



# KEFRI *Newsletter*

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Mr. Nkerser Ole Rmokae, a Maa community from Elanga Entet Location in Narok County planting a tree seedling at Enkong'u Enkare watershed, Naroosura - Narok County to mark the World Wetlands Day 2023 celebrations





The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya, alongside her counterpart in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife Hon. Peninah Malonza, Kitui Governor Dr. Julius Malombe amongst other dignitaries visit KEFRI stand

## World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2023

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2023 with a focus on environmental conservation was celebrated in Waita, Mwingi Central, Kitui County, on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

The annual event is celebrated to raise awareness of the presence, prevention and recovery from desertification and drought.

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya, alongside her counterpart in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife Hon. Peninah Malonza, Kitui Governor Dr. Julius Malombe amongst other dignitaries, graced this year's event under the theme 'Her Land Her Rights'.

"The Government through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry is rolling out a nationwide initiative involving women groups, youth and schools to propagate tree seedlings for the 15 billion tree growing campaign by 2032," Hon. Soipan said.

During her visit to the display - a side event set by various stakeholders, the CS was delighted to learn that KEFRI is propagating improved *Melia volkensii*, as one of the viable commercial tree in the drylands.

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#### **Contributors:**

Stephen Gitonga, Sarah Mogaka, Boniface Mulu, Martin Welimo, Damaris Munyao

#### **Editors:**

Dr. Jackson Mulatya, Gitonga Stephen, Dorothy Ochieng

**Layout and Design:** Evans Abuje

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According to KEFRI's DERP Director Dr. Albert Luvanda, Melia locally known as (Mukau) is an indigenous and drought tolerant species that thrives well in the dryland parts of East Africa, Somalia and other horn of Africa states.

Due to its termite resistant hardwood timber among other huge economic potential, KEFRI in collaboration with JICA experts is propagating superior trees for seed stands.

“KEFRI, will facilitate the nation in production and distribution of improved tree seedlings and propagating of several other difficult to germinate trees in support of the ambitious 15 billion tree growing program by 2032, Similarly, the Green Boma Initiative, in particular, will be nurturing fruit trees to be planted on farms,” the CS said.

Governor Malombe reaffirmed the county's commitment to combating drought, and increasing tree cover through collaborative approach involving the national government and other stakeholders.

“My County has set aside funds for tree planting, construction of a sand dam to supply water to 1500 households thus alleviating water scarcity in Mwingi Central,” said Malombe.

KEFRI's Director Representative in the Dryland Eco-Region Research Programme (DERP), Dr. Albert Luvanda led staff in demonstrating various drought-resistant species that thrives well in dryland environments, underlining the institute's commitment to advancing research and promoting sustainable forests and land use practices.

### The World Environment Day 2023

KEFRI joined the world in the the 50<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day celebrations observed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, in Nakuru National Park, Nakuru County under the theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution" .

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya, and Nakuru Governor, Hon. Susan Kihika, led the celebration that mainly aims to bring together environmental stakeholders with a shared goal of eradicating plastic pollution from our environment.

In her remarks, the CS, emphasized for a comprehensive approach that addresses the entire lifecycle of plastic, aiming for sustainable management to combat the global plastic menace.

“I urge all stakeholders to urgently tackle plastic pollution through sensitizing the public on the hazards posed by plastics and promoting available solutions. said Hon. Tuya.

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I urge Kenyans to plant trees on their birthdays, during holidays, at each & every occasion. 15bn sounds huge but it translates to just 30 trees per Kenyan per year over the next 10 years. It is doable!



HON. SOIPAN TUYA, CBS  
CABINET SECRETARY

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@hon.soipantuya

“Nakuru County's has committed to combating plastic pollution which has reached 400 tonnes, with approximately half of it causing harm to the environment. This acknowledgment demonstrates the county's dedication to protecting the natural surroundings, Governor Kihika highlighted.

Eng. Festus Ng'eno, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Environment, and Gitonga Mugambi, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Forestry, were also present at the event among other dignitaries.

The Regional Director, Rift Valley Eco-Region Research Programme (RVERP), Dr. David Langat, represented the Director of KEFRI at the event.

Kitui County will be review its Charcoal Act 2014 and regulate powersaw to inhibit overcutting of trees and destruction of forests in the county according to the County Environment, Forestry, Climate Change, Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Richard John Mwendandu.

Mwendandu who was the Chief guest representing Governor, Dr. Julius Makau Malombe was addressing the public at Kwa Vonza Primary School, Lower Yatta District, in Kitui County on Monday, June 5, 2023, during the the World Environment Day celebrations.

