOREST WE WANT:
A ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
OF EKITI FORESTS
2021 - 2035.**



EKITI - STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION

In Collaboration with
NEW INITIATIVES FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (NISD)

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Contents

Message from the Hon. Commissioner for Environment

Executive Summary

- 1.0 Mission, Vision, Strategy, Guiding Principles
- 2.0 Introduction
- 3.0 The forest base; its importance to Ekiti people and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - 3.1 Trends in management of Ekiti forests
 - 3.2 Challenges in the Ekiti forests
 - 3.3 Opportunities for enhanced value-added actions on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- 4.0 Ekiti Forest Goals and Targets

Forest Goal 1. Reclaim the loss of forest reserve estates, Mapping and Assessment of forest stock and reverse the loss of forest cover/stock

Forest Goal 2. Promote sustainable forest governance and trade

Forest Goal 3. Conduct research to increase the understanding of and tools for sustainable forest management application

Forest Goal 4. Enhance forest based economic and social benefits including small and medium wood and non-wood value chain enterprises

Forest Goal 5. Increase significantly, the areas of protected forests across the State

Forest Goal 6. Mobilise significantly, new and additional resources for implementation of sustainable forest management

Forest Goal 7. Monitor, Assess and Report progress

Forest Goal 8. Communicate Results

5.0 Implementation Framework

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

5.2 Means of Implementation of the Roadmap

6.0 Review of the Roadmap

7.0 Communication Strategy

8.0 Appendices

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

I became the Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources in September 2020. Under the Ministry, I also manage four Agencies i.e., State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Ekiti State Waste Management Authority, Mineral Resources Agency and the Forestry Commission but out of these Departments and Agencies, Forestry seems to be peculiar in the small time I have spent as a commissioner.

I met ten forest reserves e.g., Ogbese, Ise Eporo, Little Ose, Ikere, Ogotun, Egbe, Aramoko, Eda I&II, and Ishan/Ayede which have been depleted as a result of long years of exploitation without sustainable replenishment or replanting plan. From my interaction with staff of the commission, nearly all mother trees have been felled thereby leading to the situation of buying seeds from Cross- River State. This is pathetic as other factors leading to the depletion of forest resources include; high number of unemployed Youth venturing into timber business for survival. The forest reserves have no work plan, boundaries of each reserve are not cleaned, coppices of felled exotic species are not pruned, and sometimes when Plantations are raised, they are not maintained. Most importantly, the revenue expected from the sector is dwindling yearly due to sharp practices on the part of the timber traders and staff as well.

I express my unreserved appreciation to the Governor of Ekiti State, His Excellency Dr John Kayode Fayemi for his visionary leadership and passion for forestry development and Ekiti environment in general. The new forestry law (2016), has established and empowered the Forestry Commission to **“formulate policies and evolve strategies for the promotion and effective implementation of sustainable forestry development and conservation of Ekiti forests”**. The above provided the platform for the development of this roadmap; to create awareness of the critical importance of forests to sustaining life forms and mobilize stakeholders for the **means of** implementation of sustainable management of Ekiti Forests.

To further demonstrate the administration’s commitment to the restoration of Ekiti forest, government has recently facilitated the gazette and signing of memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Niger-Delta Conservation Project for the conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee in Ise Forest Reserve. The Governor also ensured that part of the fund from the Ekiti State Erosion and

Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) was used to reforest about 190 hectares of mixed indigenous and exotic species of forest reserves in nine Local Government Areas of the State and the encouragement of private participation in forest regeneration among others. **As Government and a Major Stakeholder, we cannot do this roadmap alone. I do solicit for the support of all Stakeholders at all levels for the means of implementation of this Road map** to sustainable management of our common heritage- our forest; when supported, Ekiti will demonstrate best practices to other States in Nigeria on how our forests can be beneficial to humanity.

My sincere appreciation goes to the Senior Special Assistant on Civil Society for the role he has played in ensuring **New Initiative for Social Development (NISD)** assisted the Ministry in seeking funds from **Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) USA**, for the roadmap so that we can see the **“Forests We Want”** in Ekiti State in the next 15 years. I also appreciate the Permanent Secretary, SSA (Environment), Executive Secretary and his team, Saw-millers and Timber Trades Associations, Women groups, Youth organizations, our Traditional and Religious bodies for their efforts and contributions to this document.

Thanks, and God bless.

HON. IYABODE FAKUNLE OKHIEMEN
Commissioner for Environment & Natural Resources

FOREWORD

This Roadmap report 'The Ekiti Forest We Want' represents the outcome of a focussed, detailed and highly analytical research with all key Stakeholders in Ekiti State. We at Ekiti State Forestry Commission were pleased to collaborate closely with NISD in the public consultations which led up to its preparation, and to work together to give them a high public profile.

The Roadmap has identified the central pillars which can inform a long-term strategy to bring our forest resources back to their rightful central place as a vector of environmental, economic and human development. It embraces an approach which sees climate change mitigation, environmental services, sustainable exploitation and livelihoods as mutually compatible goals.

It is really important and pleasing that the Roadmap also embeds our shared thinking that government can only succeed in doing this through partnership working with the private sectors, communities, non-governmental organisations and the wider public including our women and youth. Equally, it will play a part in sustaining policy against which we can measure our own performance over the long term, which is essential for success.

We gratefully thank NISD and EIA (USA) for their support in recognising that under this administration, Ekiti has the progressive credentials to make us a worthy partner in changing the way forest management is done, and to help us create what others can emulate.

HON. 'KAYODEOLA OSEBIKAN

Chairman, Ekiti State Forestry Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Road map for the “Ekiti forest we want-2035” provides a framework for deliberate actions at the ownership (public/private), community associations, community leadership, non-governmental associations, the consumers and donor levels; to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests by halting deforestation and forest degradation, ensuring more transparent forest governance and injecting a huge investment funds for forest restoration. The roadmap provides the Forestry Commission the needed direction, a reference for advocacy and resource mobilisation for the implementation of sustainable forest management. It provides an ambitious vision for the development of the forest resources of Ekiti - State by 2035.

