

Forester



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**ONE - MILLION
INDIGENOUS MODEL
TREE NURSERY
LAUNCHED
AT KARURA
FOREST**

**TREE PLANTING
CAMPAIGNS
DURING THE
SHORT RAINS
SEASON**

**FORESTS
AND ENERGY**

**ENHANCING
URBAN GREEN
SPACES IN
KENYA**

**PARTNERSHIPS IN FOREST
CONSERVATION**



CONTENTS



The Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau planting a tree at Miotoni Block, Ngong' Road Forest Station in Nairobi County

- LEAD STORY** 4
- PROJECT NEWS** 14
- GENERAL NEWS** 18
- STATION PROFILE** 32
- STAFF PROFILE** 38
- CROSS CUTTING ISSUES** 40
- SPORTS** 41
- PICTORIAL** 42
- COMMENTARIES** 44

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to yet another issue of the Forester Magazine publication. This issue covers some of our main activities between the months of July and December 2020.

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the health of populations and the global economy, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has had to adapt to the new normal whilst delivering services to the citizens and safeguarding the country's forest resources under difficult circumstances.

The President, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta launched the National Air Support Department which was attended by the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Mr. Julius Kamau among other senior officers of the Disciplined forces.

The KFS Board Chairman, Mr. Peter Kinyua presided over the launch of the one million indigenous model tree nursery at Karura Forest in partnership with NCBA Bank. The intention of the nursery launch was to encourage collaborations that will aid in attaining the 10% tree cover by 2022.

To strengthen partnerships with county governments, the CCF, Mr. Julius Kamau met with Nakuru County Governor, His Excellency Lee Kinyanjui to discuss forestry agendas and developments in Nakuru County, Mau Conservancy. The focus of the meeting was to create synergies and promote partnerships between the two levels of governments towards sustainable forest conservation management and protection of forest resources within the county for the benefit of residents and the nation at large.

We have also featured articles on World Ozone Day, Cleanup day, Bamboo Day, World Rangers Day and International Conservation Day of the Mangrove Ecosystem among others.

For these and other important articles featuring significant milestones in the forest conservation sector, I encourage all our readers to indulge with our content and get acquainted on the gains realized in sustainable forest management. We also invite you to join us in being part of the greening team by sharing relevant photos of individual or group tree planting activities and other conservation initiatives through our various communication and social media channels.

Enjoy your reading.

Anne Kaari, 'ndc' (K)

WORD FROM THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS



The local prevalence of the COVID-19 disease, despite its many unprecedented social and economic effects, has shed light on the centrality of forests towards the socio-economic stability of countries and in maintaining healthy populations.

According to a brief by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), among the key roles played by forests during this period is in offering green-spaces, that act as alternative social distancing recreation facilities for activities such as hiking, biking, jogging and nature walks with the aim of slowing the spread of the disease.

During the short rains season, the Service together with the Ministry of Environment & Forestry conducted several tree planting campaigns some of which were driven by the Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Hon. Keriako Tobiko.

The tree planting activities are aimed at advancing towards the 10% tree cover overall goal by the year 2022.

Aside from these, we launched the Mwambirwa-Mbololo (Mwambo) Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) 2020-2024 together with the signing of the Forest Management Agreement (FMA).

The PFMP was developed through a participatory planning process involving a cross-section of Mwambirwa and Mbololo stakeholders under the

coordination of a local planning team comprising representatives from Kenya Forest Service, County government of Taita Taveta and the local communities through the New Mwambo Community Forest Association.

Moreover, we joined the international community on 18th September 2020 to celebrate the World Bamboo Day which has been declared the 16th cash crop in Kenya by His Excellency the President.

Bamboo's rooting system binds the soil together preventing it from erosion and is also very good for cleaning underground water as well as providing cover for riverines thus preventing excessive evaporation. In marking this day, CS Keriako Tobiko led in the planting of over 1,000 bamboo seedlings along the Nairobi River.

Mr. Julius Kamau
Chief Conservator of Forests

BE THE LUCKY WINNER!



KFS will be awarding one lucky winner of the the start letter. Write to us with your comments and enquiries for a chance to win branded merchandise. We also invite readers to share photos of themselves while planting trees which will then be featured in the next Magazine Issue.



TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGNS DURING THE SHORT RAINS SEASON

Ministry of Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Hon. Keriako Tobiko waters a tree with pupils during a tree planting exercise in Laikipia County

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) through KFS led planting of more than 8,000,000 seedlings during the short rains season tree planting campaigns, in public and private lands. The undertaking greatly benefited from the support of public and private sector entities through provision of additional resources to accelerate the achievement of 10% tree cover by the year 2022.

The MEF Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Keriako Tobiko led several key planting exercises during the season in Marsabit and Laikipia Counties among others.

In Ewaso North Conservancy, more than 5,000 tree seedlings were planted at Hurri Hills Primary School, Marsabit County, one of the events led by Hon. Tobiko accompanied by the Ministry's CAS Hon. Mohammed Elmi, KFS Commandant Mr. Alex Lemaroko and heads of MEF SAGAs. Hon. Tobiko noted

that the Hurri Hills were once forested areas with lush trees and urged everyone including members of the adjacent community to work together to ensure the hills are restored. He said that the Hurri Hills are National Government gazetted forest lands and cautioned members of the public from speculation and illegal activities.

In Laikipia County, the CS accompanied by the MEF CAS Hon. Mohamed Elmi, KFS Board Member Mr. Peter Leitoro, Laikipia North MP Hon. Sarah Korere among other leaders led planting of 5,000 tree seedlings in Ol-arjiju Primary and Secondary Schools and dispensary. Another 1,500 seedlings were planted in Doldol Primary and Secondary schools, 1,000 seedlings at St Francis Girls Secondary school and a further 500 at Kurikuri Primary School. These institutions are all located within Mukogodo Forest.

