

# Policy Framework

## Policy and Legislative Framework

One of the major policy framework document with respect to environmental management of Ethiopia is the Environmental Policy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia that approved by the Council of Ministers in April 1997. The general objective of this policy is to improve and enhance the health and quality of life of all Ethiopians and to promote sustainable social and economic development through the sound management and use of natural, human-made and cultural resources and the environment as a whole so as to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The policy recognizes that the general and specific objective of the policy emanate from well articulated guiding principles which include the right to healthy environment, community empowerment, creation of enabling atmosphere, sustainable use of renewable resources, use of appropriate technology, long-term economic development, security of land tenure, regular assessment and monitoring of environmental conditions, increased environmental awareness and interdependence on environmental issues at all levels.

The other relevant policy is the National Policy on the Biodiversity Conservation and Research that was issued on April, 1998. The policy is formulated based on the rationale that conservation of biodiversity is one of the conditions of the overall socioeconomic development and sustainable environment management goals. It provides a general framework towards effective conservation, rational development and

sustainable utilization of genetic resources.

Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy was developed through an initiative led by the Prime Minister's Office, the then Environmental Protection Authority, and the Ethiopian Development Research Institute. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the lead organization for overseeing the implementation of this strategy. The objective of the strategy is to identify green economy opportunities that could help Ethiopia reach its ambitious growth targets (which are stipulated in the Growth and Transformation Plan) while keeping greenhouse gas emissions low. The strategy is currently being implemented and will require a boost in Ethiopia's agricultural productivity, strengthening the industrial base and fostering export growth.

The primary legislative organ of the Federal Government is the House of Peoples' Representatives. The highest executive powers of the Federal Government are vested in the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers that are collectively responsible to the House of Peoples' Representatives. As per Article 77 of the constitution, the Council of Ministers may be delegated by the House of Peoples' Representatives to make secondary legislation.

The principal legislations translated into national proclamation, regulation and directive have been in place to facilitate and guide the environmental management activities Ethiopia is undertaking.