1.0 Special features:

- a) The roadmap features a set of eight (8) forest goals and thirty-eight (38) associated (quantitative/ qualitative) targets to be reached by 2035;
- b) It includes among others, a target to reverse the loss of production forest stock targeting **4,000-5,000 hectares forest restoration per year through** enrichment planting/artificial regeneration with greater inclusion of indigenous (native) tree species, development of management plans for at least five (5) of the forest reserves and the development of seed banks for indigenous tree species in all the forest estates;
- c) **A decisive action** to reduce by 50%, the pressure on the already degraded forests for unsustainable revenue including **-show your forest farm before hammering licence.**
- d) **An urgent need** to implement internal control mechanisms to drastically reduce systemic corruption, enhance transparency and good forest governance;
- e) **Builds** on the Ekiti development agenda with a vision “to reclaim, to restore” and that real change requires decisive, collective actions of all Stakeholders and
- f) **Recognise;**
 - i) The larger responsibility and the required political will of the Ekiti-State government (major owner of productive forests) to implement the roadmap,
 - ii) The needed manpower and support facilities for the Forestry Commission and

- iii) The much-needed collaboration of all relevant Stakeholders and Donor Partners for mobilising resources towards effective implementation of the roadmap.

1.1. Vision, Mission, Strategy, Guiding Principles.

1.1.1 **Vision:** An Ekiti, where forest estates and trees outside forests are sustainably managed to contribute to the economy, providing economic, social and environmental benefits to the present and future generations.

1.1.2 **Mission:** To reclaim, restore and sustainably use our forests by promoting Sustainable Forest Management including strengthening commitments and actions by major forest owners, partners and consumers.

1.1.3 **Strategy:** The programs, policies and activities of the Ekiti State Forestry Commission must **effectively** incorporate Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices as the strategy for this roadmap.

1.4. Guiding Principles. Achieving the vision will require:

- a) **Leadership:** Ekiti State Government (major forest owner) through the Forestry Commission must provide the leadership, financial investment, knowledge and assistance for the uptake of sustainable forest management practices among all practitioners for the benefit of the State.
- b) **Partnership:** Government must bring together other public agencies (Agriculture, Land and Housing etc.) related to forest activities, forest related associations, the forest dependent communities, farmers and private tree growers, **to capitalize on the strength of all** for SFM to evolve in practice.
- c) **Engagement:** Continually seeking the involvement, inputs, actions and feedbacks of forest owners (public and private), Farmers, forest dependent communities, Saw millers, Tree growers, wood vendors (contractors) and donor Partners and
- d) **Enrichment:** The roadmap if effectively implemented, should also contribute to or complement the resilience of other land users within the context of the Ekiti Development Agenda.

To attain the goals and targets in the roadmap; Ekiti State Government through the Forestry Commission must effectively incorporate SFM into its programs, policies and activities and:

- a) Issue policy statement to **ban Timber exploitation from all the Production Forest Reserves** through the restoration period;
- b) Create more awareness of the importance of forest to supporting human and other life forms;
- c) Mobilise investment funds (new and additional to the Trust fund) for massive natural/artificial regeneration of forest stock, restoration of forest health, forest inventory, development of management plans in accordance with science-based principle of **Sustained Yield and felling cycle and**
- d) Put in place **Steering Committee** to guide the implementation of the roadmap, including non-governmental organisations to track progress made.

2.0 INTRODUCTION:

The forests in Ekiti State like its counterparts in other parts of Nigeria have no defined management principles. There exist no clear management plans based on known scientific evidence. In practice, the forest corridor is rarely patrolled and when it happens, the operation is performed by ill-equipped guards; the “productive forest units” are allocated for timber exploitation based on shadow/ocular survey or inventory while regeneration and silvicultural activities are **mostly unplanned to succeed**. The impact has manifested in over-exploitation, deforestation, forest degradation and in most cases **creaming of the natural renewable resource**.

Global responses to ensuring and safeguarding the survival of such renewable natural resources and recognising the rights of unborn generations to its benefits involve three key pillars- environmental, social and economic benefits. These responses are identified, developed and enveloped in a concept term “**Sustainable Forest Management**” (SFM) by some global forest bodies and processes over the last three decades.

These bodies and processes include:

- i. The International Timber Trade Organisation (ITTO) 1978
- ii. The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro organised by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

- iii. The Convention on Biological Diversity (2004) which recognised sustainable forest management as an ecosystem approach to forest conservation;
- iv. The International Arrangement on Forests and the Forest Instrument 2007;
- v. The United Nations Forest Instrument and the United Nations Strategic Plan on forests (2017-2030) with the set of criteria and indicators to track progress of the practices of sustainable forest management and
- vi. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)15 reflecting the strong global initiatives and commitment to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management, as a better management strategy for forests world- wide.

Two of these views are presented:

- a) According to the International Timber Trade Organisation, “SFM is the process of managing forests to achieve one or more clearly defined objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest products and services, without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment” (ITTO, 1978).
- b) The United Nations Forum on Forests (2007) and as adopted by the UN Strategic Plan on Forests (2017-2030) defines Sustainable Forest management (SFM) as “a dynamic and evolving concept which aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations”.

Ekiti State Forestry law, 2016 already key into this concept and interpreted Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) explicitly **“as the management of the forest resources in such a way that the forest cover is not degraded and reduced by human use and that it is increased where ecological reason so requires.”** This strategy if appropriately implemented, addresses all aspects of the forest complex. It is adaptable to varied ecological systems, deploying the elements (criteria) for tracking progress in sustainable forest management as contained in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) **Forest Instrument (FI)**.

These elements are:

- a) **Extent of forest resources**, expressing the desire to have adequate forest cover and stocking, ambition to reduce deforestation, restore and rehabilitate degraded landscapes;
- b) **Biological diversity**, concerning the protection of forest areas that are fragile and enhance productivity
- c) **Forest health and vitality**, aiming at reducing the risks and impact of unwanted disturbances (wildfires, pests, invasive species, illegal occupation and use such as herding in protected forests, hemp planting etc) that could affect the functions of the forests
- d) **Productive functions of forests**, ensuring sustainable harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products;
- e) **Protective functions of forests**, moderating the impacts of flood, erosion, wildfire, drought and supporting hydrological cycle;
- f) **Socio-economic functions**, covering the contributions of forest resources to employment, livelihoods, income, and other value chain gains through processing and marketing of forest products;
- g) **Legal, policy and institutional framework**, concerning arrangements necessary to support the above six themes, including participatory decision making, governance, law enforcement, monitoring and assessment of progress, fair and equitable sharing of forest resources, capacity building and communications.