The CS called for increased tree planting within the forest and concerted efforts to conserve the important ecosystem. He encouraged the forest adjacent communities to engage in non-extractive forest enterprises to improve the livelihoods and ensure the forests continue to provide ecological services for current and future generations.

In Bomet County, Mau Conservancy, the Service led planting of 60,000 assorted indigenous tree seedlings at Ndoinet forest for rehabilitation to supplement natural regenerations, an exercise conducted in partnership with the Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) and members of Ndoinet Community Forest Association. In addition, the Service planted 6,640 seedlings at Itare and Chepalungu forest stations along the catchment of Ainoptich stream. The Service also planted 20,114 seedlings in Maasai Mau forest in collaboration with the Kenya Water Towers Agency, Loliondo CFA, and representatives from the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

In Coast Conservancy, KFS in collaboration with Equity Bank conducted a series of planting campaigns where 1,500 indigenous seedlings were planted at

KFS office compound in Galole, 1,000 at Shakababo conservancy, and 500 tree seedlings at Kenya Prisons Service compound, Hola in Tana River County. Another 17,500 mangrove propagules were planted at Chara Cheers, Tana Delta. Stakeholders present comprised of Chara CFA, Lower Tana Delta Conservancy, and Northern Rangelands Trust. In Taveta Technical and Vocational College 500 indigenous seedlings were planted.

KFS and Equity Bank partnership also saw an additional 2,350 seedlings planted at Ndura Secondary School, African Muslim Agency Primary School, Kone Primary School, Hola Primary, and Hola School for The Mentally Handicapped. The planting activities incorporated students from respective schools.

The Principal Secretary Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development Dr. Kevin Desai also led a tree planting campaign in Lamu County where 2,500 mangroves were planted at Kitangani Beach. KFS in collaboration with Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), Engineers Board of Kenya, and the Sabaki Conservation Group planted 5,000 indigenous tree seedlings at Jilore forest sta-



A view of Hurri Hills in Marsabit County

tion in Kilifi County.

In Kwale County, the Service in partnership with Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), local communities, and Fujita planted 8,000 mangrove propagules at Kwale forest station.

In Mombasa County, KFS in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Mombasa County Assembly, and the Big Ship Community Forest Association planted 1,000 mangroves at Mikindani and Ganahola.

In Meru County, the Head of Eastern Conservancy Ms. Beatrice Mbula, hosted the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Ms. Mary Kimonye in Nyambene forest station for a tree planting exercise where 2,000 indigenous trees were planted. The PS led a team of officers from the Public Service who through this exercise adopted the two Ha degraded forest land for restoration and rehabilitation.

Senior officers from The State Law Office and Department of Justice led by the Attorney General Hon. Justice (Rtd) Paul Kihara planted 4,600 indigenous tree seedlings in South Kinangop forest station, Nyandarua County. The AG urged the community to support the implementation of the Presidential Directive of attaining 10% tree cover by 2022. He also encouraged the youth who have been engaged at the station's tree nursery and tree planting activities to continue working with the Government through the Kazi Mtaani Programme.

In Nyanza conservancy the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Devolution & ASALs Hon. Eugene Wamalwa led a tree planting exercise at Rawalo Hill in Siaya County where 5,040 indigenous tree seedlings were planted in collaboration with the Rawalo community, Siaya County Government, and the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Indus-

trialization Dr. Francis Owino led planting of 2,000 seedlings in Agongo forest block, Migori County. The exercise was in collaboration with officials from both the National and County Governments and local CBOs.

In North Eastern Conservancy, KFS in partnership with the Kenya Defence Forces, Kenya Urban Roads Authority and Eldas Constituency Development Fund, planted 2,101 indigenous and drought-resistant tree species at the KDF Border Security Command Camp, KDF Academy Camp, Masalale, Eldas Primary School and Eldas Girls Secondary School in Wajir County. The planting activities were led by Wajir East Deputy County Commissioner Mr. Omar Beja together with the KFS Ecosystem Conservator, Madam Ambia Abdi Osman. In Eldas Constituency, KFS together with the area MP Hon. Adan Keynan and local community planted 3,000 drought resistant indigenous seedlings in Elnur Town. The activity was sponsored by Equity Bank Foundation in collaboration with the Adan Keynan Foundation.

The Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau thanked all the partners and stakeholders involved in tree planting initiatives across the country. He singled out government ministries and agencies who are investing heavily in tree planting that is transforming landscapes and improving micro climates.

He also thanked private entities who as part of their CSR are investing in tree growing in various spaces including in public forests and learning institutions. He said this is a sure way of giving back to community. He noted that the Service is open to productive partnerships that will be beneficial to current and future generations while strengthening socio-economic gains for forest adjacent communities and securing forest and tree spaces.

ONE - MILLION INDIGENOUS MODEL TREE NURSERY LAUNCHED AT KARURA FOREST



KFS and NCBA staff sowing the first batch of indigenous seeds that will be produced at the model nursery

Kenya Forest Service in partnership with NCBA Bank launched the one-million indigenous model tree nursery at Karura Forest. The nursery is part of the #ChangeTheStory tree planting campaign towards achieving a national target of 10% tree cover by 2022.

The launch was officiated by the KFS Board Chairman Mr. Peter Kinyua, NCBA Bank Group Managing Director Mr. John Gachora, and the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau who led staff from both organizations in sowing the first batch of indigenous seeds.

Mr. Peter Kinyua noted that to achieve 10% tree cover by the year 2022, KFS would not walk the journey alone and noted that the NCBA partnership

will boost seedling production by raising one million indigenous tree seedlings annually. He thanked NCBA for actualizing this initiative and for changing the tree planting narrative..

“Successful growing of trees is determined by the quality of seedlings produced from a tree nursery.” Noted Kinyua, adding that, “Changing the story is not just about planting a tree but sustaining its growth to maturity.”

Mr. Kinyua called on Kenyans to embrace tree growing by purchasing quality seedlings and growing them on degraded forest areas, schools, private farmlands, open spaces, and plots to #ChangeTheStory.

