

### Welcome to the Department of Natural Resources

There is no greater long term need in Kenya today than the conservation and management of her vast natural resources including flora and fauna, natural forests water catchment areas, wetlands and aquatic life. The pressure on natural resources for fuel and timber and on land in general for agriculture and livestock has led to forest recession, soil erosion, desertification and water catchment degradation – all of which combine to impair the land and water resources. If these problems are allowed to continue, productivity will be lowered and thus influence negatively the standard and quality of living.

At Egerton University, the Department of Natural Resources was started in 1965 offering Diploma programmes in Range Science, Forestry and Wildlife management. In 1990 a BSc in Natural Resource Management was started. The department was initially domicile in the Faculty of Agriculture until 1999 when it was the foundation for the Faculty of Environment and Resources Development. Today the Department offers programmes in Natural Resources Management, Wildlife Enterprise and Management, Ecotourism and Hospitality Management and Integrated Forest Resources Management at Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor and Postgraduate levels. Programmes in the department are designed to provide broad based education, technical, professional knowledge and practical skills for undergraduate and postgraduate students who wish to study environmental issues related to resource use, protection and enhancement of environmental quality and human welfare. The goals of the programmes offered in the department are:

- Application of knowledge in Ecological, Sociological, Technical and Economic concepts to the theory and practice of natural resource conservation, utilization and management.
- Communication of this knowledge and management techniques to the relevant members of the Kenyan society and beyond.
- Analysis and evaluation of critical issues in natural resource policy, conservation, utilization and management.

### Student Numbers

The department has over 400 undergraduate students enrolled in her various diploma and undergraduate programmes. There are over 40 post graduate students enrolled in the different post graduate programmes at Masters and Doctor of Philosophy level.

### Staff Strength and Research Portfolio

The department has qualified and experienced academic staff to handle the academic programmes offered comprising of one full professor, two associate professors, three senior lecturers, eight lecturers and six assistant lecturers. Several high profile researches are carried out by these staff members.

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Written by Egerton University

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### **Career Opportunities**

The courses offered in the department provide graduates with skills for employment in fields of natural resources management, agriculture, environment, tourism and hospitality, mining, teaching and research.