

**MINISTRY OF LANDS AND FORESTRY**  
**ICT POLICY STATEMENT**

**PREAMBLE**

As part of this vision, the Ministry of Lands and Forestry acknowledges the key role that ICTs can play in the sustainable management of Ghana's natural resources such as Land and Forests.

This ICT Policy Statement is designed to guide the process of the deployment and exploitation of ICTs within the Land and Forestry sector to support the Ministry's activities and operations within the framework of the national ICT4AD vision.

The Ministry of Lands and Forestry is responsible for the sustainable Management of Ghana's Land, forests and wildlife, including the conservation and development of these resources.

**VISION AND MISSION**

**VISION**

Excellence in Land, Forests and Wildlife resources management by a well trained, disciplined and motivated staff, delivering client oriented services.

**MISSION**

To formulate and monitor policies in keeping with poverty reduction strategies towards the sustainable management of the Lands, Forests and Wildlife resources of Ghana.

**STRATEGIES FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF STATED MISSIONS**

In pursuing the stated policy objectives the following actions will be implemented by the Ministry

- Secure Ghana's international boundaries and shared water resources.
- Facilitate equitable access to land by all
- Ensure security of Tenure and Protection of Land Rights
- Ensure Planned Land use

- Develop effective institutional capacity to enhance effective and efficient land administration
- Improve management and efficient utilization of forest and wildlife resources
- Promotion of resource development programmes aimed at reforestation and afforestation
- Protection of the forest estates through regulated utilization, involvement of community participation in the protection of the natural resource, and introduction of an environmental impact assessment as a prerequisite for resource development and utilization.
- Creating an enabling environment for the timber industry by deregulating and streamlining bureaucratic controls on wood export, enhancing private sector dialogue to stimulate entrepreneurship, and the introduction of a competitive procedure for the allocation of forest utilization contracts.
- Build and maintain high quality forest products through encouraging the addition of value-added processing of timber, developing the marketability of the abundant lesser-used timber species, promotion of investment in feasible projects for commercial wild animal production, encouragement of improved milling efficiency and the initiation of specialised training and apprenticeship schemes for wood processing operators.
- Increase public education and participation in the conservation of forest and wildlife resources.

## **ICT DEPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION POLICY GOALS**

Recognising the importance of ICT as a tool to enhance the socio-economic development of the country, the ICT policy goals of the Ministry of Lands and Forestry's are to:

- ❖ Develop, through ICTs, an integrated national land use plan aimed at sustainable use of all natural resources, particularly for the protection and production of timber and other products.
- ❖ Build relevant databases for regulation on harvesting, collection of relevant fees and compliance with criteria for sustainable resource development.
- ❖ Use ICTs for integrated planning by relevant agencies for joint action to prevent and suppress wildfires in fire prone areas.

- ❖ Deploy ICTs for the deregulation and streamlining of bureaucratic controls on wood export marketing to enable private sector initiative for maintaining competitive advantage.
- ❖ Use ICTs to facilitate research into the development of the marketability and utilization of abundant lesser-known timber species.
- ❖ Deploy ICTs in the promotion of public awareness and peoples involvement in conservation of forest and wildlife resources.
- ❖ Use ICTs as a medium of cooperation, via the Internet, with international entities, trade associations, private interest groups and non-governmental organisations concerned with sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources.
- ❖ Improve the capability for accurate accounting and timely collection of resource utilization revenues.
- ❖ Establish database and information systems to facilitate decision-making and policy analysis
- ❖ Exploit ICTs to provide coordination and synchronisation in the delivery of land administration services.
- ❖ Deploy ICTs to improve and strengthen the organisation, management and operations of agencies of land administration at central, regional, and district office levels.
- ❖ Replace the current manual land and geographic information systems with automated information systems.
- ❖ Use ICTs to develop integrated user-friendly and one -stop-centres to deal with land transactions at regional and district levels.
- ❖ Develop, through ICTs, the capacity of traditional land secretariats entrusted with land related responsibilities in relation to the administration and management of communal lands held in trust for stools/skins, clans and families.

## **ICT DEPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION COMMITMENTS**

- ❖ The Ministry of Lands and Forestry is committed to the implementation of programmes and initiatives aimed at facilitating the process of ICTs in all agencies under the Ministry, and in this respect the Ministry is fully committed to encouraging its agencies to implement training programmes in Computer literacy for all levels of employees.

- ❖ The Ministry is committed to a gradual but steady departure from manually based operations to computerised based operations at all levels of Management.
- ❖ The Ministry of Lands and Forestry is fully committed to exploiting the vast opportunities offered by ICT for intra and inter-agency communication.

## **THE FOCUS OF THE ICT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF LANDS FORESTRY**

The Ministry is committed to using ICTs to:

- developing effective land and forestry management systems to support agro-forestry industrial development.
- developing effective legal and regulatory systems for the management and use of the country's lands and forestry resources.

The Ministry is therefore committed to using ICTs to improve its administration and management systems to enhance service delivery.