3.0. THE FOREST BASE; ITS IMPORTANCE TO EKITI PEOPLE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Forests with their complex ecology including its renewability are essential to sustainable development, economy and maintenance of all forms of life; providing wood, food, and medicine and rich biodiversity. Forests and Trees outside forests covers 30% of the planet earth, accounting for the subsistence, livelihoods, employment and income of 25% of global population. The Forestry sector contributes about 0.23 per cent to the total Gross Domestic Product at 2010 basic price at National level in Nigeria (Fameso, 2017).

At the Ekiti- State level, revenue from forest has declined from 40% of internally generated revenue in 2002 to 0.37% in 2010 due in part to dwindling stocks, illegal exploitation by Flichers (wood cutters using hand held power saw machine), permit scam, deforestation and forest degradation (Owens,2012).

Ekiti has a landmass covering 580,600 hectares of high forest southwards and derived savannah to the north. About 29,625 hectares of this

landmass representing 5.1% constitute the forest reserves including some protected forests owned by government (appendix b2). The landmass refers to as “Free areas” (FA) consist of agroforestry land systems, private forest plantations and trees outside forests own by communities and individuals. The forest exploitation which is controlled by government through permit/ licence system has been largely an unsustainable harvesting, resulting in massive creaming of forest reserve and trees outside forests. This quest for revenue has led to a pattern, Owen (2012) described as “stealing from its own future”.

In terms of employment and livelihood support, the sector provided about 10-12,000 direct and indirect jobs and over 100,000 livelihoods to forest dependent communities mostly in the first decade (1996-2006) of the creation of the State and in particular the contributions of the 268 Sawmills value chain operations, (Owens 2012). Presently these socio-economic benefits have dwindled with over 42.9% of the Saw-mills closed /non-operational (Appendix b6). Much emphasis had been on exploitation for revenue generation to the neglect of other possible payments for environmental services derivable from conservation of unique forests. A study report put the value of some forest ecosystem services in Nigeria (excluding timber extraction) to be approximately N566,000/ha while the sustainable harvesting of timber is valued at N87,000/ha, meaning that the cumulative benefits of other services far outweigh the value received by sustainable timber extraction alone (Fameso, 2017).

This should be of interest to the Forestry Commission to raise the level of her protective forests. The status of the productive forest reserves also calls for massive regeneration over a period not less than 10years, as no sustainable harvesting is possible in almost all the production estates.

3.1. Trends in Ekiti Forests.

Despite the critical contributions of forests to the Ekiti economy in the past 20 years, the following trends have manifested of her forests:

- a) Dwindling forest stock, arising from massive deforestation and forest degradation with drivers within and outside the State in response to demand for wood, food, fuel, fibre and government policies.
- b) Forests exploited mainly for revenue generation and without proper forest management plans

- c) Little investment or reinvestment in forest regeneration and maintenance. Coppices of exploited and regenerated forest stands are left unmanaged with most second generation (rotation) forest having no economic value.
- d) Illegal and unsustainable logging practices including charcoal production, flitching (day and night) of wood in the forests that are both easily accessible and inaccessible thus negating the policy on flitching
- e) Poor forest governance and coordination. Forest surveillance monitoring and law enforcement are restricted to sawmills sites for lack of forest patrol vehicles, frightening insecurity of forest estates in Nigeria among others.
- f) Inadequate professional and technical manpower in quality and numbers (appendix 1)
- g) Major forest allocations based on political patronage as against procurement procedures
- h) No reliable data (if any) on extent of and stock of forest estates including the changes in the dynamics of the forests.
- i) Forestry sector working with little or no synergy with other relevant land users and agencies like agriculture, lands and housing, works, Justice etc.

3.2 Challenges.

Drawing from the above trend, the effective implementation of SFM is critically challenged by:

- a) The Political will and leadership of major forest owner- Ekiti State Government
- b) Inadequate financial resources from owners, donors and partners,
- c) Ineffective partnership with stakeholders at all levels
- d) Poor forest governance including transparency and stewardship
- e) Low-capacity development including special skills in sustainable forest management practices,
- f) Insecurity of the entire forest estates arising from illegal use and occupation by armed cattle herders and terror groups and
- g) Lack of reliable data on forest stock including its dynamics.

3.3. Opportunities:

The development of the roadmap for sustainable management of Ekiti State forests capitalises on the following opportunities:

- a) The report of a government driven research on Ekiti State Forest sector review and strategic analysis by Owen 2012. Part of the recommendations of the 2012 report already implemented was the review of the old forestry law which led to enactment of the Ekiti State Forestry Law 2016 and the launch of the Ekiti State Forestry Commission (2019). Section 6 sub-sections 2(a) of the new Forestry Law have empowered the Commission to **“formulate policies and evolve strategies for the promotion and effective implementation of sustainable forestry development and conservation of Ekiti forests”**. The above provides a legal basis for the roadmap and advocacy for the implementation of sustainable forest management in Ekiti Forests.

Other legal support for the road map includes:

- i) The land-use Act, (1978) which vested the control and management of all lands in each State of the Federation on the State Government
- ii) The Nigerian Constitution (1979) as amended, relating to the power of the Constituent State to make laws and regulate matters relating to their environment;

The other opportunities include:

- i. Increasing awareness of the Forestry Commission and Partners of the benefits of sustainable forest management to addressing the dwindling and unacceptable state of Ekiti forest estates and trees outside forests.
- ii. The need to improve the management of Ekiti forest resources and enhance its contributions to the implementation of the Ekiti development agenda 2018-2022 and the 2030 Sustainable development goals 13,15 and associated targets.
- iii. The need for improved means of implementation and resource mobilisation for policies, programmes and activities of the Forestry Commission including advocacy on the importance of the forests and trees outside forests to our well-being and sustainable development.

These opportunities among others are to be effectively harnessed to address the myriads of challenges facing the Ekiti forests and the new Commission through a carefully laid out pathway and making Ekiti forests responsive to deliver needed goods and services to the people without compromising the needs of future generation. These challenges are addressed through deliberate actions with specific goal and targets in order to achieve the Ekiti forest vision by 2035.

