

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND PARTNER STATES TO CONSERVE
FORESTS AND PROMOTE POLICIES THAT MAKE THE COMMUNITY A
GREEN REGION**

Moved by: Hon. Mathias Kasamba and adopted by the Assembly on
October 4, 2018

WHEREAS East Africa's coastline is one of Africa's most biologically diverse areas, offering a rich mosaic of coral reefs, mangroves, lowland forests and savanna woodlands and the Community is well endowed with forest resources which contribute significantly to carbon sequestration and support development of the Community;

AND WHEREAS under Article 111 of the Treaty, Partner States recognised that development activities may have a negative impact on the environment leading to degradation and depletion of natural resources;

AND WHEREAS in order to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the environment, Partner States agreed under Article 111(2) of the Treaty to ensure sustainable utilisation of natural resources like lakes, wetlands, forests and other aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems;

CONCERNED that all forest areas and types within the Community are under major threat of deforestation and forest degradation which is largely caused by clearing of forests for agriculture and settlement, overgrazing, wildfires, charcoal burning and over-exploitation of wood resources for commercial purposes;

FURTHER CONCERNED that if these practices continue, the Community will lose approximately 12 million hectares of forest by 2030;

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AWARE that whereas the Assembly in 2015, passed the East African Community Forests Management and Protection Bill, 2015 whose objective is to provide for the preservation, protection and sustainable use of forests, the Bill has not received assent in order for it to become law and therefore strengthen the management of forests in the region;

RECOGNISING further that the EAC Climate Change Policy provides for several strategies which include promotion of sustainable management of forests and wetlands in the region, promoting reforestation, afforestation and agro-forestry practices and programmes and improvement of agricultural productivity so as to avoid deforestation and encroachment on gazetted wetlands for agricultural expansion;

CONVINCED that in order for the Community to protect the many benefits from forests and ensure livelihoods for the people that live in and around forests, the Community needs to adopt programmes on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) "plus", conservation and the sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks and adopt programmes aimed at halting or preventing the destruction of forests;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS:

THAT this Assembly:

1. Calls upon the Heads of State of the Partner States to expeditiously assent to the EAC Forests Management and Protection Bill;
2. Calls upon the Council:
 - i. to adopt programmes aimed at sensitizing the Community about the value and benefits of forests and forest conservation and the dangers of deforestation and forest degradation;
 - ii. to promote the use of alternative technologies that minimize cutting of trees for use as wood for cooking and related purposes;
 - iii. to urge all Partner States to make tree seedlings available to the various communities in each Partner State to embark on massive tree planting campaigns;
 - iv. to urge Partner States to promote forest conservation through sustainable utilization of the existing forests and reforestation;

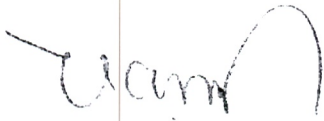
- v. to spearhead and champion the planting of trees and tree planting campaigns in all Partner States where the Assembly holds its Sessions;
- vi. to undertake a study to look at the success stories on afforestation and environment conservation and have them replicated in all EAC Partner States.

3. Calls upon All Partner States to:

- i. declare a day when all East African People participate in afforestation and conservation activities;
- ii. ensure that enforcement against illicit logging of some of the endangered tree species is heightened to curb cross border tree trade.

Certified by:

Date



4th / Oct / 2018

Kenneth Madete
Clerk of the Assembly