## International Day of Forests 2023



The PS State Department of Forestry Mr. Ephantus Kimotho planting *Podocarpus falcatus* tree at Kereita forest to mark the International Day of Forests 2023 in Kitui County

The Principal Secretary State Department of Forestry Mr. Ephantus Kimotho graced the occasion under the theme 'Forest and Health'. He informed the public that this year's celebration comes at a time when the world is faced with triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation that calls for global action.

"The government is in the process of implementing the Policy on 'Adopt a Forest' which outlines the process and requirements to govern partnerships to attain 15 billion trees target," said the PS.

The PS urged the public to liaise with Community Forest Association (CFA) for provision of seedlings to grow in support towards the 15 billion trees campaign.

"KEFRI will provide seeds and seedlings through partnership with the communities, County governments to ensure the country achieve the 30% tree cover by 2032," said Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo.

KEFRI donated 400 assorted indigenous tree seedlings and 2000 Bamboo to rehabilitate Kereita Forest. Likewise, KEFRI demonstrated the use of JazaMiti App which is a species to site matching tool based on modelling key factors that include altitude, rainfall, temperatures, and soil type, plant type among others.

**Empowering Beekeeping and Tree Nursery Group.** The **Oloolua Forest Embulbul** thank KEFRI Entreprises for the donation of 12 Langstroth beehives and 8Kg of high quality assorted indigenous tree seeds, on 27th April 2023. These items will strengthen members capacity to produce seedlings and honey continue our commitment and efforts in protecting and conserving the Oloolua forest ecosystem.

Our focus is to improve the wellbeing of the community adjacent this forest and increase the forest covering by restoring the over 400 acres of degraded areas, said the Chairman.

### National Tree Planting event at Tharaka Nithi county

KEFRI participated in the launch of National Tree Planting event at Tharaka Nithi county, Shin Hyun primary school in Mukothima ward, Friday 21st April 2023. Other organizations that joined national Twende project in this event were KFS, IUCN, Green Climate Fund, KWTA, Ministry of agriculture and livestock development. During the event around 7500 tree seedlings from KEFRI were planted. We thank director KEFRI for a donation of 1500 assorted indigenous tree species in tree growing for rehabilitation of 500, 000Ha degrading rangelands. The Director KEFRI was represented by Dr Eston Mutitu RD CHERP. Special thanks to RD KEFRI Kitui and Kibwezi Centres where appropriate tree species were obtained.

## KEFRI Display at Machakos showground

KEFRI participated at the Agriculture Society of Kenya, South Eastern Kenya National show at Machakos showground from 7th to 10th June 2023.

During the 5-day event, KEFRI team from Kitui, Karura and Headquarters displayed various technologies to promote forestry technologies and innovations in line with the current show theme 'promoting climate smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable economic growth'.

Amongst the most interesting forestry technologies were protocols for domestication and value addition to valuable dryland trees including Mukau (*Melia volkensii*), Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) and Acacia.

These species though difficult to germinate on their own, are viable for production of seedlings for the dryland regions, in support of the national Government's agenda on accelerated country's 5 billion national tree growing target by 2032.



## Clean Energy

KEFRI work closely with other MDAs in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry amongst other stakeholders on clean energy. One of such initiative is value addition to wood and non-wood forest products, use of clean stove, and Briquettes - valuable charcoal from carbonised biomass, agricultural or industrial waste to avail clean cooking energy for domestic and industrial usage.

According to Ms. Anne Njeri, an official working with JICA supported school feeding programme, is encouraging conservation, and utilization of Boobab (*Adansonia digitata*). Boobab has many benefits including leaves which are highly nutritious vegetables. The young leaves can be cooked directly in a sauce or dried and powdered for use in future.

The Machakos County Commissioner, Josephine Ouko who was accompanied by the Machakos branch Chairman Mr. Lawrence Matolo, commended KEFRI for demonstrating technological displays and efforts towards achievement of the national government agenda of growing 15 billion trees in Kenya.

"I commend KEFRI for the wide technologies and innovation for growing trees for various eco-zones.

I therefore urge for collaboration between KEFRI and branch officials to facilitate locals within Machakos get tree seeds and seedlings at the stand all year round, other than making it a one-week event." the commissioner said.

The Commissioner further urged youth to embrace digital technologies and learn value addition skills to create employment in forestry sector which has a huge potential in production and value addition to raw materials for domestic and industrial use. "Residents and land owners in Machakos and neighbouring counties of eastern region experience myriad of environmental challenges, of which the youth using digital platforms can easily solve," said the Commissioner.