4.0. THE EKITI FOREST GOALS AND TARGETS:

These are social, economic and technological solutions and actions (pathways) to achieving the “Ekiti forests we want” by 2035. Each of these goals has desired outcome and targets that describe how the Forestry Commission will carry out the roadmap. Each target has strategies (SFM practices) that further specify how the goals and desired outcome will be attained.

Forest Goal 1. Reclaim the loss of Forest Reserve Estates; **Map and Assess Forest** stock and **reverse the loss of forest stocks to a level that restores ecosystem services for more than half of the deforested reserves** by 2035.

- 1.1 Delineate and re-establish boundaries of the Ten (10) forest reserves/estates, noting changes in land use over time within and outside the estates;
- 1.2 Undertake the mapping and inventory of the Ten (10) forest estates to identify the production and protective forests management units, their stocking and other ecosystem parameters for the forest estates.
- 1.3 Determine the annual allowable cut/sustainable harvesting regime for productive forest reserve or management unit based on yield.
- 1.4 Develop management plans for at least five (50%) of the inventoried forest reserves.
- 1.5 Encourage the adoption (uptake) of the targeted practices in 1.3 & 1.4 by 30% of owners of private forests and agroforestry landscapes.
- 1.6 Increase productive forest stock/cover by **about 4,000-5,000 hectares per year through** a combination of **afforestation** (involving a higher mix of native with exotic species on highly degraded sites), **reforestation** (by enrichment planting of desired indigenous tree species) **and natural regeneration** processes

including effective coppices management for regenerating forest stands.

- 1.7 Encourage through partnership and incentive drive sustainable community-based forest management practices (at least one in each forest reserve) to enhance participation in forest protection, conservation and agroforestry practices outside forest reserves.
- 1.8 Promote forest fire prevention, control and management on all forest types through improved forest surveillance, community involvement and critical project boundary cleaning operations.
- 1.9 Develop seed banks for indigenous tree species in each forest reserve; raise the status of such area to **special nature reserves** and collaborate with professional private forest tree seed collectors/processors to **achieve at least a yearly 5million seedling target over the plan period.**

Forest Goal 2. Promote sustainable forest governance and trade.

- 2.1 Reduce by **50%**, the pressure on the degraded production forests for unsustainable revenue target, **a 10year ban on timber harvesting** from government forests to allow for investment and restoration period.
- 2.2 Enhance transparency and stewardship in forest governance: overhaul processes and procedure that allow institutional/systemic corruption; address staff welfare, specialised training of staff, entrench better departmental operational responsibilities and reporting, block leakages of resources, provide working tools and equipment, and value orientation among government officials and forest dependent communities.
- 2.3 Review the existing practices for forest exploitation by deployment of **Tender procedure that ensures value for money** and technical procedure that support ecosystem replenishment such as “**show your forest farm to justify request for hammering permits**”.
- 2.4 Enhance the Ekiti State Forestry Commission’s capacity and skills needed for sustainable forest management practices.
- 2.5 Improve Stakeholders engagement and participation in decision making at all levels.
- 2.6 Enhance the enforcement of regulations and extant laws; through inter-agency collaboration (especially with the Ekiti State security

outfits, Community associations, vigilante groups) and promote **new** regulations for effective implementation of the roadmap.

- 2.7 Enhance collaboration with neighbouring States on transboundary forest matters.
- 2.8 Government and Donors to inject funds for forest mapping, forest restoration, capacity building and equipment for sustainable forest management application/ practices.

Forest Goal 3. Enhance Forest based economic and social benefits including small and medium wood and non-wood value chain enterprises.

- 3.1. Improve access of forest dependent communities to forest based benefits especially non-wood forest products in clearly defined areas.
- 3.2. Enhance the contribution of forests to food security in local communities through planting of native fruit trees on agroforestry landscapes.
- 3.3. Reduce illegal forest exploitation through improved timber tracking and product traceability.
- 3.4. Promote efficiency in tree utilisation across the forest value chain and industries through training and acquisition of modern conversion equipment by wood operators/ associations
- 3.5. Reduce timber flitching and wood waste in processing by 50% through advocacy and enforcement of extant laws and regulations
- 3.6. Tree planting should be made compulsory for all Timber Traders' Associations and a criterion among others to access future forest allocation and transactions on wood business with government.
- 3.7. Promote knowledge-based value addition in forestry enterprise including indigenous tree species seed collection/banking, seedling production and tree growing enterprises.

Forest Goal 4. Increase significantly, areas of protected forests across the State.

- 4.1. Identify special protective areas such as watershed, special wildlife and biodiversity sites, seed banks for indigenous tree species in

each forest reserve and raise the status of such area to special nature reserves with working /management plans with legislative backing.

- 4.2. Improve forest patrols and protection by 50% for all forest reserves in lieu of expected injection of investment funds and partnership with forest dependent communities.
- 4.3. Strengthen the operational capacities of Local Community Associations (LCAs), Opinion leaders, non-governmental organisations and Traditional rulers for participatory management; up-scaling and replication of protected areas such as Ise Chimpanzee conservation forest area and Otun Herbal Heritage Project.

Forest Goal 5. Conduct research to increase the understanding of and tools for Sustainable Forest Management application.

- 5.1. Collaborate with relevant Universities and forest Institutions to conduct operational work study and develop standard for nursery and regeneration operations to aid performance measurement for in- house operational activities.
- 5.2. Develop and validate (domesticated) indicators for monitoring and assessing progress of Sustainable Forest Management practices.
- 5.3. Enhance research on the roles of forest dependent communities in Sustainable Forest Management practices and collaborate with Forestry Institutions on their products relevance to Industry need/ requirements.
- 5.4. Enhance public-private partnership for research and innovations in forest management and benefit sharing.

Forest Goal 6. Mobilise significantly new and additional resources (outside annual budget provisions) for implementation of the roadmap.

- 6.1. Mobilise significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance the roadmap, including the approved and statutory 25% of forest revenue retention for forest management, Donor funds, Ecological funds, National Forest Trust Fund, Green Bonds (Ng), Global Climate Change Fund, etc

6.2. Improve public-private partnership for financing the roadmap.

Forest Goal 7. Monitor Assess and Report progress.

- 7.1. Develop baseline State standard indicators to measure/ assess the progress targets achieved.
- 7.2. Establish a reporting system that tracks the application of Sustainable Forest Management practices and changes in benefits that accrue to forest owners.

Forest Goal 8. Communicate benefits and achievements.

