



# KEFRI *Newsletter*

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Chairman of KEFRI Board Directors Gen. (Ret) Samson Mwathethe officiating the handing over of leadership from outgoing Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo to Senior Deputy Director for Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna



The Chairman KEFRI Board of Directors Gen. (Rtd.) Mwathethe signing the handing over documents during the handing over of leadership from the outgoing Director Dr. Cheboiwo to the incoming Ag. Director Dr. Njuguna

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### Contributors:

Stephen Gitonga, Emily Njagi, Betsy Namisi, Martin Welimo, Simon Kamonde, Boniface Mulu, DZitu

### Editors:

Gitonga Stephen, Dorothy Ochieng and Bernard Kamondo

**Layout and Design:** Evans Abuje

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The Chairman of KEFRI Board of Directors Gen. (Rtd.) Samson Mwathethe presided over the handing over of leadership from the outgoing Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo and the incoming Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna at KEFRI Headquarters on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

The Board of Directors and Senior Management also attended the ceremony that ushered into retirement Dr. Cheboiwo having worked with KEFRI for 38 years.

The Chairman stated that Dr. Cheboiwo has worked tirelessly and dedicated his time in forestry research where he elevated and enriched the lives of scientists/colleagues and many other groups of communities.

“During his long service in forestry, Dr. Cheboiwo has enabled initiation of many innovative conservation strategies, development of sustainable resource management techniques to strengthen deeper understanding of humanity and nature,” the Chairman said.

The Board of Directors do recognise your dedication and the tireless efforts in the forestry and wish you well in the new chapter of life wherever you will be serving the country in a different capacity the Board Chairman further said.

Dr. Cheboiwo thanked the Board for the support they gave him during the 4 years of his leadership.

“I am leaving KEFRI a happy man having accomplished major research tasks that have immensely contributed in the development of forestry sector in Kenya and beyond borders,” Dr. Cheboiwo said.

The Board also welcomed Dr. Jane Njuguna who took the mantle of leadership and the Instruments of Power from Dr. Cheboiwo.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Njuguna appreciated the Cabinet Secretary Hon. Soipan Tuiya and the Board's decision to appoint her as the Director KEFRI.

Dr. Njuguna promised to support her in taking the Institute to higher level.

“I am focused on taking KEFRI to greater excellence in research in forestry and allied natural resources to generate technologies and innovations suited for your region,” said Dr. Njuguna.

Our nation target to achieve, 30% tree cover by 2032. In that regard, KEFRI is providing quality tree seeds, technical backup and training, information dissemination and linkages with partners to achieve this target. We will achieve it because, our government is committed to supporting the initiatives, you as my networks, your networks will meet our individual, institutional, community and national goals together.

“I do promise to keep the KEFRI standards high as a centre of excellence in forestry research. She wished the outgoing Director well in his retirement,” Njuguna further said.

William Omondi a retired scientist was quoted saying in the social media: “Pongezi Dr. Cheboiwo for your excellent leadership. Your open door policy was an inspiration for those whom you worked with. You have left a legacy of hardwork and honesty. We welcome you to Nyumba ya Wazee.

Congratulations Dr. Njuguna for the new role as KEFRI's CEO. Madam I know and believe you have the capacity to deliver. It gives me much pleasure knowing that you are committed to ensuring production and provision of high quality seeds to ensures our country achieve the desired tree cover.”

Tuko pamoja

## Dr. Cheboiwo Presentations

Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo has shared his 38 years of experience in forestry research

The 5<sup>th</sup> Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo shared his 38 years of experience in forestry research, during an internal forum held at the Headquarters.

Staff from the Headquarters, CHERP, Nyeri and Rumuruti, praised Dr. Cheboiwo for good leadership and mentorship to scientists and manager during his 4 and half years he served as as CEO.

“KEFRI is the leading institution in Africa on reseach dryland forestry and we take pride in remarkable output including development of over 20 water harvesting technologies, establishment of 88 species and provenance trials and promotion of tree planting in ASALs,” said Cheboiwo.

During my working time, I interacted and networked with many scientists in 24 countries that he has travelled globally.

During his tenure as Director, Cheboiwo is proud to have accomplished several tasks including; established grounds for the country to host 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO 2029, established socio-economic, policy and governance unit in KEFRI, established tree seed stands and enterprise unit, trade and marketing policing in forest productivity, introduced Indian sandalwood, held 1st Kenya commercial forestry conference, graduate school to enable scientists and postgraduates enhance their practical skills.

“I challenge scientists to partner with their peers in similar institutions, adopt professionalism, and positive attitudes that make successful scientists and good manager,” Cheboiwo said.

Dr. Cheboiwo who is retiring soon, has also urged scientists to prioritize collection and preservation of data from research studies, own research and continuous modelling new staff as some of the key aspects to propel KEFRI's mandate onwards.

Dr. Cheboiwo will be remembered for introducing or strengthening non-core forestry areas that include; socio-economics, policy legislation, public private partnership, market and marketing, trade studies and farm forestry to support KEFRI research.