The Commissioner further praised the show branch organisers for mobilising huge visitors and promised to enact Government policies, in the county including fair distribution of fertilizer and agriculture inputs. "However, I challenge the show branch officials to upgrade the showground, and avail the ample resources for utility all year round. "Let's think within and outside the box," she said. The show management awarded KEFRI trophies for the best stand demonstrating Application of environmental quality standards; best organization/ association in community projects/service stand. The second Best stand in Research and Development; second best most striking display (demonstration of locally manufactured products; second best seed production and marketing stand; second best in Theme interpretation- Education and Research category; and lastly third best stand displaying innovation and inventions. We appreciate the Regional Director and the Deputy Dr. Albert Luvanda and Ms. Emily Kitheka respectively, for the support and time to oversee the planning and coordination of the show activities was successful. .



PS, Department of Forestry, Mr. Ephantus Kimotho and KEFRI team led by KEFRI Director Dr. Cheboiwo at KEFRI headquarters during the launching of tree seeds for the National Tree Growing Campaign

### **PS, Kimotho, dispatch 2.2 tonnes of tree seeds to TVET**

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Forestry, Mr. Ephantus Kimotho, on 9th May 2023 presided over the distribution of 2.2 tonnes of tree seeds to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions across the Country.

The event was held at KEFRI Headquarters in Muguga, Kiambu County.

The seeds consisting 100 different species will be distributed to various TVET institutions for production of seedlings required for the attainment of 30% national forest cover.

Speaking at the event, PS. Kimotho highlighted the importance of growing trees to restore degraded landscapes and mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

This initiative is a part of the government's wider efforts to combat the effects of climate change and restoration of degraded landscapes through the African Landscape Restoration Initiative.

“The government's commitment to plant and grow 15 billion trees is a significant step towards achieving 30 percent tree cover by 2032 and mitigating negative impact of climate change,” said Kimotho.

The PS also commended KEFRI scientists for their efforts in developing new technologies to increase forest cover and people's Livelihoods.

The Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, has revealed that the institution has enough 120 Metric tonnes of tree seeds in storage and ready for distribution countrywide.

“KEFRI has strategies to collect, process and distribute tree seeds equivalent to 2 billion seedlings required to meet the country's 30% tree cover by 2032,” said Dr. Cheboiwo.

Dr. Cheboiwo also emphasized the importance of environmental conservation and encouraged youths to be at the forefront of this cause.

### **Tree seeds to Kenya Defense Forces (KDF)**

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the Director KEFRI flagged off 8 Metric Ton of assorted tree seeds to Kenya Defense Forces (KDF), in support of the 30% National Tree cover Programme.

"KDF is anticipated to raise approximately 80 million seedlings from the dispatched seeds to acceleratethe achievement of the 15billiontreescampaign," according to According to the National Tree Seed Coordinator at KEFRI, Dr. Robert Nyambati, representing the Director.

## Kenyans plants tree in honour of PS Kimotho Homecoming

KEFRI joined hands with His Excellency the Deputy President Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, Cabinet Secretary Hon Soipan Tuya, Governor Kajiado County Hon. Joseph Ole Lenku, Principal Secretaries and other personalities from the State department of Forestry, in celebrating the homecoming of the Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho Kimani at Ngong stadium on 29th April 2023.

The event followed a tree planting exercise at Ngong PCEA Church where representatives from IUCN, KEFRI, KFS, KWTA, NETFUND among many institutions and members of public with trees were planted by the Chief Guest who came in large numbers to support their colleagues and

The deputy president and his spouse Mama Dorcas Gachagua had a chance to plant trees which is in line with His Excellency the Head of State president William Ruto's vision of increasing the forest cover in the country.



While touring the exhibitions, we had a chance to exhibit some of the technologies and information generated by KEFRI.

On production of quality seeds to achieve the 30% tree cover by 2032, the Deputy President urged all citizens to work towards greening our country in the last 2 decades, to avoid experiences the devastating drought and climate change impacts that have prolonged in the last 3 years.

KEFRI seed centres has technical backstopping and seedlings are available from all KFS, Kenya Prisons tree nurseries countrywide, as well as from private nurseries, schools, forestry clubs, and community and faith based organizations tree nurseries.

## KEFRI held CRAC meeting

KEFRI Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region research Programme (LVBERP) held its Pre-CRAC and CRAC on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 respectively.

During the Pre-CRAC, scientists within the Eco-region presented progress of on-going research activities and their next financial year's proposed concepts to the KEFRI management for their input and fine-tuning before presentation to stakeholders during the CRAC.



KEFRI staff and stakeholders who participated at CRAC meeting at Maseno

The Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo officially opened the Pre-CRAC meeting.