He noted that the proceeds from the sale of seedlings produced in the nursery will be reinvested to cater for the recurrent expenditure and development of the nursery.

Mr. Kamau noted that the new nursery complements the 290 others that are managed by KFS to provide quality tree seedlings countrywide.

Mr. Kamau also said the nursery is located at a strategic position within Karura forest, an urban green space. He noted that the Service is ensuring all public forests are safeguarded for the benefit of all; both current and future generations.

“The management vision of the Service for Karura forest is to make it a world-class sustainably managed, conserved and protected forest reserve, safe and secure for the provision of ecological goods and services, including eco-tourism,” he added.

He also lauded the KFS Board Chairman for spearheading the public-private partnership with NCBA.

NCBA Group MD Mr. John Gachora noted that to mitigate climate change and forest protection, the young generation should be engaged and brought on board to appreciate the dangers of climate change and embrace conservation. He said that the investment in the tree nursery is informed by the #ChangeTheStory campaign that aims to increase Kenya’s tree cover.

The One-million Indigenous Model Tree Nursery can be accessed through KFS Gate-C opposite Shark palace along Kiambu Road, and also through KFS Headquarters Main Gate opposite DCI Headquarters.



The KFS Board Chair Peter Kinyua together with the Chief Conservator of Forests Julius Kamau and NCBA Managing Director John Gachora sowing seeds in the nursery bed



The CCF Mr. Julilus Kamau speaking during the launch of the #ChangeTheStory one million seedlings tree nursery in Karura Forest



FORESTS AND ENERGY

Kenya’s forestry sector is central to its economy and its future. Five key forests regulate 75% of the country’s renewable water supplies, while more than 80% of the domestic energy utilised in Kenya comes from wood.

As Kenya’s population and economy grows, the demand for fuelwood and construction materials, such as sawn timber, is accelerating. However, Kenya is only able to meet about 70% of this demand through sustainable domestic supply. The annual deficit of 12 million m3 is met by formal and informal imports plus unsustainable extraction from natural private forests. This will only get worse: population growth, industrialization and urbanization are predicted to increase demand to 66 million m3 by 2030, while sustainable supply is projected to stay almost static. This would see the annual deficit nearly treble to 34.4 million m3.

The consequences for Kenya’s environment and economy in such a scenario would be severe. Private commercial forestry can play a key role in closing the wood supply gap by offering fast-growing and renewable alternatives to felling of natural forests. It can also create opportunities for growers of all sizes to generate wealth. However, key constraints and structural challenges to competitiveness need to be overcome, including: poor access to improved germplasm and quality planting material; limited skills and knowledge within silviculture, plantation management and harvesting; relatively weak business skills, market knowledge and coordination of tree growers.

Energy plays a central role in the world economy and changes in energy costs have significant effects on economic growth, especially in oil importing developing countries. Currently, a major shift is underway in the sources from which energy is expected to be derived in coming years. The changes result from three primary concerns: high fossil fuel prices; perceived risks of fossil fuel dependence; increasing greenhouse gas

emissions from fossil fuels. (FAO Forestry Paper 154, 2008).

Henceforth, trees provide a popular source of renewable energy for wood fuel used in heating, cooking and industrial needs and protect watersheds that support hydroelectric generation. In Africa, woodfuel is a major source of energy for two-thirds of all households and about fifty percent of global wood production is used for energy needs. (FAO.org/forestry 2017).

In Kenya, approximately 90% of rural households use firewood for cooking while 80% of urban households depend on charcoal as the primary source of energy for household needs.

The current consumption of woodfuel in Kenya is estimated to be 40 million M3 annually while the national wood deficit is projected to increase from 10 million M3 to about 15 million M3 per year by 2030. The charcoal value chain employs over 1 million persons directly and supports a further 2.8 million people. The economic value of charcoal production is therefore estimated at KShs 135 billion annually.

In the Counties, charcoal is predominantly produced within community forests falling in the fragile arid and semi-arid areas of the country. No charcoal production is allowed in gazetted forests. The charcoal producing counties include; Kitui, Tana River, Taita Taveta, Garissa, Narok, Kajiado, Baringo, West Pokot, Turkana, Kilifi and Kwale. This charcoal is predominantly consumed in nearby towns and cities. There is also charcoal production in counties with the invasive prosopis tree species, namely Tana River, Garissa and Baringo, which are utilizing prosopis for charcoal production, to control its spread. In Kajiado and Narok Counties, communal ranches are being subdivided to individual ownership. As a result, there has been a trend towards rampant charcoal production as the cleared vegetation is being utilized by individual owners to

produce charcoal. Currently only Kitui county government has enacted a legislative framework for regulating charcoal production but majority of the above charcoal producing counties are yet to do so and therefore require technical support and capacity building.

Statutory and regulatory regimes for charcoal in Kenya

Charcoal trade is regulated through the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016 (FCMA 2016) and the Forest Charcoal Rules, 2009. The Forests (Charcoal) Rules, 2009 were enacted to regulate charcoal production to enhance sustainable production, transportation and marketing. The rules were enacted vide gazette notice no.186 which led to the formation of over 300 charcoal producer groups (CPGs) in which some came together to form Charcoal Producer Associations (CPAs) to support sustainable production of charcoal in the target charcoal producing counties.

Licensing of charcoal trade is among the devolved functions to be undertaken by counties.

The County Governments are expected to develop regulations for the charcoal industry at the local level. However, to date (2020) only Kitui County has enacted its Charcoal regulations, while others such as Baringo, Kajiado, Kwale and Kilifi are at different stages of development. Notably, after devolution, most counties banned the charcoal trade altogether which led to collapse of some of the groups that had initially come together to form CPAs.

Charcoal rules 2009 are currently under review and have been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry for finalization. The regulations are being reviewed to align to the responsibilities of County Governments as envisaged in the Constitution and the FCMA, 2016.

Recommendations for charcoal production, trade and utilization

The emerging best global practice in charcoal production world over is not banning its production but putting in place suitable mechanisms for its sustainable production, trade and utilization.