***“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” - Semisonic.***

## Africa Climate Summit 2023

The Government of Kenya and the African Union convened the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, held between 4-6 September, 2023.



Her Excellency First Lady Rachael Ruto (Right) interacting with staff Ms. Roxventa Odhim and Emily Njagi at KEFRI stand

The 3-day Summit brought together leaders and investors from Africa and beyond to share experiences and solutions for a sustainable, resilient Africa. The ACS was a significant event that made progress on several key issues, including building consensus on climate action.

### Tapping Climate Finance for African Forests: Opportunities and Challenges

Forests in Africa are emerging as a crucial player in the fight against climate change, with a particular focus on carbon credits. The Paris Agreement Article 5.2 has become a driving force, encouraging nations to reduce emissions from deforestation and promote forest conservation. This, in turn, opens doors for investment in forest and tree-based carbon offsets.

At a recent panel discussion, stakeholders in the forestry sector gathered to explore these opportunities. Commitments were made to enhance capacity, provide financial support, and promote research in forestry and climate change.

KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna, National Programme Coordinator, Climate Change Research Programme, Dr. Vincent Oeba, Forest Biodiversity and Environmental Management, Dr. James Ndufa, were instrumental in the discussions, that put emphasis on efforts underlining the importance of sustainable forest management.

However, securing adequate financial support and ensuring the sustainable implementation of initiatives like REDD+ remain challenges.

### Key recommendations include:

1. Increase goals on financial commitments to address climate change.
2. African states to drive action and transformative leadership in addressing climate change.
3. Africa to create suitable legal frameworks to aid carbon market and trading.
4. African carbon market initiative is instrumental in promoting actions that will mitigate against climate change and deliver sustainable development goals.
5. Great attention to be given to marginalized groups affected by climate change.

Day 3: Africa Climate Summit 23 The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Env, CC and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya.

### Jaza Miti App:

In a significant stride towards achieving the ambitious goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry in Kenya, in collaboration with KEFRI, has developed the Jaza Miti App. This innovative mobile application, available on both Google Play and Apple App Store, is set to revolutionize tree planting efforts across the nation.

Jaza Miti App is intended to assist users in identifying the ideal tree species for specific geographical area. With this powerful tool in hand, individuals and organizations can contribute to Kenya's mission of reforestation, combatting climate change, and securing a greener, more sustainable future for all.

Download Jaza Miti App today and join the Kenya's Green Revolution. Together, we can make a significant impact on our environment.

### KEFRI exhibits at ACS 23 side event

The Principal Secretary (PS), State Department of Forestry in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi while visiting KEFRI display at the ACS 2023, expressed great admiration for the breakthrough research on Mukau (*Melia volkensii*), a species tailored for arid regions.

The Regional Director for Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme - Dr. Eston Mutitu guided the PS through the Institute's research efforts and its crucial efforts in combating climate change.



KEFRI Deputy Director for Social Economic Policy and Governance Dr. Joram Kagombe addressing the ACS forum

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Devolution conference Eldoret

The 8<sup>th</sup> Devolution Conference under the Theme '10 years of Devolution', was celebrated in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, from August 15 to 19, 2023.

His Excellency President Dr. William Samoei Ruto officially launched the Athletes Wall of Fame at the Eldoret Arboretum as part of building up events for the 8<sup>th</sup> Devolution Conference and to mark 10 years of devolution.

The Wall of Fame commemorates Kenyan Athletes who have represented the country in various athletic fora and brought home prestigious accolades.

During the launch President Ruto led in the planting of over 300 indigenous seedlings at the Arboretum grounds. The exercise was done to support the national agenda of growing 15 Billion National Tree Growing and Land Rehabilitation Campaign 2032 that the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry is spearheading.

The PS Forestry department Mr. Gitonga Mugambi and KEFRI acting Director Dr. Jane Njuguna were among distinguished dignitaries that attended the ceremony and conference.

Buffer Zones to enhance livelihoods resilience to Climate change among Peri-forest communities.

In a panel discussion at the Africa Climate Summit, KEFRI Deputy Director Socio-economics Policy and Governance Dr. Joram Kagombe, emphasized the critical role of Buffer Zones in bolstering the resilience of peri-forest Communities on the impact of climate change.

Dr. Kagombe stated that Kenya introduced Participatory Forest Management (PFM) in 2005 to enhance both livelihoods and forest conservation.

Dr. Kagombe said and outlined key strategies for strengthening Buffer Zones, including integrated planning, livelihood improvement, tree planting, market system enhancement, capacity building, policy frameworks, and the use of improved germplasm and silvicultural practices.

With the participation of key figures like KEFRI Ag. Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, this discussion marks a significant step towards sustainable forest management and community well-being.

## Resolutions

The Conference resolved that both levels of government shall review the legislative framework to enhance the autonomy of County Assemblies to strengthen their oversight role.

“The County Governments shall also support adoption and scaling up of creative solutions by providing a conducive environment and incubation centres, budgetary allocation and technical support,” said the Co-Chair of the First Bi-annual Devolution Conference and Vice Chair of the Council of Governors Ahmed Abdullahi.