The main CRAC was conducted on the 21st April, 2023 at the Maseno University board room with 27 stakeholders present from the following institutions, NGOs and CBOs, KALRO Kibos, County government of Siaya, County government of Kisumu, One Acre Fund, Practical Action, LBDA, Nzois Sugar Co. Tree For The Future, Centre for Rural Community Development, Ego-green, Water Resources Authority, HB, KWTA-LR, Linda Mazingira, ADS-W, DACCA, KAKAPEL Institute, KCG, IITA, Maseno university, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Sang'alo Institute, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Nature Kenya, among others.

The meeting started at 9:30am with Dr. John Otuoma the host Regional Director giving an overview of R & D Agenda for LVBERP.

He also presented the proposed PC targets for FY 2023/24 for the Eco-region and

The eco-region scientists presented their research proposals based on the various thematic areas as specified within the institutional strategic plan 2022/2027.

### CRAC Maseno Cont.

The key highlights of his presentation was focused on Agroforestry, forest restoration, forest governance, bamboo research, seed collection, restoration of mining sites, tree- crop integration as well as the sub-regions and staff strength.

However, the meeting felt there is need for proper dissemination of scientific information to the local community in a way that it can be easily synthesized i.e. incorporation of local names where possible other than scientific names.

### CHERP Muguga Pre-CRAC



Centre Research Advisory Committees (CRACs) are Eco-regional based committees held annually and geared towards a participatory approach through engagement of stakeholders to identify research problems and review existing projects. The recommendations are incorporated into research proposals and be presented to the Consultative Committee Meeting (CCM) for consideration.

Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo while addressing over 90 scientific staff (*Inset*) for Central Highlands Ecoregion Research Programme (CHERP) attending Pre-CRAC meeting at Headquarters on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023, revealed that Kenya will host the 27<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organization IUFRO 2029 after successful bidding against Canada.

The Congress is the world's largest forest forum organized every five years and the 2029 one is expected to bring together over 5,000 researchers in Nairobi.

"KEFRI Scientists must network with peers in similar fields globally, mentor and understand the cycle of research management that entails: proposal development, data collection, data analysis and reporting," said Dr. Cheboiwo.

Dr. Cheboiwo urged scientists to collect sociological data, mainly from field research, interviews, surveys and secondary data analysis.

The Director further stated that forestry, agroforestry and other plants biodiversity are key component that the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry has prioritized for the country to attain 30 percent tree and forest cover by 2032.

Concepts on improvement of tree germplasm, tree and forest health, agroforestry, rehabilitation and conservation of degraded forests and woodlands ecosystems were some of the research activities and achievements discussed for the region.

Dr. Cheboiwo further stated that developing countries are retaining retired scientists and lecturers at universities for teaching and consultation purposes.

Senior Deputy Director for Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna at the same time urged the region scientists to develop concepts which are in line with KEFRI's proposed 7th Strategic Plan 2022-2027, Kenya's Vision 2030 and The fourth Medium Term Plan 2023-2027 (MTP IV), which focus at driving Kenya economy towards a sustainable growth path.

Dr. Njuguna further informed the meeting that the Kenyan Government has also developed a National Strategy to Attain 30 percent Tree and Forest Cover in the Country by 2032, and KEFRI will play a key role in production of tree seeds and seedlings.

"The Strategy cover 11 intervention areas among them tree seed production, commercial forestry, agroforestry and nature-based enterprises. All these interventions are interrelated and are highlighted in the Kenya Kwanza manifesto," said Dr. Njuguna.

According to the CHERP Director Dr. Eston Mutitu, scientists in the region have developed protocols for breeding several tree species suitable for various ecological sites. Other achievements are; production of bamboo germplasms, scientific publications and leaflets to enable users manage tree nurseries, awareness creation of new tree pests and diseases.

"Some of the new pest that have invaded the country are *Ophelimus maskelli*, a gall wasp on Eucalyptus and a sap sucker - shell lerp psyllid. Kenya, Malawi and South Africa among other partners are collaborating to find a management option," said Dr. Eston Mutitu.



“To support the 15billion tree growing campaign, KEFRI proposes to strengthen agroforestry which is a practice of growing trees on farm mixed with agricultural crops to improve livelihoods, environment as well as to mitigate negative impact of climate change,” said scientist Mr. Peter Gachie.

Domestication of sandalwood and production of high quality tree seed and fruit seedlings are some of the boosting efforts now that Kenya ranks high in the achievement of the 15billion trees.

However, the meeting was also informed that lack of adequate fund, land for research and demonstration is a challenge that is hindering application, transfer, monitoring and evaluation of research technologies.

### CRAC - DERP

KEFRI scientists in DERP are conducting research to improve indigenous trees including the *Adansonia digitata* (baobab), *Melia volkensii*, *Osyris lanceolata*, *Terminalia brownii*, *Acacia* and *Dalbergia melanoxylon* among other suitable species for the drylands.