In order to self-regulate the charcoal industry in Kenya, the capacities of emerging CPAs need to be further strengthened to enhance their capacities to promote sustainable production and where they don't exist to provide necessary support for their establishment and registration.

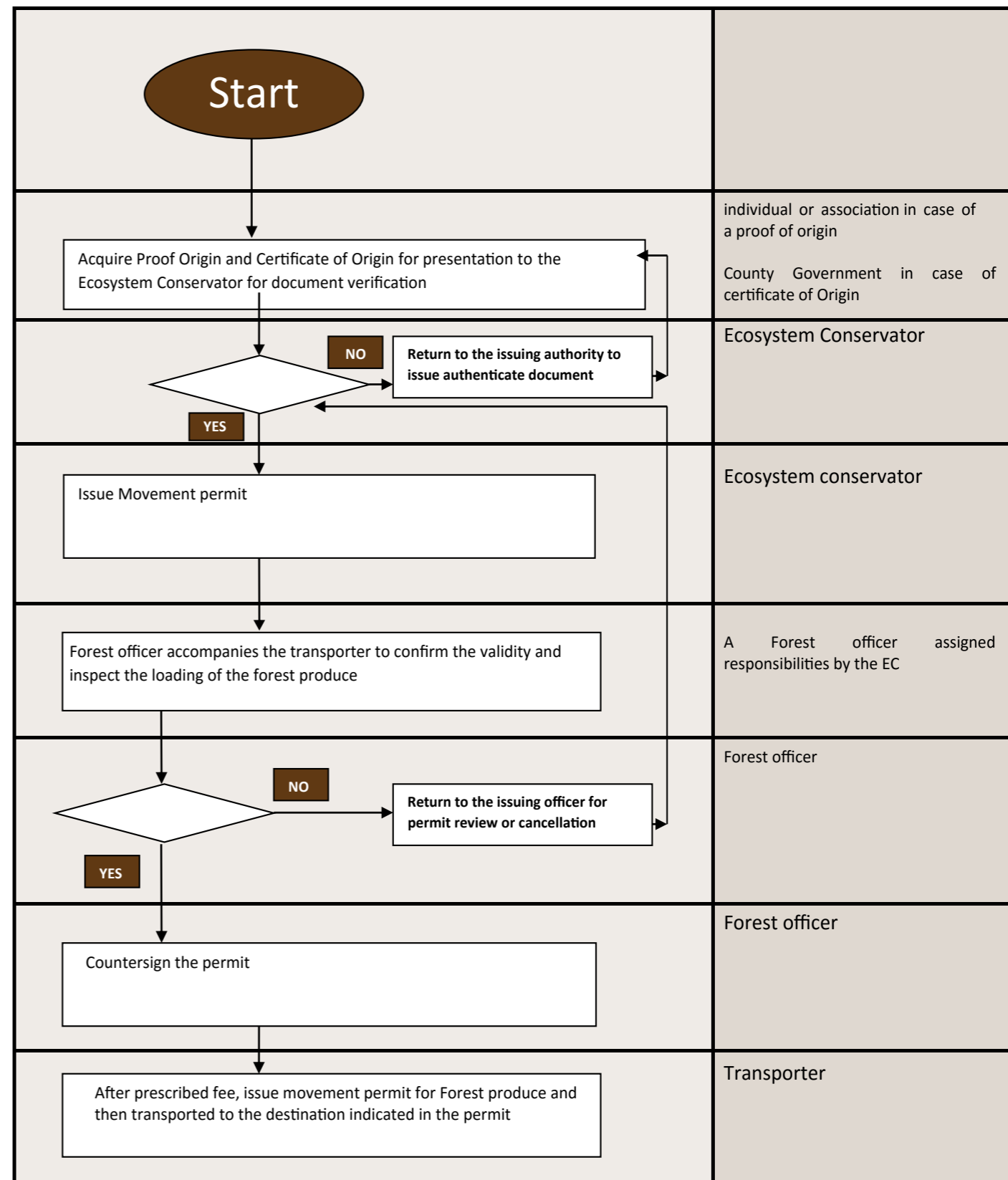
In order to mitigate against wanton destruction of fragile ecosystems, both the national and county governments should set aside land for establishment of appropriate tree species for commercial charcoal production.

Kenya is collaborating with various partners, among them UN FAO to enhance alternative livelihoods among forest dependent communities, enhance social protection among forest dependent communities, promote investments in forest enterprises on farms, enhance the institutional capacities of forest and farm producer organizations and emerging farmers associations in the farm forestry sector in Kenya. There is also piloting of proven models of engaging forest adjacent communities, forest enterprise development models, and appropriate forestry extension and advisory approaches.

FAO recommends development of policies to encourage long-term investment in wood energy, support technology transfer and efficient, well-regulated trade, increase the area of sustainably managed forests, encourage the use of clean, cheap and efficient cook stoves, and, sharing of information with policy-makers and the public. (FAO.org/forestry 2017).

Dr. Clement Ng'oriareng',Phd

Process Flow Chart for Transportation of Forest Produce



ENHANCING URBAN GREEN SPACES IN KENYA

A section of a bridge within Michuki Park crossing the Nairobi river

The Government of Kenya has committed to setting up and rehabilitating green spaces in urban areas to enhance a good quality of life for its citizenry. In the capital city of Nairobi, rehabilitation of Hon John N Michuki Memorial Park has been a key milestone achievement, having been converted from a dumpsite to a modern park through concerted collaboration by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, its Semi -Autonomous Government Agencies and the Nairobi Metropolitan Services. The park located in Nairobi next to the Globe Cinema round-about, was rehabilitated by the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, National Environment Management Authority, National Museums of Kenya among other stakeholders under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The Kenya Government agenda of beautifying green spaces is involving all the neighboring stakeholders and the communities living around those areas and urban green spaces are also contributing to urban forestry and the overall goal of achieving 10 percent tree cover in Kenya by 2022. Other parks lined up for rehabilitation include Nairobi City Park, Uhuru Gardens, Central Park/ Uhuru Park, Jevanjee Gardens,

Nairobi Arboretum among others. The Kenya Constitution 2010 devolved management of County Parks and Arboretums to County Governments and they are also being encouraged to follow suit to rehabilitate them and provide conducive recreational areas for residents. Towards this, UNEP has partnered with the Service to plant trees and rehabilitate selected urban and peri -urban parks through the 'Greening Kenya's Urban and Peri – Urban Forests Program.'