- 8.1. Develop communication for best practices on Sustainable Forest Management.
- 8.2. Develop communication strategy for advocacy and awareness of Sustainable Forest Management and its impact on forest health, production, protection and environmental functions including contributions to SDG 15, life on land and SDG 13 Climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 8.3. Celebrate International Day of Forest- 21 March of each year to advocate for forest sector contributions to human wellbeing and sustainable development.

5. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

5.1. Roles and Responsibilities.

5.1.1 Major Forest Owners: Ekiti State Government

- a) Leadership and Political Will: Ekiti State Government (major forest owner) must lead by example in taking deliberate actions, substantial streams of huge financial investment over the plan period for the reclamation and restoration of the highly deforested and degraded but renewable forest wealth.
- b) A deliberate policy involving total or phased ban on exploitation from forest reserves or step-down unsustainable revenue quest from her already **creamed** forest (estates) to allow for programmed implementation of

the Roadmap in at least 50% of the estates over time

- c) Provide assistance /incentives/advocacy for the uptake of Sustainable Forest Management practices among all practitioners in free areas, agroforestry systems and plantations for the benefit of the State.
- d) Bringing together other public agencies related to forest activities and partner with forest related local associations, the forest dependent communities, farmers and private tree growers, to capitalize on the strength of all for SFM to evolve in practice.
- e) Continually seeking the involvement, inputs, actions and feedbacks of forest owners (public and private), Farmers, wood-users, forest dependent communities and donor Partners and
- f) Put in place Steering Committee to guide the implementation of the roadmap, including wood users' representatives and non-governmental organisations to track progress made.

5.1.2 Ekiti State Forestry Commission.

- a) Implement Sustainable Forest Management practices to effectively upgrade the productive, protective and environmental benefits from the forests and contribute to or complement the resilience of other land users within the context of the Ekiti Development Agenda.
- b) Mobilising investment funds for massive natural/artificial regeneration of forests by developing bankable proposals that can access funds from national and international donor agencies stock, restoration of forest health,
- c) Develop capability for mapping, inventory and the production of working/ management plans (in accordance with science-based principle of Sustained Yield and felling cycle) for at least 50% of the forest estates and mobilise private forest owners for uptake.

- d) Develop tools for effective sustainable forest management practices
- e) Develop agreeable (State standard) indicators for tracking progress of SFM and implementation of the roadmap.
- f) Collaborate with and provide technical support for private forest owners for the uptake of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices in accordance with the forestry law.
- g) Collaborate with Ekiti State Security Agencies, traditional institutions to secure the forest estates, providing safe access to all legal stakeholders.

5.1.3 Private Forest Owners.

- a) Engaging State actors in the provision of needed technical assistance for the uptake of SFM practices.
- b) Provide support to forest dependent communities.
- c) Compliance with forest regulations and laws.
- d) Participate in research and management of public forests under rules of engagement (e.g. through MOU).
- e) Enhance the practice of agroforestry on farm and non-farm landscapes.

5.1.4 Ekiti State Saw- millers Association, Timber Traders' Association, Tree Vendors and Power Saw Operators etc

- a) Showing understanding with government on policies that impact on assessing the resource base of designated forest estates.
- b) Taking deliberate action at improving the stocking of the resource base through partnership with major forest owners on forest restoration programmes including a mandatory enrichment of allocated forests with native tree species.
- c) Develop cooperatives to undertake seed banking as a business enterprise.

- d) Retraining of personnel in efficient wood conversion and by products utilisation.
- e) Strong commitment towards ensuring compliance with laws and regulations in particular; under girth cutting, flitching, illegal exploitation, threats to forest officials etc.

5.1.5 Forest Based Research Institutions.

- a) Collaborate with Forestry Commission on need focused research;
 - i) Development of SFM practices.
 - ii) Development of standard indicators for assessing Sustainable Forest Management practices and tracking progress of the roadmap.

Development Partners

- i) Contributing to ways and means of implementing section(s) or whole part of the roadmap.

Stakeholders at National and International levels.

- i). Domestication of international protocols and processes relating to the strategy for achieving the “**Ekiti forest we want**”.
- ii). Transfer of relevant information/knowledge to the Forest Commission/ (State actors) including access to International Funding Agencies.

5.1.8. Traditional Rulers and Local Community Associations

- i) Initiating and support for creation of new protected forests.
- ii) Mobilising and sensitizing forest dependent community members on forest protection, socioeconomic access and benefit sharing.

5.2. Means of Implementation.

Building on the Ekiti Development agenda 2018-2022 for sustainable development and the Ekiti State Forestry Law, 2016, this roadmap provides reference for Local, National, International cooperation and Donor participation as part of the means of implementation of programmes and activities of the Forestry Commission including capacity building on forests. Budgetary allocations from government should be timely and adequate to address specific item(s).

It is clear that no single solution or source could finance Sustainable Forest Management, therefore, **a combination of sources and means** is recommended. The mobilisation of and effective use of resources (domestic and foreign), partnership, leadership and Political Will of major forest owners are key to achievement of Sustainable Forest Management and the roadmap.

6. REVIEW OF THE ROADMAP

Provisions for mid-term assessment by 2026/7 of:

- a) The arrangement and the provisions of the roadmap with regard to legality of its binding force (derived by implications of Section 6 sub-sections 2(a) of the new Forestry Law), the strengthening of the current provisions and the effectiveness of the financial options for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).
- b) Progress in the implementation of the roadmap based on agreed State standard indicators relevant to the Ekiti forest and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Roadmap, in itself is a tool for communicating the Stakeholders' desire for improved forest conditions and services and the means to achieve such desires; nevertheless, **a communication strategy is still needed to create and raise awareness within and outside the forest sector of the vital contribution of forests and trees outside forests to life and people of Ekiti State.**

The strategy should identify among others, target audience, key messages, methods, activities with success in implementation of the roadmap. **The International Day of Forest, 21 March should be celebrated to create awareness on forest and its contributions to humankind.**