The regional Director Dr. Albert Luvanda said the aforementioned trees play very important role in sustaining livelihood for the human and animals in Kitui and neighbouring Counties.

### CRAC Coast Eco-region

The KEFRI public participation forum at the Coastal Consultative Research Advisory Committee meeting 2023 was informed of the many concepts that will shape forestry development in the region.

Among the new concepts is development of valuable tree species such as Amarula (*Sclerocarya birrea*).

Amarula, a medium-sized deciduous fruit-bearing tree, indigenous to the miombo woodlands of Southern Africa is one of the species earmarked for commercial growing in the Eastern Kenya drylands to achieve the 30% tree cover by 2032.

Some of the products processed from amarula include curvings, twine, cream, wine, juice and delicious fruits for animals.

Thanking the external stakeholders and participants Dr. Njuguna noted that their inputs to the annual review of research together with other stakeholder always help the institution to improve and expand the scope of research to meet stakeholder needs.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Scientific Colloquium

Presenter: Mr. Linus Maina Mwangi

KEFRI has been organizing Institutional colloquia where staff make presentations on different topics.

We are delighted to hold a virtual presentation on 21st June 2023 at 10.00am via Zoom featuring Principal Research Scientist Mr. Linus Maina Mwangi.

Linus has almost 40 years of experience in forest pathology. He has conducted research locally and international on *Armillaria* root disease, mycorrhiza symbiosis and many others.



Mr. Linus Maina Mwangi,

The presentation cover his Career experiences, research achievements, and Opportunities.

Linus joined forest pathology - KARI in 1983 and later KEFRI in 1986 as a principal investigator and remained the cluster leader since 2015.

He has published research articles in wide journals contributing solutions and research findings on Mycorrhiza and other tree and forest diseases in East Africa region. He has also published many articles on pests and diseases of Eucalyptus, Fusarium wilt and Colletotricum leaf blight on Mukau (*Melia volkensii* Gurke) in Kitui: and their management.

Linus advocated for young scientists to research more and compile data to help our country achieve the objectives of agroforestry and forest health.

So far seven colloquia have been held and can be accessed here (<http://km.kefri.org/Main/InstitutionalCollquia>).



Prof. Whitton and Dr. Ioan-Parry together with KEFRI team during a field visit to community adjacent Upland and Kerita forests in Kiambu County, who have benefited with goats and beehives to enhance forest conservation

Prof. John Whitton and Dr. Ioan Charnley-Parry from The University of Central Lancashire from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) United Kingdom are visiting the country, from 9th to 19th May 2023, to assess the progress of UCLan - QR- Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) project activities.

Giving his introductory remarks while he paid a courtesy call to Director KEFRI on 10th May 2023, Prof. Whitton has said part of the UCLan – Quality Related - Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) project is supporting cutting edge research that address the challenges faced by developing countries.

The Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo while giving his welcoming remarks has stated that KEFRI is grateful to the United Kingdom, through the University of Lancaster (UCLan), for the research fund and partnership which is benefiting many communities in Kenya.

“KEFRI is implementing the project activities through collaboration with Muguga, Thogoto, Uplands in Kiambu County, and Ngong Hills Metro in Kajiado County, Friends of Karura in Nairobi County,” said Director.

Dr. Cheboiwo also lobbied the University to prolong the collaboration sighting KEFRI Graduate Research School, which is a shared platform for scientists, scholars and young graduates to translate ideas into actions and impact as a good entry point.

“This school is an equal opportunity initiative linking research to practice and industry/ job market and providing evidence-based solutions to sustainable forestry development in Kenya and beyond,” said Dr. Cheboiwo.

KEFRI Senior Deputy Director, Research and Development, Dr. Jane Njugun has said the project is being implemented in Kiambu, Nairobi and Kajiado Counties, where community groups have achieved several activities including establishment of tree nurseries, Dairy goat farming, and beekeeping to enhance forest conservation, carbon sink and coping with climate change.

The Project coordinator Dr. Vincent Oeba, highlighted that their 10-day itinerary will enable the delegate visit Community Forest Association (CFAs) in Central Kenya landscapes amongst them: Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA), Thogoto and Uplands among other project supported activities in the country.

## **The 27<sup>TH</sup> IUFRO World Congress 2029, Nairobi Kenya**

The the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) member in Kenya, namely: The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the African Forest Forum (AFF) and their regional and national partnership with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya Forest Service, the Green Belt Movement and The University of Nairobi welcome the decision by the 62<sup>nd</sup> IUFRO Board recommendations to hold the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress in Nairobi, Kenya in 2029.