The ongoing rehabilitation of urban green spaces involves renovation of sites with rich cultural and historical significance such as graveyards of notable personalities, cleaning and stabilizing riverbanks with gabions, setting up tree nurseries, planting indigenous tree species, building necessary infrastructure such as fences, providing security, lighting and signage, among other activities. Expanding urban green spaces also contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Through improved air and water quality, buffering of noise pollution and mitigation of impacts from extreme events, urban green spaces can reduce environmental health risks associated with urban living.

In addition, they support and facilitate health and well-being by enabling stress alleviation and relaxation, physical activity, improved social interaction and community cohesiveness. Health benefits include improved levels of mental health, physical fitness and cognitive and immune function, as well as lower mortality rates in general. (WHO brief, 2017).

Urban living limits access to nature and can increase exposure to certain environmental hazards, such as air and noise pollution. Many urban areas face increasing pressure from expanding populations, limited resources and growing impacts of climate change.

These challenges must be addressed in order for cities to provide healthy and sustainable living environments. Green spaces and other nature-based solutions offer innovative approaches to increase the quality of urban settings, enhance local resilience and promote sustainable lifestyles, improving both the health and the well-being of urban residents.

Parks, playgrounds or vegetation in public and private places are a central component of these approaches and can help to ensure that: urban residents have adequate opportunities for exposure to nature; urban biodiversity is maintained and protected; environmental hazards such as air pollution or noise are reduced; the impacts of extreme weather events (heatwaves, extreme rainfall or flooding) are mitigated; the quality of urban living is enhanced; and, the health and well-being of residents is improved. Urban green space is a component of "green infrastructure."

It is an important part of public open spaces and common services provided by a city and can serve as a health-promoting setting for all members of the urban community. It is therefore necessary to ensure that public green spaces are easily accessible for all population groups and distributed equitably within the city. (WHO brief, 2017).



A section of walking paths in John Michuki Memorial park

Hon. John Michuki Memorial Park main entrance during the festive season



GZDSP II ROLLS OUT COMMUNITY SUPPORT



The Green Zones Development Support Project Phase II (GZDSP II) Manager Jerome Mwanzia handing over farm supplements to CFA members in Machakos County

Green Zones Development Support Project Phase II (GZDSP II) handed over 3,000 seedlings and farm inputs including seeds and fertilizer to farmers in Tala, Machakos County towards promoting food security and agro forestry.

The handover ceremony held at Sengani Primary School was kick-started by a ceremonial tree planting session led by the Machakos County Commissioner Fred Ndunga and the GZDSP II Project Manager Mr. Jerome Mwanzia.

Similar support has now already been extended to farmers in all the 15 counties where GZDSP II funded by the African Development Bank is being implemented.

Speaking during the handover, the County Commissioner noted the huge role the environment plays in food security and sustaining livelihoods. He noted the critical role of the forest adjacent communities in supplementing Government efforts in forest conservation. "The National Government is committed to continuously working with KFS, the County Governments and the community in ensuring 10% tree coverage for the nation is achieved by the set time-

line," he said.

At the same event, the Project Manager urged the farmers to work together to attain greater good for their local community. He encouraged them to put to good use the farm supplements in order to also benefit other community members.

The function was also attended by the Head of Conservancy for Eastern region Beatrice Mbula, the Machakos County Ecosystem Conservator Mary Mwai, Deputy County Commissioner Matungulu Sub-County Abbas Mohamoud among other local



Part of the farm inputs distributed to the community through GZDSP II

administration officers and the community.

A team from GZDSP II had also earlier conducted a mission tour of Mau Conservancy particularly to Community Forest Associations in Koibatek, Dunderi and Londiani. The CFAs had earlier received

the same support. The team also assessed the progress of green house and dairy farming being undertaken by the CFA through support of the project.

3RD FARMER FIELD SCHOOL GRADUATION FOR EMBU AND TAITA TAVETA COUNTIES



Head of Conservancy for Eastern Conservancy Beatrice Mbula hands over a certificate to an FFS graduate in Embu County

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) graduation ceremonies took place in Embu County on the 21st and 22nd of October and in Taita Taveta County on 29th of October where a total of 173 farmers from Embu and 60 from Taita Taveta were awarded certificates after undergoing a one year training programme in FFS methodology.

The graduands or "wakulima wataalamu" were trained on among other things; farming of food crops, animal husbandry, poultry farming, tree planting and soil conservation. The outcome of this study was visible from the presentations made by graduands who show cased various improvised, cost effective and efficient ways of farming, bee keeping and harvesting and soil conservation among other income generating activities for improved livelihood.

The two Ceremonies were graced by Dr. James Nd-

ufo, Deputy Director Kenya Forestry Research Institute. According to the project manager Mr. Peter Nduati, the project has had a big impact on farmers in Embu and Taita Taveta counties because they are now equipped with relevant knowledge they would apply for the rest of their lives to earn a living and reduce poverty.

Speaking during the event, he lauded the project for equipping farmers with relevant knowledge to practice sustainable agriculture and commercial tree growing whereby over 5000 seedlings of Melia Volkensi have been given to selected 550 farmers.

Capacity Development Project for sustainable Forest Management (CADEP) in the Republic of Kenya is a technical cooperation project between the governments of Kenya and Japan. It has five components 2 of which are implemented by Kenya Forest Service.