“The National Government shall create a policy framework for anchoring digitisation to support operationalisation of programs in all sectors including health, agriculture, trade and blue economy,” read the Governors’ resolutions.

Both levels of government shall ensure proper coordination between the ICT departments to ensure full automation of supportive departments such as security, energy, water and transport among others.



KEFRI Board Chairman (Ret.) Gen. Samson Mwathethe (Right) led a delegation of his Board of Directors and KEFRI Senior officials in a familiarisation field visits to the Melia seed stand and other forestry research and development sites in Tiva, Kitui County

## KEFRI Board of Directors visit research projects in the drylands

KEFRI Board Chairman (Ret.) Gen. Samson Mwathethe led a delegation of his Board of Directors and KEFRI Senior officials to familiarise themselves with forestry research and development in Kitui and Kibwezi on Aug 17, 2023.

Mwathethe who is the immediate former Kenya Defence Forces Chief also addressed KEFRI Kitui Regional Research Centre staff after visiting the centre's experimental sites in Tiva Station and facilities in Kitui.

Mwathethe appreciated the staff for their effort in conducting research which has significantly contributed to improved germplasms, seed orchards and seed stands for production of quality tree seed.

Mwathethe stressed the importance of planting trees for the good of the environmental and resilience to climate change.

"The negative effects of climate change is real and we are seeing environmental crisis all over the world," he said.

KEFRI through the Dryland Regional Research Programme covers 13 of the Kenya's 47 counties: Kitui, Embu, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Kajiado, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Garissa, Tana River, Lamu, Wajir and Mandera Counties.

"Tree growing in ASALs face challenges including moisture stress due to low and erratic rainfall, pest and diseases infestation, animal damage and competition from weeds. However with scientific intervention, research has proved it is possible to establish commercial forestry plantations in the dryland," said Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna.

"KEFRI has set experiments in counties of Kitui, Makueni, Tharaka Nithi, Mbere and Garissa to study and develop valuable dryland trees for both commercial and restoration purposes," further said Director.

The Institute has established plantations comprising valuable trees of *Melia volkensii* aka Mukau, *Terminalia brownii*, *Vitex payos*, Acacias among others Spps, which are key in supporting achievement of the 15billion National Tree Growing and Land Restoration campaign in the drylands.

KEFRI in collaboration with JIPRO is working on technologies to improve seedling establishment in the drylands. "MStar" is such technology testing tubes of different sizes for the plants to pro-long roots to reach underground water for survival.

This is a key step for increasing dryland species which are uniquely adapted to the dry and hot conditions and require assistance to establish.

## Development of new technologies

“The JIFPRO, a Japanese NGO is assisting in the technology. The JICA is collaborating with us in terms of technology development,” Ndufa said.

Kituku’s Farm and the University of Nairobi trial sites have many technologies that need to be dissemination to stakeholders Quality tree seeds and seedlings are guarantee to accelerate achievement of the 30% tree cover.

Mentorship. Younger scientists are eager to learn and are better placed to explain the science of forestry to their generation and those after them.

There is need to create awareness and intensify campaigns on the potential of drylands to

“We are happy with the support we have received so far and I would like to thank our staff for utilizing resources for a meaningful research output,” KEFRI Ag. Director, Dr. Jane W. Njuguna said.

## Development of improved Mukau

The delegate interacted with scientists undertaking research for improvemnt of *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia* spp.

KEFRI's Forest Biodiversity and Environment Management Deputy Director, Dr. James Ndufa elaborated on development of protocols to improve dryland tree species, Mstar technology, and management of tree seedlings nurseries where he talked about the biochar technology.

At the same time the Dr. Ndufa talked about medicinal plants, conserving and sustainably utilizing of Aloe vera, dyes and resin producing trees, indigenous fruits, *Osyris lanceolata* and *Prosopis juliflora* that are plenty in the region.

“This region is endowed with indigenous fruits including *Vitex payos*, *Baobabs* and Tamarind among other fruits,” Dr. Ndufa said.

## Jonathan Kituku Melia farm

Mr. Jonathan Kituku, a renowned farmer growing Mukau aka *Melia volkensii* in Kibwezi, Makueni County. Kituku's farm as it is popularly known is a key trial site where KEFRI conducts research and transfer technologies to the grassroot level.

Mukau is a fast growing, termite resistant tree with multiple uses in the drylands.

Mr. Kituku in 2005 won Presidential accolade for his environmental efforts; capacity building and planting over 17,000 *Melia volkensii* trees covering over 30 hectares proving it is beneficial to adoption and adaptation of forestry technology is well demonstrated. Besides tree growing, Kituku has diversified his farming practices and now relies on dairy farming, selling improved Mukau seed and seedlings amongst other indigenous species.



Board Members interacting with Mr. Kituku whose farm KEFRI has established trials for *Melia* research and development

## Bamboo for Riverbanks stabilization

“Bamboo is conducive plant for the environmental conservation. It grows very fast and has so many uses in construction industry,” he said.