The International Council of IUFRO and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. “ ,”  
“We are thrilled about the decision to take the IUFRO World Congress to Africa for the first time in the history of our Organization.

The beautiful country of Kenya is an oasis of biodiversity, has strong forest traditions and a lively forest research community that is well-connected internationally. This makes it an attractive Congress venue in many respects,” says IUFRO President Dr. John Parrotta.

During IUFRO Congress site visit: Wangari Maathat Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies, Nairobi, One year before the era of the UN Sustainable Development Goals closes, this Congress will offer the world of forest science an excellent opportunity to take stock of the role of forests in the achievement of the global environmental, social and economic agenda. The Congress will allow us to highlight and acknowledge particularly the crucial roles that African forests, forestry and forest science have been playing in attaining these goals at global, regional and local levels.

“Our aim is to host the strongest-ever delegation of African participants to an IUFRO World Congress in terms of numbers, presentations, and exhibitions. They will jointly demonstrate with international partners and peers the value of worldwide cooperation in ADVANCING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN FORESTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, which is the theme of the Congress,” says Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo; The Director, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) - the Host Organization.

Profiling the status of Africa's forestry in the global arena by 2030 has been at the center of the successful bid presented by KEFRI on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and other ministries of the Government of Kenya, In addition, there is strong. The host country counts on the support of its neighbors and other partners across Africa in extending the experience of Congress guests beyond its national borders. At the 27th IUFRO World Congress in 2029,

African scientists and actors in the forest sector will have an opportunity to showcase regional efforts to ensure that the aspirations of Africa as captured in the Agenda 2063 will be on course. This Continental agenda spanning 2013-2063 was launched during the 50th (fiftieth) anniversary of the founding of the African Union (AU) by African Heads of States and Governments. It is the long-term development vision for the continent in all aspects including environment and forestry sectors. The African Union Commission endorsed the Congress bid by the Republic of Kenya since it contributes to African continent development aspirations by 2030 and beyond.

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### About IUFRO

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is a non-profit and non-governmental worldwide network of forest scientists, who work together on a voluntary basis to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees. IUFRO unites more than 15,000 scientists in more than 630 member organizations-mainly public research centres and universities - in 115 countries and is a member of the International Science Council. The organization was founded in Germany in 1892 and has been headquartered in Vienna, Austria, since 1973.

The 26th IUFRO World Congress will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2024.



KEFRI's Road Safety Committee Chairman, Mr. Zakayo Kurui, addressing pupils and teachers at Joshua Kiongo Memorial Primary School in Kiambu County during a road safety strategies sensitization campaign

## **Mainstreaming Road Safety Strategies to stakeholders**

KEFRI within the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 undertook several road safety mainstreaming activities that include road safety awareness campaign to stakeholders - students, pupils, teachers and staff from secondary and primary schools adjacent KEFRI headquarters.

The sensitization benefited around 1,350 students from Kikuyu Boys Secondary School, Joshua Kiongo Memorial Primary School, and Muguga wa Gatonye Secondary school in Kikuyu sub-County, Kiambu County.

In each of the sessions, the audience was informed that Road Traffic Incidents (RTI) remains a global public health problem. In Kenya for instance, Road Traffic Incidents cause around 3000 death each year and injuries affecting mostly people aged between 15 and 59 years.

Road traffic incidences are caused by unsafe vehicles, careless road users, unsafe road infrastructure, inadequate enforcement of traffic laws. It is therefore important that all road users take precautions and follow road safety measures to ensure the safety of vehicle operators, passengers, pedestrians and other objects along the roadside.

The major benefit of the Road safety awareness strategy pertains to drivers who are in the forefront in preventing crashes, and avoiding consequences such as financial loss, long-lasting personal costs resulting from injury or death.

In response, the headteachers appreciated KEFRI initiative to educate and inform students, teachers and staff about the rules of the road and the importance of good choices such as:

- Adopting and encouraging safe driving behavior and always keeping eyes on the road to the reduce the risk of road traffic injuries and death.
- Being precautionary road users, wearing seatbelts, mainting vehicle regularly, avoiding distractive behaviors such as texting while driving, fatigue driving, staring at objects too long, alcohol or medications that affect mental awareness.
- Adhereing to traffic laws and instruction from enforcement officials such as police officers and construction workers.

Utilizing correctly or efficiently road safety products such as safety barricades, road signs can help save lives, prevent or reduce accidents and injuries, and keep a society functioning in the most optimal way.

## New PS Gitonga Mugambi Visit KEFRI

The newly appointed Principal Secretary (PS), State Department for Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Mr. Gitonga Mugambi who switched office with his counterpart Ephantus Kimotho - State Department for Irrigation, met Director KEFRI and Senior Management on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 as he made a familiarisation tour to understand better the functions of KEFRI.