Component 2 which are supporting the development of Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMP) and running Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and promoting the planting of *Melia volkensii* tree through supply of seedlings to selected farmers in the two counties of Embu and Taita Taveta to achieve 10% forest cover.

The graduation ceremonies were attended by among others Head of Conservancy Eastern Region, Beatrice Mbula, Embu County Ecosystem Conservator Monica Ndirangu, JICA representative John Ngugi, Embu County Director for Environment Partrick Njagi, CECM water, sanitation, environment, climate change and natural resources Taita Taveta County Esther Mwanyumba, Deputy County Commissioner Daniel Nduiti and Head of Conservancy Mr. Andrew Soi.



A Farmer Field Schools beneficiary with seedlings received from CADEP

TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF KENYA'S FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL

Over the years, Kenya has been faced with conflicts over natural resources such as water, forests, minerals and land among others. The existing legal and institutional mechanisms that are in place to deal with environmental conflicts have not offered much in stemming the prevalence of environmental conflicts.

“Environmental conflicts” refer to the contests that exist as a result of the various competing interests over access to and use of natural resources such as land, water, minerals and forests. Various groups, communities, developers, government and other organizations have differing ideas of how to access and utilize environmental resources. Laws and policies which have a conflict generating capacity are often pursued by the various groups leading to further friction among them.

There is a legal and institutional framework that is supposed to deal with environmental conflicts and either resolve or manage them. These institutions in-

clude the courts of law, tribunals under various Acts, The National Environmental Management Authority, Public Complaints Committee, Environmental Tribunal and other various informal community based resource governance bodies. The laws include the numerous statutes that deal with the environment. Notable among them is the framework law, the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), the Public Health Act, the Forest Management and Conservation Act of 2016, the Water Act and the various statutes dealing with land.

Despite the existence of the aforesaid laws and institutions, environmental conflicts continue to manifest themselves in Kenya. There have been for instance violent conflicts over access to and use of land in Kenya especially forest land, which conflicts are well documented an example of the Mau Complex ongoing conflict.

By Peter Nduati

RE-ALIGNING CFA'S TO FCMA, 2016

Restructuring of Community Forest Associations (CFA) to align them to the requirements of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016, has been ongoing in earnest since the start of the 2020/2021 Financial Year. This is being undertaken due to emerging challenges that have been observed in a few CFA's including non-adherence to CFA Constitutions.

This includes failure to adhere to requirements of the CFA Constitutions, for example, failure to undertake annual elections, lack of succession planning and interference in CFA Governance. These situations have led to discontent amongst members in the affected CFAs, which in turn negatively impacts CFA operations and achievement of various objectives.

To address these challenges, the Service has been providing sensitization meetings for CFAs covering selected forest stations including Kaptagat, Mukogodo, Jilore, Arabuko Sokoke, Ngong Hills, among others. These meetings have enabled the CFAs to update records, conduct elections, review plans, rules and regulations.

The sensitization meetings have also provided platforms for new members to learn about CFA operations. However, for this process to work ef-

fectively, there is need for the Service and development partners to continue providing technical and management advice. There is also need to improve CFA skills and knowledge in identified forestry activities. Some of the common and popular CFA activities include tree nurseries, collection of herbal medicine, bee keeping, fuelwood collection, grazing, eco-tourism, among other activities.

Undoubtedly, the approximately 255 CFAs countrywide, have created a positive impact on the livelihoods of forest-adjacent communities, and they have boosted forest conservation and protection. However challenges in selected CFAs including political and elite capture, wrangles and conflicts, non-adherence to CFA rules and regulations, have all contributed to a slow-down in achievement of CFA goals.

These challenges have motivated a review of the Participatory Forest Management processes by the Service, and the recommended changes are expected to have a positive bearing in CFA governance. Properly functioning CFAs will contribute significantly to achievement of forest conservation and ten percent forest cover by 2022.



Community Forest Association members electing new members of their Executive Committee

KFS AIRWING JOINS THE NATIONAL AIR SUPPORT DEPARTMENT



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta inspecting the KFS Caravan Aircraft during the launch of National Air Support Department. Captain Philip Mutinda of KFS explains to the President the functions and capabilities of the KFS aircraft.

The Kenya Forest Service airwing division has been amalgamated with those of other government agencies which also operate aircrafts to form the National Air Support Department (NASD). The new de-

partment, domiciled under the Ministry of Defence, is charged with the responsibility of coordinating Kenya's national air response services.

While addressing NASD staff during the official

launch at its Wilson Airport headquarters, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta noted that the department brings together all Government air assets to enhance efficiency in the delivery of aviation services. The President also emphasized that the reform was necessitated by the compelling need to foster effectiveness in the management of the national aviation assets with the view of optimizing on safety, efficacy, and improved availability of aircrafts. "The National Air Support Department is a multi-agency approach to service delivery that we, as a Government, have adopted," he said. NASD has created a fleet of 36 aircraft manned by 273 personnel through the merging of the Kenya Defence Forces, National Police Service, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Department of Survey

and Remote Sensing and Kenya Electricity Transmission Company airwing departments.

The launch was attended by Service Commanders from the respective merged Services, including the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau, who is also a Board member of NASD. In the department's organization structure, the KFS Head of Airwing Lt. Col (Rtd) Ronald Mbaji becomes the Head of Helicopters and Gyrocopters. The merger of all government airwing assets under NASD brings new strength to the Service by enhancing its capacity in areas of fire fighting, aerial surveillance, and rescue operations.



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta is welcomed by the CCF Mr. Julius Kamau among other Service Commanders during the launch of NASD at Wilson Airport



H.E Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta (centre) with CCF Mr. Julius Kamau (3rd right) and other National Air Support Department Board Members at the NASD launch, Wilson Airport.

KFS INTENSIFIES AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

To execute its mandate in forest conservation, management, and protection, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) continually conducts aerial and ground surveillance of the 2.5 Million Hectares of forests under its jurisdiction to enhance forest monitoring, inspect the integrity of forest boundaries, identify and deter any illegality while assessing measures undertaken to safeguard Kenya's vast forest resources.