Board members and senior managers visiting KEFRI restoration activity at Kisayani seasonal riverbank, Kibwezi County

The lead scientist in KEFRI Kibwezi Dr. Michael Okeyo, said KEFRI scientists are also promoting Bamboo and *Gmelina arborea* to restore riverine and other degraded landscapes in Eastern, Coast and Lake Victoria Basin.

“*Gmelina* is a fast growing species and has its origin in Asia, though the variety in Kenya was introduced from West Africa. Its uses include wind break and ornamental, soil erosion control, firewood, timber, tool handles, poles, fodder, bee forage,” Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance Dr. Mulatya said.



CS Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen awarding trophy to KEFRI staff led by Dr. Omondi at the Karibuini ground, Nyeri County

KEFRI exhibited an array of forest products and services at the Central Kenya Show, held at Karibuini Showground in Nyeri County from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen, officially opened the show and awarded trophies to various winners.

In his address Hon. Murkomen highlighted the show as a significant platform to showcase modern technologies that can elevate Kenya's agricultural sector on the global stage.

“Transforming agricultural productivity is a top priority for the government as it promises increased yields, improved income for farmers, and exponential economic growth,” said the CS.

KEFRI Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme Deputy Regional Director Dr. Stephen Omondi, led his team in showcasing quality tree seeds and seedlings, wood and non-wood products, and many other forestry technologies crucial for climate smart agriculture and achieving 30% tree cover by 2032.

KEFRI was awarded six trophies including the best stand in displaying Research and Development.

### **Nairobi International Trade Fair**

KEFRI exhibited at the Nairobi International Trade Fair - from 24<sup>th</sup> Sep to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at Jamhuri grounds Ngong Road. for quality tree seeds, seedlings, fancy items and many more products and services that are in line with the show theme: Promoting climate smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable economic growth.

KEFRI stand was crowned 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the 'best stand in seed production and marketing, as well as in Application of Environmental Quality Standards. This proves dedication in advancing forestry research and development in the country.

The Chair of the Show Committee Mr. Paul Tuwei commended staff and collaborators that participated in the exhibition. He noted, ‘This year, the competition was stiff but KEFRI improved in ranking as compared to last year.’

The 1-week Trade Fair attracted over 5000 visitors from public and private sector institutions mainly agriculture, manufacturing, housing, small and medium enterprises, banking, hospitality, education, with a host of new technologies and innovations on display.



The show Patron H.E. President Dr. William Samoei Ruto, said the Trade Fair seeks to embrace sustainable agriculture and cutting-edge technologies to drive economic growth while safeguarding the environment.

Agriculture and trade directly affect the performance of other sectors and are also affected by the activity in other spheres of economic pursuit, the President said

KEFRI is interested in exploring trade and investment opportunities in agroforestry, especially on the dairy and livestock value chains. Kenya is known for its quality trees of production compared to some other countries might make it an attractive source for livestock.

The Nairobi International Trade Fair continues to serve as a vital hub for disseminating crucial knowledge in agriculture and trade. It accomplishes this by ensuring that exhibitors showcase not only new and emerging innovations but also advanced technologies in the realms of agriculture and trade. KEFRI is also keen to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) to promote sustainable, climate smart and resilient agricultural practices at the county level and to connect farmers with markets opportunities both locally and internationally.

### **Mombasa International Show**

KEFRI participated at the Mombasa International Agriculture Society of Kenya Show (IMS). exhibiting various forest and related products, services, including quality tree seed and seedlings, wood and non-wood products, technologies to facilitate climate smart agriculture and achievement of 30% tree cover by 2032.

The Deputy Director for Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance Dr. Jackson Mulatya, Enterprises Manager Ms. Mary Miingi, KEFRI Coast region Director and eputy Drs. Linus Wekesa and Nadir respectively, led staff from Headquarters, Gede, Lamu and National Forest Product Development (NFPD) in the show running from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The Institute also participated at other national shows including Kitui and Migori where staff scooped trophies for performing excellently in various categories.

### **Wambugu ATC Field day**

KEFRI participated at the 2-day Annual Wambugu Agriculture Training Centre (ATC) exhibition, in Nyeri County, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Visitor had an opportunity to interact with experts led by Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme Director Dr Eston Mutitu, and learn more on forestry and related agricultural initiatives that are viable in supporting sustainable economic growth. The display had quality tree seeds and seedlings to support the national 15billion trees growing campaign by 2032.

### **Dr. Cheboiwo pioneer KEFRI Talk series**

KEFRI Director Dr. Cheboiwo made a presentation of his experience spanning over 38 years in forestry and socio-economics in Talk Series where scientists share their experience and knowledge gained throughout their career.



Dr. Cheboiwo presentation titled "Experience and Take Home of a Retiring KEFRI Scientist" showcased the remarkable journey that led him to the helm of KEFRI leadership.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Cheboiwo achieved significant milestones, including the establishment of dryland forestry research and seed orchards in Rift Valley Eco Region Research Programme - Londiani.

Notably, his impressive publication record, with nearly 400 publications across diverse audiences, earned him accolades both locally and internationally, solidifying his position as the most published science manager/CEO in the institute.

