

## **INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR ENHANCEMENT OF PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT, BOMET COUNTY, KENYA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Forest performs a wide range of critical environmental and climatic functions and are of tremendous importance to the sustainable development of every society. There is need to undertake review of policies and legislation on forestry to incorporate aspects of Participatory Forest Management to conserve and manage resources in a sustainable way. The objective of the study was to determine the extent to which institutional framework influences Mau forest conservation programme. This study was grounded on Forest Transition Theory and guided by descriptive survey design and correlational research design. A sample size of 364 respondents was drawn from a target population of 4100 people using Yamane (1967) Formula. Quantitative data was collected through a self-administered structured questionnaire while qualitative data was collected through an interview guide. Findings reveal that there was a weak negative linear correlation between institutional framework and Mau Forest conservation programme. The null hypothesis was not accepted and concluded that there is a significant relationship between institutional framework and Mau Forest conservation programme. This study recommends that creation of local institutions are essential for conservation of forests. These institutions need resources and capacity development for sustenance of forest conservation programs.

**Keywords:** Conservation, Forests, Institutionalization, Framework, Participatory Forest Management.