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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
MANAGEMENT

**Department of Forestry**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Reviewing the National Forest Policy (1996)**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management's Department of Forestry, with assistance from UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI), would like to inform the general public, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), civil society, academia, private sector and interested individuals that it is currently reviewing the National Forest Policy (1996) which has been in existence for over sixteen years since its adoption. The Department has noted that during this period, several issues

have emerged within and outside the forestry sector which have impacted on the overall implementation of the Policy.

The Department would like to remind all stakeholders that the National Forest Policy provides guidance on the management of forest resources in the country. As such, it is an all inclusive policy for all players in the sector. The Department further notes that the policy review process requires active participation and involvement of all stakeholders in the forestry sector and beyond. In view of the foregoing, it is the wish of the Department to involve all stakeholders to participate in the review process.

Further, it is important for all stakeholders to note that most government policies that impact on forestry have been revised. Consequently, there is need to link the forest policy to these other environment and natural resources management policies so that they are in harmony. The revised Forest Policy also needs to reinforce a balanced emphasis among environmental, economic and social dimensions of forestry and allied sectors. As a consequence, the revised forest policy is planned to adequately address issues of forests and water, climate change, food security, HIV and AIDS, gender, wealth creation, biodiversity and payments for ecosystem services (PES), Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) and global conventions such as Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Deforestation (UNCCD), United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and related SADC protocols.

The Department wishes to appeal to the general public, NGOs, civil society, academia, private sector and interested individuals to provide information that would enrich the forest policy review process. It is the duty of all Malawians to ensure that forests are managed sustainably for the provision of forest goods and services for the development of our nation.

The Department wishes to advise all stakeholders to forward their contributions to the following address:

The Director of Forestry,  
P O Box 30048,  
Lilongwe 3.

Alternatively, send by email to:

[forestrypolicyreview@gmail.com](mailto:forestrypolicyreview@gmail.com)

**D. Kayambazinthu,**  
**Director of Forestry**