Over the last half of the year 2020, the Service conducted expansive surveillance exercises of forest ecosystems at the Coast, Central Highlands, Mau, North-Rift, and Eastern Conservancies through close coordination between field officers and the KFS Headquarter command and monitoring centre.

During the exercises, the Kenya Forest Service Board Chairman Peter Kinyua, the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Julius Kamau, Deputy CCF (Forest Security & Protection) Commandant Alex Lemarkoko as well as Senior Ministry of Environment and Forestry officials have led teams comprising of Regional Commanders, Heads of Conservancies, and Ecosystems conservators from respective areas of jurisdiction in conducting aerial surveillance to compliment ground operations in the aforementioned conservancies. Assessments from the exercises have also served to inspect a raft of measures executed by Government in securing forest resources, and also enhanced informed policy execution towards achieving ten percent forest cover.



The Chief Conservator of Forests Mr Julius Kamau (inset) during a forest-boundary aerial assessment. Clockwise from top: aerial photos of Gogoni forest station, Sacred Mijikenda Kaya forests in Lamu County, a fire-break in Mt. Kenya forest ecosystem, and mangrove forests at Tudor Creek in Mombasa County.

In addition, the aerial surveillance capacity of the Service has been deployed in undertaking other national security concerns such as addressing locust invasion experienced in parts of the country, forest fires, rescue operations, and inspection of rising water levels in some of the Rift Valley Lakes among other critical assignments.

The KFS Air wing currently has a fleet of one helicopter, and a fixed wing caravan which until recently were merged together with other Disciplined Services Air wings, and the Kenya Defence Forces to form the newly established National Air Support Department (NASD) that was launched on 17th December, 2020 by His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-In-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces.

Looking into the future, the Service is at advanced stages with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) working towards incorporating the use of drones into her pre-existing capacity to strengthen aerial surveillance and management of forest ecosystems in Kenya. The pilot program is already taking place at Kirisia/Leroghi forest in Samburu County. Through this, the workload of forest rangers patrolling vast forest beats will greatly be enhanced to protect our precious forest resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.

MAASAI MAU FOREST RECLAMATION, ONE YEAR LATER

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) together with other Ministry SAGAs marked the 1st-anniversary celebrations of the reclamation and restoration of Maasai Mau forest on 31st October, 2020 through a tree planting exercise at Senetwet Block 65 of Maasai Mau forest led by Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko and the Principal Secretary (PS) Dr. Chris Kiptoo.

The planting activity, which was attended by the KFS Board led by Chairman Peter Kinyua, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Julius Kamau among other CEOs, saw 110,000 indigenous trees planted on 100 ha as part of the ongoing restoration of Maasai Mau. This is part of the 13,400 ha of forest land that was reclaimed in 2019.

Speaking during the occasion, Tobiko noted the ecological value of Maasai Mau forest as the upper

catchment of major water bodies and wildlife habitats including Mara River, Amalo river, Ewaso Ngiro, Nile, Lake Victoria, Natron, Serengeti, and Maasai Mara parks among others necessitated the Government to protect the forest for the benefit of all, both current and future generations.

Tobiko stated that plans were underway to fence off Maasai Mau through MEF to ensure the security and integrity of the Maasai Mau forest.

He appreciated the local community for voluntarily relocating from the forest area and working in partnership with the government to restore the forest. Tobiko also appreciated the Service for its steadfastness through its management in ensuring the protection of the reclaimed forest, through the Joint Enforcement Team lead by Superintendent David Mutoro of KFS.



A newly planted section of the 13,000Ha of forest land that was reclaimed in the Maasai Mau

PS Dr. Chris Kiptoo recognized with appreciation the collaborative partnership towards the restoration of Senetwet block 65 where KFS contributed 44,900 indigenous tree seedlings.

Board Chairman Kinyua noted that to secure the Maasai Mau forest, KFS posted and maintained 120 rangers over the last two years in Maasai Mau and Olposimoru operation areas. He stated that the Service has employed a multi-agency approach to secure forest resources particularly against charcoal burning, and also realigning all forest boundaries to deal with encroachment and challenges of unclear boundaries. In addition Kinyua stated that the Service has rolled out an online registration of private tree nurseries countrywide to boost and ensure production of credible tree seedlings towards the attainment of a 10% tree cover by 2022.

CCF Kamau appreciated all partners present including ministry SAGAs for delivery of seedlings towards the restoration program including CBOs such as 'Principle Styles Ceremonial seedlings' based at Ainabkoi, and the 'Friends of Mau & Mara Conservation group.' He noted that through the program, the Service had engaged local communities in site preparations and planting, through which they earn a livelihood. Kamau appreciated the goodwill from community members present, which has been instrumental in ensuring the survival of seedlings planted a year ago when the reclamation programme was launched.

The CCF also emphasized that it had taken extra resources to ensure protection and maintenance of planted areas achieved through partnership synergies between the Service and other entities, and called for more partnership towards the forest restoration process.

Furthermore, Kamau noted that illegal grazing remained a great challenge to the survival of seedlings on planted areas yielding to the Service innovating the grass cut and carry policy to protect planted areas and control weeding.

The CCF called on the Ministry's support by increasing the staff capacity of rangers who are already overstretched to sustain the demand for enforcement and protection in forest ecosystems.



KFS Board Chairman Mr. Peter Kinyua and the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau during the tree planting exercise



A section of the tree planting site in Maasai Mau Forest

MANGROVE FORESTS; A UNIQUE LIVELIHOOD NEST FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems 2020



CCF Julius Kamau commissions a new KFS patrol boat procured through funding from the French Government for mangrove research and protection

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) joined the world, on 26th July 2020, in marking the International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove ecosystems through a progressive tree planting campaign with Lamu residents that saw over 6,500 mangrove seedlings and propagules planted on that particular day at Lamu forest station.