Among his other accomplishments include, enhancing introduction of Indian Sandalwood in the country and campaigning for the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress 2029 to Kenya and the first ever in the African continent were particularly noteworthy.

As he concludes his four-year tenure as KEFRI Director, Dr. Cheboiwo leaves an enduring legacy of expertise and innovation in forestry, inspiring the next generation of scientists to continue his impactful work.

## Kaptagat Annual Forest Tree Planting

KEFRI participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Kaptagat Forest Tree Planting event held on 1st July 2022 with an aim to restore Kessup forest block in Kaptagat, Keiyo North, Elgeyo Marakwet County.

His Excellency President Dr. William Ruto graced the event where he also participated in planting tree under 2 minutes initiative, together with the world marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Senior Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, CS Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuyu, both PS Felix Ngeno and Gitonga Mugambi among other politicians and athletes.

"My Government will establish 18 tree seed processing centres through the Kenya Forestry Research Institute to help the country grow 15 billion trees by 2032," said the President.

The President also called upon each citizen to plant 100 trees yearly, including fruit trees to enable the nation achieve the 15 billion trees by 2032.



Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo (6th Left) led KEFRI staff in the tree planting event

The Principal Secretary for National Treasury, Dr. Chris Kiptoo, who is also the programme initiator said, "Kaptagat Annual Tree Planting Programme was initiated in 2017 with the aim to restore the degraded water towers and provide better environment and economic benefits to the local communities."

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo who led KEFRI team in the event donated 2000 assorted tree seedlings and bamboo to the programme, as well as dispatched 300kg of trees seeds to schools and community forest associations (CFA).

The delegates planted around 500,000 tree seedlings in the forest to accelerate achievement of 30 percent tree cover.

## E Africa states to conserve Mara Ecosystem



Dr. Mutitu exchanging information with at the Mara Eco-system celebration

KEFRI participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Mara Celebrations 2023, held at Mugumu, Serengeti District of Tanzania between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 .

This is a rotational annual celebration that states surrounding Lake Victoria Basin undertake to create awareness on the threats and challenges facing the Mara River and its ecosystem.

CHERP region Director Dr. Eston Mutitu and Migori sub-region Assistant regional Director Dr. Beryn Otieno, represented KEFRI in the celebration and exhibition of technologies for the sustainability and conservation of the Mara Ecosystem.

The Chief guest, Tanzania's Deputy Minister for Water, Hon. Eng. Maryprisca Winfred Mahundi, accompanied by the Regional Commissioner of Serengeti and Area Women Representative visited KEFRI stand and held discussion with the scientists on tissue culture technologies for propagating high value tree species and value addition to bamboo products for climate resilience and livelihood improvement.

The delegate indeed appreciated bamboo and its enormous potential in restoration of the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem and the good working relations between the two countries in the conservation of the Mara ecosystem.

"Conserving the Mara River and its ecosystem is for greater good that goes beyond benefiting the two sister East Africa countries: Kenya and Tanzania that share the mara River, but also supporting the economy of entire basin in tourism and agriculture," said the Deputy Minister.

## World Bamboo Day 2023

Kenya marked The World Bamboo Day at Kanyonga, Kyeni South Embu County on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

Bamboo Day is a global event that prioritizes creating awareness about the importance and versatile usage of the bamboo plant.

The event which attracted stakeholders from all walks of life included an exhibition that showcased the entire Bamboo value chain from propagation to value added products such as furniture, jewelry, clothing and food.



Dr. Jane Njuguna briefing PS Gitonga Mugambi and Governor Hon. Mbarire on bamboo and its diverse uses

Principal Secretary, State Department of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, urged Kenyans to protect the country's forests and plant trees to achieve the 30% tree cover by 2032.

The PS made an appeal to patriotic citizens to be reporting any suspicious forest activities to the authority through a toll-free number 0800724570.

This year's World Bamboo Day celebrations which was marked under the theme 'Bamboo for Sustainable Wetland and Climate Change Mitigation'.

Embu Governor Hon. Cecily Mbarire thanked the Environment Ministry for choosing Embu county and specifically Kanyonga as a suitable venue for wetland restoration.

KEFRI Board Member, Mrs. Hamara Ibrahim together with Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna led KEFRI staff in the celebrations.

In her remarks Dr. Jane Njuguna pledged the Institute's support in the restoration of the wetland while paying special attention to achieving the 15 billion national tree growing and rehabilitation campaign.

## Know How to Manage Your Finances

A health workforce makes the institute a productive entity, Deputy Director Human Resource Mrs. Evelyn Oroni, said during the opening session of Personal Financial Management seminar for KEFRI staff held at the Headquarters on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Oroni also stated that KEFRI in collaboration with Sanlam Group and Asentilia Insurance Brokers are offering financial advice to help the staff understand the cycle of finance planning and wellness beyond worklife.

"Heavy financial burden and lifestyle is creating pressure and stress to in-service and retired members thus limiting financial wellness," Mrs Oroni further said.

Messrs. James Nduni, Chris Kanyoro, Bargottio Kwonyike, Ms. Martha Mweni, Judy Moraa, from both Sanlam and Acentria Service providers are the facilitators.