8. APPENDICES.

a. LIST OF RESOURCES AND INPUTS

- The International Timber Trade Organisation (ITTO) 1978: “Sustainable Forest Management.”
- United State Department of Agriculture (2011) Agroforestry Strategic Framework, Fiscal Year 2011-2016
- Oliver Owen (2012): Ekiti - State Forestry Sector Review and Strategic Analysis.
- Sustainable Development Goals: 2015- 2030.
- Ekiti - State Forestry Law, 2016.
- Fameso, T. F. (2017). Background Forestry Sector Situation Analysis on Sustainable Forest Management and Climate change effects in Nigeria. - Document prepared for DESA/ UNFFS, New York, USA.
- United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests (UNSPF): 2017-2030

b). LIST OF TABLES

1. MANPOWER STRUCTURE OF EKITI STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION

	Nomenclature/ cadre	No in position	Remarks*
1	Executive Secretary	1	Professional. Appropriate
2.	Admin and Supplies	7	
3.	Finance & Account	13	
4.	Support staff	2	For revenue collection
3.	Forestry Professional: GL 16 -----2 GL 14- 15 -----2 GL 08 -13-----16	20	Inadequate for administrative & repositioning for varied skill in GIS (mapping & inventory), Forest management planning
4.	Forest Technicians	6	Very inadequate for silvicultural and forest restoration envisaged in the roadmap
5.	Forest Sub-Technicians (Uniformed field Staff)	86	Ill- equipped for protection & enforcement of forest laws / regulations. Require also attitudinal change
6.	Senior Boundary Men	2	Inadequate and ill-equipped for boundary surveillance

Source: Ekiti State Forestry Commission Records

*Remarks are consultant's view point

2. Ekiti State Forest reserves and status

	LGA	Forest Reserve	Area(ha) of High Forest	Area (ha) of Savannah	Total Size (ha)	Remarks/ Status
1	Ado	Ogbese	6,732	520	7,252	Exploited & degraded-no management plan
2	Gbonyin	Egbe	647	275	922	Exploited & converted to Gmelina / Teak plantation - largely unmanaged
3	Ekiti East	Eda i & ii	518	388	906	Eda 11 exploited & recouping. Eda1 exploited & converted to Gmelina/ Teak plantation. - largely unmanaged
4	Ekiti South west	Ogotun group	1,036	533	1,569	Exploited and degraded despite difficult terrain.
5	Ekiti West	Aramoko	1,966	nil	1,966	Exploited & converted to Gmelina /Teak plantation- largely unmanaged
6	Ikere	Ikere	958	461	1,419	Exploited &

						converted to Gmelina & Teak plantation- largely unmanaged
7	Emure	Little Ose	1,367	1295	2,662	Exploited, degraded & >40% converted to Gmelina/ Teak plantations- largely unmanaged
8	Emure	Eporo	1,036	3,626	4,662	Exploited derived Savannah > 30% converted to Gmelina / Teak plantations - largely unmanaged
9	Ise-Orun	Ise	5,556	126	5,677	Exploited & degraded.
10	Oye	Ishan/Ayed e	nil	2,585	2,585	Over exploited and degraded.
	Total		19,816ha	9809 ha	29,625 ha	

Source: Ekiti State Forestry Commission Records.

3. Indicative Exploitation and Revenue Generation from 1997-2019

Year	No of (Indigenous) Tree Stump Felled by Location	Log Volume (m ³)	Revenue Generated (#)
1997	19,193(FA) 954(FR)	76,628.39 3,821.62-FR	25,356,931

1998	17,493 988-FR	78,451.76 3,052.00	18,146,677
1999	18,765-FA NIL	80,488.66	24,300,486
2000	17,267 1,425-FR	94,319.73 5,561.94 -FR	29,436,386
2001	18057 1,331-FR	71,620.02 7,128.22	25,557,026
2002	15,939 NIL	60,972.2 -	34,497,775
2003	17,295 Nil	69,603.6 -	39,834,075
2004	17,449 534	81,955 1453.05	44,629,430
2005	17,991 1,742	80,571.51 5073.38-FR	42,787,075
2006	18,231 388	75,687.15 1335.93-FR	43,968,495
2007	16,747	75,307.75	48,400,380
2008	24,761	88,642.4	60,339,845
2009	10,555	37,162.25	49,422,533
2010	16,668	45,913.08	72,109,800
2011	19,611	53,020.29	61,577,800
2012	19,102	-	53,707,045
2013	24,274	-	70,997,425
2014	18294	70,044.58	99,655,945
2015	13,207	49,764.09	69,695,945
2016	12,010	56,212	97,592,292
2017	13,180	41,067.23	65,740,110
2018	9536	23,045.59	37,887,100
2019	9083	28,196.84	52,343,050
TOTAL	392,770	1,366,100.26	1,167,983,586

Note: FA ~~~ FREE AREA

FR ~~~ FOREST RESERVES

Source: Ekiti State Forestry Commission Records

2. Investments in Regeneration of Public Forests (1997- 2010).

Year	Project Title/ Funding	Amount #	Forest Reserve Location	Achievement
1997	Forestry Trust Fund (FTF)	Unstated	Ogbese	100 hectares (ha)

1998	Forestry Trust Fund (FTF)	Unstated	Ogbese, Ikere, &Aramoko	130 ha
1999	Forestry Trust Fund (FTF)/ FGN Rural Forest Project.	Unstated	Ogbese, Egbe	50ha
2000	Forestry Trust Fund (FTF)	Unstated	Aramoko, Ikere	70ha
2001	Forestry Trust Fund (FTF) Timber Development Levy Agroforestry practices	Unstated	Ogbese, Ikere, Egbe,Aramoko	185ha
2002	Forestry Trust Fund (FTF)	Unstated	Ogbese	70ha
2003	Forestry Trust Fund (FTF)	Unstated	Ikere	50ha
2004	Woodlot establishment State/Local Government Fund	Unstated	Ogbese	70ha
2005	Woodlot establishment Forestry Trust Fund (FTF)	Unstated	Nil	nil
2006	Federal Government Assisted Project	Unstated	Ogbese	88.6ha
2007	State Government Funded	Unstated	Ogbese, Egbe, Aramoko& Ikere	100ha
2008	NIL	Unstated		Nil
2009	Federal Govt. Assisted Project	Unstated	Egbe	545ha
2010	State Govt. Fund	Unstated	Ogbese	192ha (not successful due

				to lack of maintenance.)
2011-2015	No record of any operation	nil	Nil	Nil
2016	Forest Regeneration	11.6m	Ogbese, Ikere, Ishan-Ayede, Aramoko	100,000 seedlings.
2017-2021	NIL	No budgetary release	NIL	NIL

- Between 2006-2020: #25,490,000 was paid for 192.5 hectares of plantation at Ogbese Forest Reserve.