PS Ephantus Kimotho, CS, Hon. Soipan Tuya and PS Gitonga Mugambi during their handover function at the Ministry  
(Photo: V. Kariuki Uzalendo News)

The Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo briefed PS Mugambi the mandate and overview of KEFRI, its various research activities that are undertaken in regional and sub-rriorial centres countrywide.

In rejoinder, the PS showed impression with the research activities that KEFRI is undertaking, achievements, innovations and technology transfers to collaborators and other stakeholders.

He urged the management to diversify research to include fruit trees as well as encourage farmers to practice agroforestry for commercial purposes.

"Selected actions for mitigation of climate change include agroforestry and increasing tree cover to 30% of the total land area. Kenya aims to abate up to 4.1 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030 through implementing agroforestry practices over 281,000 hectares by 2030," said the PS.

The PS visited insect Quarantine, Glasshouse facilities, and Seed Centre where he inspected and appreciated one of the newly modern seed Storage at Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme, Muguga.

The seed facility use solar power to preserve seeds as they await dispatch and sale to public and private sector in order to achieve the 30% tree cover by 2032.

## FAO - Rome representative visit KEFRI

Ewald Rametsteiner from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO- Rome) visited KEFRI Headquarters on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 where he discussed with Deputy Director Corporate Service Mr. George Otieno and Deputy regional director CHERP Dr. Stephen Omondi several issue on germplasm production, restoration of forests and other landscapes and achievement of 30 percent tree and forest cover.

Areas of his interest are research and capacity building, concept proposals, and public private partnership to expand means of sustainable forest cover in the country.

During the discussion, the issue of quality tree seed and seedlings, conservation, and KEFRI App - to facilitate tree growing in Kenya has been fronted as some of key functions of KEFRI.

"KEFRI conduct research in all the ecological zones in Kenya, and has established 15 new seed orchards that will contribute to 50ha of seed orchard by end of the year," said George Otieno.

Ewald has noted that Kenya has a well-developed infrastructure and political stability which is a window of opportunities for attracting funds to enable production of quality wood from renewable materials, value chain and demonstration of Green Economy.



## Development and implementation of Environmental payment ecosystem services in Kenya

DEVTECH systems Inc USA team; Greg Michaels, Nora Nelson, Dr. Welma Rosado, Evans Mutuma and Caroline Macharia held a lengthy discussion with KEFRI team on development and implementation of environmental payment ecosystem services (PES) in Kenya.

During the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 28, 2023 the team explored issues on development of national policy framework for payment of ecosystem services at national and global levels, carbon credits and markets amidst, energy and climate change mitigation strategies.

“Our goal is to understand the progress in implementation of environmental payment ecosystem services in Kenya, based on 4 criteria: efficiency, effectiveness, equity and financial transparency,” said Mr. Greg.

Kenya is in the process of developing the national policy framework for payment for ecosystem services to enhance development of forest sector in Kenya noted Director Cheboiwo.

According to study conducted in 22 ecological sites in Kenya including Saba saba River ecosystem in Muranga County and Ondiri Lake watershed in Kiambu county, the 2nd largest bog in the world and which is supplying water to Nairobi City, technology on restoration and conservation are necessary to provide both protection and incentive to the threatened ecosystems.

Senior Deputy Director in charge of Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna advanced for funding to develop policy briefs and Public participation require support from the national Government and donors to enhance development of forest sector in Kenya.

“Though forestry sector in Kenya contribute only 3% of GDP, research data derived from ecosystem services approximate the GDP to 17% contribution attributed to totality including non tangible values,” said Dr. Joram Kagombe, Deputy Director incharge of forest socio-economic, policy and governance at KEFRI.

The knowledge gained from the Country will enable USAID facilitate benefiting counties of Dominican Republic, Peru and Lima fasttrack development of their national policy framework.

## KEFRI and CDA signs MoU

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo and Coast Development Authority CEO, Dr. Mohamed Keinan have today signed an MoU to rehabilitate Mwache water catchment area in Kinango Kwale County.



Dr. Mohamed and Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo during the signing of MoU at KEFRI headquarters

“Mwache dam is expected to supply 183,000 cubic metres of water to Mombasa City and its environs,” said Dr. Keinan. However, the area is degraded due to erratic rainfall, charcoal production and flash flood which is a threat to the dam.

Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo was accompanied by Senior Deputy Director Corporate Services Mr. George Otieno said that KEFRI is happy to offer Vallerani technology, the best tree growing practices as some of the intervention strategies by for soil regeneration - terracing and landuse.

