

ABSTRACT

The impacts of climate change and variability are evident across all sectors of the economy in Kenya, including forestry which is crucial to sustainable development. In this regard public and private sectors have developed programmes addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, little has been documented on the role of the Kenyan private forestry sector in response to climate change. This study sought to identify key actors in primary and secondary forest production engaged in climate change, and evaluate the state of smallholders and the small- and medium-scale private sector in the forestry carbon trade. Cross-sectional surveys and purposive selection of key informants were used to collect data. Some of the players in the forestry sector that are consciously engaged in climate change activities included farmers, and aviation and manufacturing industries (such as Kenya Airways, British American Tobacco (BAT) and Bamburi Cement Company, that support tree planting to offset their carbon emissions. Wildlife Works (WW) and The International Small Group Tree Planting Programme (TIST) are currently engaged in the forestry carbon trade. It was found that engagement of the private forestry sector in climate change activities in Kenya is still in its infancy and therefore institutional, technical, capacity and financial support is required to unlock the potential.

Keywords: private forestry, forest production, climate change, carbon trade, practices