Source: Forestry Commission records.

5) Private Participation in Tree Planting in Ekiti State

S/n	Location (LG)	No of Tree Growers	Area Planted* (hectare)	Tree Species Planted	Year of Establishment
1	Ekiti East	20	171	Gmelina/ Teak	-
2	Ise	22	85,000 Tree stands (approx. 40ha)	Gmelina, Teak & Afara	-
3	Oye	10	37	Gmelina/ Teak	1997-2008
4	Moba	3	2.7	Gmelina/ Teak	10-18 years
5	Gboyin	12	132	Afara, Teak, Gmelina, Idigbo, Ure, Oriro, Mansonia, Obeche	9-24 years
6	Ekiti West	16	98	Teak/ Gmelina	8-25
7	Efon	3	56	Teak/ Gmelina	8-17
8	Emure	27	103	Teak/ Gmelina,	5-15

				Afara	
9	Ilejemeje	12	54	Teak/ Gmelina, Afara	7-20
10	Ido	5	51	Mansonia, Teak, Afara	10-17
11	Ijero	8	32	Mansonia, Teak, Afara, Gmelina.	4-15
12	Irepodun /Ifelodun	12	88	Teak	3-22
13	Ado	15	83	Teak/ Gmelina, Afara	5-18
14	Ikere	6	47	Teak/ Gmelina	10-20
	Total		994.7 ha		

- 994.7 ha of planted Trees on Agroforestry landscape, approximately 3.35% of the State Forest Reserves.

Source: Forestry commission Records, 2021

6. Sawmill Distribution and Status in Ekiti State

S/n	Location by LGA	No of Sawmills	Status
1	Ado	27	13 mills not functioning
2	Irepodun/ Ifelodun	12	1 mill not functioning
3	Ekiti West	01	1mill not functioning
4	Efon	Nil	Nil
5	Ikere	23	6 mills not functioning
6	Ise	35	16 mills not functioning
7	Emure	13	6 mills not functioning
8	Ekiti South West	17	10 mills not functioning
9	Ikole	27	13 mills not functioning
10	Gbonyin	38	12 mills not functioning
11	Ekiti East	31	16 mills not functioning
12	Oye	22	8 mills not functioning
13	Ido/Osi	11	4 mills not functioning
14	Ijero	4	4 mills not functioning/ operational
15	Ilejemeje	6	5 mills not functioning
	Total	268	115 Mills not operational*

*42.9% of the Saw mills are not operational for reasons of scarcity of timber resources, cost of electricity, obsolete equipment,

Source: Forestry Commission Records, 2021

C) Summary of Stakeholders workshops/Town Hall meetings.

1) Wood cutters, Timber Contractors & Saw millers Associations.

Town hall meeting held at Ilera-loro Hall, Sec. Ado-Ekiti. 1st March, 2021

The three (3) Associations identified the following as reasons for the unsatisfactory status of the forest base in Ekiti –State.

- i). Weak enforcement of Forest Laws and Regulations.
- ii). Failures to arrest and prosecute wood Flichers (on the site/farm processing of wood with power saw machine) operating day and night in the forest;
- iii) The impact of charcoal production activities within forest estates as it affects biodiversity and natural regeneration of wild flora;

- iv). Illegal use of forest lands by Indian Hemp (Marijuana) planters whose activities are not only inimical to the health of Nigerians but also affect the development of forest tree seedlings on forest floor, the saplings and natural regeneration process;
- v). Encroachment and illegal use of forest lands for food and cash crops such as cocoa by forest boundary farmers.

Recommendations

- A complete ban on wood exploitation in government owned forests over the period of the Road map to allow for massive reforestation effort by all stakeholders.
- Micro-credit support for replacement of their obsolete equipment in order to improve efficiency in wood conversion and by implication forest conservation
- Wanted representation of the Timber associations on the board of the Forestry Commission for better inclusiveness in decision making and policy implementation.
- Tree planting to be made compulsory for all Timber Trade associations and a criterion among others for access to future forest allocation/ Forest Based Enterprise.
- Regular orientation on mode of operations to support (SFM) Sustainable Forest Management
- Volunteers within Association members should be co-opted for forest surveillances.
- Activities of Forest Guards should be closely monitored as they permit a lot of illegal use of forest lands.

2. Forest Guards and Forest Officers Town hall meeting held at Ilera-Ioro Hall, Sec. Ado-Ekiti. 25th March, 2021.

The groups identified the following as challenges and threats to forest management in Ekiti State:

- i) Very porous and generally unmanned forest boundaries.
- ii) Inappropriate timing of release of funds some policy implementation with regards to forest regeneration practices and procedure from seed collection to planting and subsequent maintenance if any.
- iii) Undue interference and influence of politicians in enforcement and prosecution of forest offenders.

- iv) Threat to life of officers and guards by forest offenders who carry very dangerous weapons and general insecurity of the forest estates due to influx of armed herdsmen, kidnappers into most forest reserves.
- v) Lack of reliable office accommodation at zonal / forest charge unit as most outstations are at the mercy of Saw millers, Timber contractors for office accommodation.
- vi) Practical absence of vehicular mobility to facilitate forest patrol and boundary surveillance.
- vii) Lack of adequate welfare and incentives such as hazard allowance for forest managers and guards just like their counterparts in the Agriculture and Health sectors of the civil service.

Recommendations:

1. Improved capacity building in new and adaptable forest management technologies and re-orientation beyond revenue generation from forests across all stakeholders.
2. Aggressive reforestation and restoration programme with attention to both production forest and conservation of biodiversity.
3. Rehabilitation of forest camps to provide shelter to forest guards and transit workforce.
4. Re-training and equipping of forest guards for effective forest monitoring.
5. The general public and all stakeholders must be sensitized and mobilised in the implementation of the road map.
6. Government to improve on the procurement process for forest regeneration to ensuring the selection of technically qualified to grow our forests.