KEFRI operates through 5 thematic research areas namely: Forest Productivity Improvement, Forest Biodiversity and Environment Management, Forest Products Development, Socio-economics Policy and Governance, and Forest Research Support Services.

The CDA Director was accompanied by the Project Coordinator Mr. Frederic Mwambiru, Corporate Director Pamela Ngure, and Legal Officer Hafta Thabit,

The CDA in collaboration with WRUA, County Government and other stakeholders targets to rehabilitate 1000Km of 10 hotspot eroded areas.

The Project majorly aims to restore and improve the catchment area and significantly improve community livelihoods by 2026.

## Aldai MP Hon. Marianne Kitany visit KEFRI

Aldai Constituency Member of Parliament Hon. Marianne Kitany, visit KEFRI on Friday 28th April 2023, where matters on collaboration to rehabilitate 4000 hecatres of Kobujoi forest in Nandi County and community empowerment were discussed.

"The initiative will engage KEFRI to provide quality tree seed and capacity building for the local communities: women and youth groups to grow quality tree seedlings and Bamboo for the attainment of 15billion trees growing campaign," said Hon. Kitany.

### The E4 Impact team

the Director of E4 Impact Entrepreneurship Centres in Africa, David Cheboryot on 25th April 2023 met with KEFRI Scientists led by Dr. Joram Kagombe, the Deputy Director of Socio-economics Policy and Governance to discuss ways to enhance the commercialization of the forest sector.

The two parties focused on the need to build the capacity of enterprises within the forest value chain, with the aim of unlocking finance and investment opportunities.

### Forest web based tool

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Africa, and Colorado State University (CSU) in the United States is in the process of developing an interactive online web based decision support tool.

The tool will simulate the impacts of Climate Change on forest growth to guide forest planning and management across Kenya, said Dr. Patrick Keys.

This is an important innovation that will guide the Country in realising her ambitious target of planting and growing 15 billion trees across landscapes to increase tree cover to atleast 30% forest cover, said Dr. George Muthike, Deputy Director, Forest Products Development during the meeting.

## Pension Exit - January to June 2023

P/No.	Name	Exit Date	Exit Mode
7239	Brian Ochieng Ndege		Resignation
6489	Doreen Kanini Micheni		Retirement
6870	Jared Kiago Ogembo		Resignation
5682	Ngei Mue		Retirement
5953	Godrick Kisingo Mwadime		Retirement
5246	Ann Ingunzi Indimuli		Retirement
5608	Agnes Mumbua Mutie		Retirement
5566	Michael Onyango Mukolwe		Retirement
5585	James Malanga Odhiambo		Retirement
6830	Milton Obote Esitubi		Retirement
5515	Joash Opot Wanyando		Retirement
5986	Joseph Njogu Waweru		Retirement
5591	Hannah Wangari Kariuki		Retirement
6185	Christopher Ouma Okello		Retirement
6146	David Mbuvi		Retirement
7202	Anastacia Wanja Kigo		Death
6634	Samuel Oyoo Athembo		Death

### Fare Thee Well Lady Anastacia

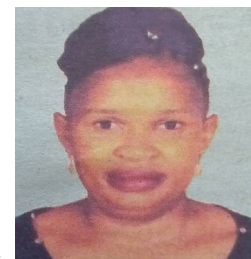
On May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, KEFRI fraternity was hit with sad news of the passing on of Anastacia Wanja Kigo.

Anastacia died at Coptic Hospital in Nairobi while undergoing treatment.

She was beloved wife to Mr. Phillip Ngugi Gitau of Cargo Nest Kenya Ltd Nairobi. Loving mother to Scarlet Wanjiku and Victoria Wambui, and loving step mother to Joan Wanjiku and Maxwell Gitau.

Untill her demise, Anastaccia worked as a driver at KEFRI headquarters and previously with JICA project. She also served in Road Safety Commitee.

A staunch christian, a minister and choir member who worshipped with Victors Assembly Church City of Refugees, Kikuyu Branch under the leadership of its founder Pastor Reverend Ruth Wamuyu.



Anastacia body was laid to rest on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at Kagira village in Kandara, Muranga County.

*We loved you so much but God loved you more.  
May the Lord grant Your soul eternal rest in peace*



*"When we plant a tree, we are doing what we can to make our planet a more wholesome and happier dwelling-place for those who come after us if not for ourselves."*

# Happy Labour Day

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)  
Headquarters Muguga, off Zambezi, Nairobi - Nakuru Highway  
Tel: +254 724 259 781/2, 722 157 414  
E-mail: [director@kefri.org](mailto:director@kefri.org), Website: [www.kefri.org](http://www.kefri.org)

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