"Prepare for retirement while in service, seek financial management from best service providers, and create a good rapport with family and community," said Mrs Kabunyi, the guest speaker and former staff on her third year in retirement.

## KEFRI sign Annual Performance Contracting

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya signed the 2023/2024 Financial Year Performance Contract with Chairman KEFRI Board of Directors Gen (Rtd.) Samson Mwathethe and Board Director Hamara Ibrahim Aden.

The Minister signed the Performance Contracts with all the SAGAs under her docket at the ceremony held at Kenya Meteorological Department on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023.

In connection with annual contract, the Institute performed well in 2022/2023 contract according to report released by The Independent Evaluators from the Public Service Performance Management Unit.

Board Chairperson for Research and Development Committee, Hamara Ibrahim Aden, Senior Deputy Director, Corporate Services Mr. George Otieno among other officials represented the institute in the meeting held at KEFRI headquarters on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## **JICA Chief Advisor visit KEFRI**

Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Chief Advisor Mr. Katsuro Saito on 27<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023, led Japanese experts who are on a mission to monitor the progress on the implementation of the Project on Strengthening Forestry Sector Development and Community Resilience to Climate Change through Sustainable Forest Management and Landscape Restoration (SFS-CORECC).

The project aims to contribute to the increase of forest and tree cover, as well as the strengthening of the resilience of local populations vulnerable to climate change, through the cooperation to further strengthen the policy and implementation capacity of central and local governments, promote commercial forestry, and develop and diffuse drought-resistant forest trees.

Furthermore, the project through regional cooperation, will also contribute to strengthening forestry administration and combating climate change in sub-Saharan Africa.

KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna while receiving the JICA team at KEFRI Headquarters stated that; “KEFRI and JICA collaboration in forestry projects in Kenya span around 40 years.”

KEFRI is in charge of component 3 and 4 which deal with tree breeding and regional cooperation respectively.

Dr. James Ndufa who is the focal person for the project took the team through the presentation on the achievements of the project which started in 2020.

The project is breeding *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia tortilis* among other commercial dryland species to develop a more drought-resistant and valuable species said the Chief Advisor.

The Chief advisor also stated that JICA is entrenching regional cooperation through engaging experts in the fields of forest policy, forestry extension, commercial forestry, sustainable forest management, climate change resilience, tree breeding, forest monitoring.

## **Ministry PS and FAO meeting**

Representatives from FAO, KEPISA and KEFRI led by Mr Meshack Muga held a discussion with the PS Gitonga Mugambi on restoration project of ASAL of Kenya through Bio enterprise development and other incentives.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry through KEFRI with support from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) initiated the development of a National Strategy for Sustainable Commercialization of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPS).

The team briefed PS Mugambi on the progress of the project implementation and the draft NTFPs strategy that is currently at stakeholders validation.

Additionally, the PS and his guests also discussed on the economic benefits accruing to households from NTFPs and services in Kenya which is a key priority tool for poverty reduction, employment creation and Climate change mitigation.

## **KEFRI supports tree planting nationwide**

KEFRI donated 100 assorted indigenous seedlings and created awareness of the importance of environmental conservation to mitigate against climate change during CHACHO Nation kids festival held at Uhuru Gardens on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

CHACHO Kidz is a dynamic annual festival organised by the Churchill Foundation to promote learning, talent exploration, and community engagement among children.

The institute also participated in the tree planting exercise nationwide and led in creating awareness on environmental conservation to mitigation to climate change, as the nation aims to increase tree cover to 30% by 2032.

Notably, CHERP team joined tree planting in Kiambu County, where 16,600 seedlings were planted at Githogoro Nyamweru block and 800 at Alliance Girls High School on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Rift Valley Ecoregion Research Programme led in planting 5,000 seedlings at Mt. Blanket in Londiani forest, whereas National Forest Product Research Programme- Karura jointly with Nairobi County officials led Ambassador of Trinidad Tobago, and Ivory coast in planting trees at Globe Cinema roundabout in Nairobi

## KEFRI and Transilvania University sign pact



Prof. Abdrudan and Mr. Charles Koech, a Socio-economics scientist at KEFRI display the MoU for collaboration

KEFRI and Transilvania University, Brasov Romania, on 14th Sept 2023 signed an MoU to collaborate in forestry research and development.

KEFRI Ag. Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, and Prof. Loan Abdrudan agreed that the two Institutions will engage in training postgraduates, researchers and Ph.D students, develop research concepts and proposal as well resourcing funds for implementation of earmarked activities.

Prof. Abdrudan, had a supervises Eric Odhiambo Osewe, a PhD student who is collecting data on ecosystem services in Kakamega and Karura forests.

“Transilvania University was founded in 1971 but its roots can be traced back to 1948 when the Institute of Silviculture was established. The Unviversity has 18 faculties including product design and environment. The University currently offers over 100 bachelor’s degree courses and 70 masters programmes,” Prof. Abdrudan said.