2. **Recommendations of the Traditional, Religious and Youth Stakeholders at the Town Hall Meeting on Roadmap for sustainable forest management held on 4th May 2021@ Ilera Loro Hall, Ado-Ekiti**

TRADITIONAL CHIEFS

- i) Government should ensure that forest guards are adequate to monitor the forests.
- ii) The operators in the bush should be adequately monitored to stop the illegal depletion of our forests.
- iii) Government should sensitize people everywhere in the state on the need to preserve our forests.
- iv) Government should be ready to provide seed fund to private people, groups and organizations intending to partake in tree planting in the state.
- v) Government should ensure adequate security of both citizens and forest investors in order to preserve our forests vegetations.
- vi) Government should build synergy with traditional rulers in securing land for reforestation in collaboration with other stakeholders.

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CAN)

- i) There is need for more sensitization from the Government from time to time on proper forest management
- ii) Young people should be encouraged to study forestry in the tertiary institutions and at the end be employed in the relevant MDAs
- iii) There should be tough legal actions on illegal cutting of the trees in the forests
- iv) Government should endeavour to employ more forest guard in order to monitor the forests
- v) More enlightenment for people that own personal forest on how to maintain and police their forests
- vi) There should be financial empowerment to encourage those who are interested in tree planting.

COUNCIL OF IMAM

- i) Availability of right seedlings would go a long way in citizens contribution to reforestation in the state
- ii) The forest users should be encouraged on the dangers of cutting pre-matured trees

- iii) Government should encourage individuals or families to plant not less than 5000 seedlings to serve as family monument
- iv) There should be constant capacity building for citizens on the right approaches to use in tree planting.

WOMEN GROUP

- i) There is need for soft loan to be made available for women who are commercial charcoal producers and/ firewood fetchers.
- ii) The Saw millers, Power Saw Operators and other major Stakeholders in forestry, should be more receptive of women because women too have a lot to contribute in other for us to have “the forest we want”.

YOUTH GROUP

- i) The state government should be very thorough with forest monitoring.
- ii) There should be special agricultural zone for farmers planting rice and other crops.
- iii) Fines should be melted on individuals found violating forest regulations.
- iv) Young people should be encouraged to build career in forestry and forest management.

4. Key Issues Raised at the Stakeholders Engagement on the Policy Documents for Forest Resources Management in Ekiti State:

- a) Capacity building and incentives for private tree growers particularly on collection of native seeds and seedlings production for planting. A typical case was that of the Chairman of Saw Millers Association who got 40 seedlings of Obeche out of 1,500 seeds broadcast, due to poor understanding of the skill needed.
- b) A review of the stumpage/tariffs to reflect appropriate price of Trees based on existing timber sizes and stand diameter; this they believed will address sharp practices among timber contractors and forest guards.
- c) Government should address the critical issue of security in and out of the forest estates and involve more surveillance at community level.

5. **TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR (FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE): RESPONSE TO ‘THE EKITI FOREST WE WANT’**

This Roadmap document is an important document and a significant contribution to our redevelopment of the once-central forest sector in Ekiti State, as part of holistic human and

Environmental development agenda. It has been prepared with an admirable level of insight and attention, and with detailed public consultation. I know that all actors in the forest, timber and conservation sectors - and within Ekiti State Forestry Commission, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and Government more generally - have given it full support and open access, from the Hon. Commissioner Environment to the individual forest officers. The findings of this report are absolutely key to taking our intention of re-orienting towards sustainable forest management to the next level. Already, our revised 2016 Forest Law has set us up for a more stakeholder-involved process of forest management which would be more independent of short-term political imperatives. Now this Roadmap gives us a solid and detailed vision of how we can realistically prioritise within that.

That is all the more important because in the realities of elected democratic government, with

changes each four years, there is even more need for some form of sustained long-term planning and vision to maintain consistency of purpose over the very different timetable on which successful forest management unfolds.

What is especially important about this Roadmap is that it clearly shows us that in today’s Nigeria, Government cannot do everything on its own, and that partnership - with communities, donors, NGOs, civil society, investors, the private sector - is the only way we are going to be able make this work.

The findings in this report chime with many of our own experiences in our everyday work, and therefore the recommendations are timely and realistic. In fact, we hope the report’s authors and funders would be pleased to know that we have already begun serious work on several of the areas identified here. For instance, while the roadmap recommends, we should complete management plans for at least five of our nine reserves, we have already begun with two Reserves (Eporo and Ogotun

group) and have completed Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) and social surveys for them. We hope that we can do even better than recommended and complete such plans for all nine Reserves, assuming we are able to get sufficient support in the current financially constrained climate.

Additionally, through the NEWMAP programme, we will complete afforestation of 250 hectares this year, being a combination of Reserves and farmer-led planting in Free Forest, with a combination of rare indigenous species, timber exotics and orchard fruits. In addition, the Forestry Commission is giving seedlings of rare indigenous species to key communities and schools.

As the report recommends, we have begun collaboration with a research institution, with Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute pairing three UK researchers with Nigerian graduate students to study the agriculture-deforestation-biodiversity nexus this summer in Ekiti. We have also upgraded our communication strategy as recommended here, creating social media presence and now developing a permanent website, while streaming key events (including some of the roadmap consultations) to Nigerian and Diaspora audiences on Face book live.

And also, in line with the roadmap recommendations, we have begun more cross-departmental working within Government with an agroforestry group meeting with Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. We have also established a Biodiversity Group and have a new citizen-science-led initiative to help identify biodiversity hotspots within Free Forest in Ekiti State which can then be community-managed as provided for in our law. We are developing information outputs to attract investors interested in getting involved with our long-term development. And we are looking to establish a training leading to globally recognised certification (FSC) for timber producers who want to re-orient towards sustainability.

We also understand the very significant issues that this report identifies with staffing capacity and management tools, and while the economic climate will not permit recruitment of extra staff, we are sourcing additional training for existing staff and approaching donors who may support some of that.

We know however that these are first steps in a very long journey and very much remains to be done, while the pressures on our forests and environment remain intense. We hope that the next stage would be to enable the incoming stakeholder structure of the Forestry Commission to engage with this report extensively and adopt its recommendations as aims to guide long-term planning.

We very strongly appreciate the efforts of the lead author Mr Osakuade, the very capable leadership and staff of NISD, and the goodwill of EIA in enabling this work to take place and make its contribution to our progress; and we very much hope this partnership can continue.

Dr Oliver Owen,

Technical Advisor (Forestry Management and Climate Change) to the Governor of Ekiti - State. 13th July 2021

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