The University through its research projects, seeks to build partnerships with companies and contribute to the excellence of national and international academic cooperation. It is the only university in Romania which has built its own multidisciplinary research institute. The University’s Research and Development Institute was established in 2013 and is now comprised of 11 buildings and 30 research centres.

## KEFRI and FFPRI signs MoU to mitigate climate change

KEFRI and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster breeding of drought-tolerant trees among other scientific research activities.

The Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo and Shunsuke Miya Director General, Extension & International Cooperation Department signed the MoU on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, at KEFRI headquarters.

The agreement outlines joint efforts in research, and development, exchange of scientific information and joint publications and joint implementation of Climate Resilience Adaptations (CRAs).

Furthermore, both institutions will share facilities for research and development, as well as to build institutional and staff capacity.

This partnership signifies a progressive approach to combating climate change impacts, and it is expected to yield groundbreaking solutions for sustainable and climate-resilient forestry in Kenya's dry regions.

## JICA Senior Vice President visit KEFRI

The Former Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Senior Vice President Mr. Toshiyuki Nakamura paid a visit to KEFRI on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.



Mr. Nakamura (*3<sup>rd</sup> left in picture*) who was accompanied by JICA Chief Representative Kenya office Mr. Hajime Iwama among other guests, marked 40 years since JICA forestry development team came to Kenya.

The Japanese government has extended funding to support forest restoration in Kenya, giving a major boost to the country's efforts to increase forest cover especially in the dryland parts of the Country.

## KEFRI train youth in seedling production

KEFRI in collaboration with Mama Doing Good and SMACHs Foundation trained over 50 youth derived from Nairobi and Kajiado Counties in tree nursery establishment practices.

Mama Doing Good is financially supporting training of women, youth and vulnerable people in Kenya to respond to environmental and socio-economic challenges.

SMACHs Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering Kenyan youth through sustainable agriculture and climate action.

“Mama Doing Good, through Environment and Climate Change Initiative intend to grow 500million trees to support the 15billion national tree growing campaign by 2032,” according to the head of Programme – First Lady Environment and Climate Change Awards, Ms. Sheila Mbiru.

“We are training the youth in agroforestry and related skills as we seek to usher in a new age of young people equipped with skills to actively contribute to food security through climate smart agriculture and climate action,” said the Programme Manager Ms. Daisy Rono.

“KEFRI is eager to build capacity of youth, dispatch tree seeds to rehabilitate degraded forests and other landscapes as part of climate action in Kenya,” KEFRI’s Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme Director,” Dr Eston Mutitu said.

Dr. Mutitu further stated that KEFRI is undertaking a national responsibility of strengthening its 18 seed production centres countrywide and continuous development and disseminating of forestry innovations/technologies.

## Ecoactivists marks Prof. Wangari Maathai 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Tegla Lorupe, an environmentalists and world marathon road runner, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023, led Muguga Forest Conservationists in planting indigenous trees at Gachuthi forest to mark 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Late Prof. Wangari Maathai.

“There is every need to conserve our forests for they play essential role and resilience to climate change,” said Lorupe.



The stakeholders that comprised of Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA), Rotary club of Lavington Eco, Tegla Lorupe Foundation, Bio-Foods Limited, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), KEFRI, County Government of Kiambu (CGoK), Pleasant Hope Academy (PHA)-Kamangu, Bio-foods, Catherine Ndereva Foundation and communities adjacent the forest also participated in the Muguga Eco-run and hiking.

The President of Rotary Club of Lavington Eco Ms. Annyta Gitonga, appreciated the various stakeholders conserving Muguga natural forest.

“The Rotary Club is ready to partner with other stakeholders in environmental conservation as this is step towards achieving the globally recommended Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” Annyta said.

Lets us emulate Prof. Maathai who spent reasonable part of her lifetime campaigning for environmental conservation, a move that has been recognized globally.

MERCFA Chairman Simon Kamonde appealed for consolidated efforts to conserve biodiversity of Gachuthi natural forest that is on verge of degradation due to high demands from growing human population.

Gachuthi forest is habitat to *Vepris glandulosa* (Mũnderendu waitũ) and *Osyris lanceolata* (Mũthĩthĩ), amongst many other endangered plants and animal species.

“Let us all be responsible for our environment to the benefit of the current and future generations,” said Kamonde.

## Mainstreaming Road Safety

KEFRI Road Safety Committee in collaboration with Eagles Community Church - Pentecostal Assembly sensitized over 70 children on road safety.

The Committee's Chairman Mr. Zakayo Kurui and the Church Youth leader, Mr. Simon Kamenwa led the seminar at Kiambaa market - Muguga, Kiambu County. Mr. Kamenwa praised KEFRI for initiating the seminar and donation of 1,500 tree seedlings that were planted at Kiriri Primary School in Ndeiya, Kikuyu sub-county.

“Mainstreaming road safety to the locals residing alongside the busy Great Northern highway is a welcoming gesture to safeguard the lives of these youngsters,” said Pastor John Woi, ACK Thogoto.

## Defensive driving workshop

KEFRI in collaboration with Rightways Driving Service Ltd trained around 20 drivers from Headquarters, Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme (CHERP) and NFPDP -Karura.



Messrs Keesi and Kilonzo sensitizing KEFRI drivers on defensive driving skills

“The training aims to impact safe driving manouvre, improving drivers competence, reinforce organization's goals, policies and value in respect to safety operation at work environment. We anticipate drivers to reduce traffic incidents, reduce cost of vehicle maintenance, said Director KEFRI,” Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo while officially opening the workshop.

According to the instructor Stephen Kilonzo, Defensive driving essentially is driving in a manner that utilises safety strategies to enable motorists address identified hazards in a predictable manner. These strategies go well beyond instructions on basic traffic laws and procedures.

Defensive driving will enhance KEFRI drivers to improve their driving skills by reducing their driving risks, anticipating situations and making safe well-informed decisions based on road and environmental conditions.

## KEFRI Pension Scheme say Kudos to the following officers for their dedication and contribution in building the nation while they served at various KEFRI departments.

Name	P/No.	Exit Date	Mode
Matu Mulei	5702	01/07/2023	Ret
Jane Wamani Waititu	5880	01/07/2023	Ret
Mary Wambui Ngatia	6704	01/07/2023	Ret
William R. M. Nguthu	6126	01/07/2023	Ret
John Mutua Kamene	6944	01/07/2023	Ret
George Njunge Gatuha	5792	01/07/2023	Ret
Anna Waringa Wachira	6380	01/07/2023	Ret
Hannah Wanjiru Thiongo	6245	01/07/2023	Ret
Halkano Ayano Tulosa	6110	01/07/2023	Ret
Hannah Wanjiku Njuguna	6194	01/07/2023	Ret
Muti Kasengesi	5660	01/07/2023	Ret
Margaret Simeon Dama	6686	01/07/2023	Ret
Jeremiah Nyatangi Begi	6338	01/07/2023	Ret
Alice Adhiambo Omega	6152	01/07/2023	Ret
Mathias Osodo Otieno	6539	01/07/2023	Ret
Solomon Katele Mwendwa	6447	01/07/2023	Ret
Monica Wanjiru Mulinge	5631	01/07/2023	Ret
Michael Okoyo Aluga	6263	01/07/2023	Ret
Naftali Kerongo Ongweso	5497	01/07/2023	Ret
Paul Omondi Okoth	5484	01/07/2023	Ret
Benjamin K. Kiplangat	6192	01/07/2023	Ret
Paul Shibonje	6557	01/07/2023	Ret
David Ngugi Njunge	6369	01/07/2023	Ret
Emma Lily Ofula	5905	01/07/2023	Ret
Samuel Mahinge Mwangi	5886	01/07/2023	Ret
Ashako Bakuna Mughuna	6227	01/07/2023	Ret
Teresiah Wanjiku Mburu	6287	01/07/2023	Ret
Julius Kibagendi Omwenga	6006	01/07/2023	Ret
Moses Peter Ngugi Gitau	6097	01/07/2023	Ret
Samuel Njuguna Kariuki	6001	01/07/2023	Ret
Samuel Kamonde	6571	01/07/2023	Ret
Allina Nyadzua Ngolo	6737	01/07/2023	Ret
Edward Gitau Wahwai	6543	01/07/2023	Ret
Joska Adhiambo Onimbo	5813	01/07/2023	Ret
John Kimondo Migunda	6226	01/07/2023	Ret
George Ouma Onyango	5902	01/07/2023	Ret
Esther Wanja Githiri	5850	01/07/2023	Ret
Mary Wanjui Maina	6326	01/07/2023	Ret
Lucy Muthoni Gitau	6203	01/07/2023	Ret
Julius Maiswari Muunga	5387	01/07/2023	Ret
Monica Wanjiku Waweru	6604	01/07/2023	Ret
Joseph Gichuhi Thara	6312	01/07/2023	Ret
Linus Maina Mwangi	5231	01/07/2023	Ret
Mary Makusu	6880	01/07/2023	Ret
Justina Lina Munywoki	6268	01/07/2023	Ret
Isaac Onsaringo Okero	7148	01/07/2023	Res
William Odhiambo Osodo	6770	01/07/2023	Ret
Benard Owuor Odit	5716	01/07/2023	Ret
Simon Njoroge Ngigi	5909	30/08/2023	Ret
Edda Chebichi	7259	07/08/2023	Res
Joshua Cheboiwo	5541	20/08/2023	Ret
Ruth Kadzo Tsuwi	7230	01/09/2023	Res
Janet Mwanzoya Yaa	7143	24/09/2023	Dt

Key: Ret: Retired, Res: Resign, Dt: Death



**MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
& FORESTRY**

# 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF KAPTAGAT ANNUAL TREE PLANTING

**#15BillionTrees, #JazaMiti, #EMCGoesGreen**

**Keep Kaptagat Breathing**

**Date: Saturday, July 1, 2023**

**Time: Starting from 8:00 am**

**Venue: Kessup Forest Block, Kaptagat**



**NETFUND**  
Leading the way to a greener future



**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, Website:www.kefri.org

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