The mangrove conservation and awareness day themed “Towards a sustainable use of mangrove wood resources” was graced by the Chief Conservator of Forests Julius Kamau and the French Ambassador to Kenya and Somalia Her Excellency Aline Kuster Menager.

This was the second time KFS was celebrating this crucial calendar event aimed at emphasizing the importance of mangrove forest ecosystems to the livelihood of coastal communities and the coastline environment. The celebrations were used to sensitize and drum up support towards enhancing conservation of the fragile yet vital resource.

Courtesy of the Mikoko Project, a Government of Kenya and French Government partnership towards conservation and resilience of mangrove ecosystems, through KFS and the French National Research institute for Development (IRD), the Service was granted a research vessel (valued at 3.4 million Kshs) to enhance patrol, protection, and research of mangroves for climate change adaptation, protection of biodiversity and economic development of the coastal region.

Speaking to the residents of Lamu County, which has the highest size of mangroves countrywide, the CCF noted the important role they play in the socio-economic development and livelihood of the coastal communities who depend on thriving mangrove ecosystems for fishing, ecotourism, and the protection of the hinterland from tidal waves and extreme ocean activities due to their strategic positions between land and sea. He also noted that mangroves sequester carbon ten times more than the terrestrial tree species.



French Ambassador to Kenya and Somalia, H.E Mrs. Aline Kuster and the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau during the International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem 2020 in Lamu

“75-85 percent of coastal communities in the five counties along the Kenyan coastline depend on fishery activities for their socio-economic livelihood, whose production is nested within the conservation areas of mangrove ecosystems, coral reefs, and sea grasses,” says CCF Kamau.

The importance of mangroves was also evidenced through the renewal of 27 Timber Licenses for Sustainable Harvesting of Mangroves issued to individual Community Forest Association users who had met the regulations for sustainable harvesting since the lifting of the ban on Mangroves by the Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Keriako Tobiko. Kamau lauded the Kenyan-French partnership to-

wards conservation of mangrove bionetworks, adding that the new vessel will add onto the Service’s existing capacity in conservation, management, and protection of the resources; “The new boat will aid the Service in enhancing research on better solutions for mangrove ecosystems,” noted Kamau.

The event was also attended by Mikoko Project officials comprising of Dr. Juliana Prosperoi from CIRAD and Dr. David Williamson from IRD, Lamu Women Representative Ruweida Mohamed, and Lamu County Commissioner Irungu Macharia among senior KFS officials.



World Cleanup Day is an annual global social action event aimed at combating the global solid waste problem including that of marine debris.

It aims to raise awareness of the mismanaged waste crisis by mobilizing all spheres of society to participate in cleanup actions. Individuals, governments, corporations and organizations are all encouraged

to take part in cleanups and to find solutions to tackle mismanaged waste.

The event held annually every 3rd Saturday of September was celebrated in Kenya at Nairobi’s City Park. The Chief Guest during the event was the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Keriako Tobiko. The event was kick started by

cleanup of the Kibarage River which is a tributary of the Nairobi River after which a total of 60 ceremonial tree seedlings were also planted by the guests.

Participants during the cleanup exercise were drawn from the Government organizations, youths from Nairobi County and other environmental volunteers.

Speaking during the event, the CS urged every Kenyan citizen to take responsibility of the waste they produce. The CS further urged the manufacturing industries not to thrive and make profits at the expense of the environment. Hon Tobiko noted that more youth from the Kazi Mtaani program will be

availed to add to numbers that are already cleaning up the City Park in the ongoing Green spaces restoration program.

Clean up activities subsequently followed in different parts of Nairobi and the country at large. The main focus in Nairobi during this period was clean up of the Nairobi River which passes through the newly rehabilitated John Michuki Memorial Park. The clean-up activities were also led by the Cabinet Secretary joined by senior officials from Kenya Forest Service and National Environment Management Authority.

ation of Kenya, representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a delegation from Colombia Embassy to Kenya among others.

Speaking during the celebrations the CS Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko, commended the late Hon. John Michuki on his insistence on embracing bamboo along the Nairobi River and the flowing water bodies in the country.

“The Late Hon. John Michuki knew the importance of bamboo species to clearing the mess in our waters,” said Tobiko.

In addition ,Tobiko reiterated the commitment by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta to ensuring bamboo farmers realize the fruits of their sweat and labour by declaring bamboo the 16th cash crop of the Republic of Kenya .The CS stated that to this effect ,the president directed that the National Bamboo Policy be finalized in the next 30 days and be submitted to the cabinet noting that the policy will help in chain value addition and give incentives for more bamboo growing and goods production..

In the same breath the CS said that the President had issued a directive allowing the importation of 4.5 tones of bamboo seeds into the country to support the bamboo industry ..He therefore directed that KFS and KEFRI fast tracks the registration of all tree

nurseries in accordance with statutory regulations to ease the trade and thriving of the bamboo industry.

‘The National Government has taken bamboo as a top priority and government agencies have been directed to chip in to aid the realization of this objective,’ said Tobiko.

The CS also .led a tree planting exercises where 1000 bamboo seedlings were planted along the Nairobi River.

World Bamboo Day is celebrated globally every 18th of September and is a day of celebration to increase the awareness of bamboo globally.

CELEBRATING THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER



Kenya Forest Service joined the world in marking the world bamboo day on 18th September 2020. The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Keriako Tobiko led the celebrations whose theme was ‘Sustaining Kenya the bamboo way’ at John Michuki Memorial Park in Nairobi.

The CS was joined by the PS Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr Chris Kiptoo, KFS Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest Patrick Kariuki, KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, KFS Commandant Alex Lemarkoko, members of the Bamboo Associ-



The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Keriako Tobiko hands over UN Habitat Green spaces report to the Principal Secretary Dr. Chris Kiptoo during celebrations of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer Held at Michuki Park

A layer in earth’s atmosphere that protects earth’s surface from the sun’s harmful Ultraviolet Radiation is marked every year on September 16. Kenya joined the rest of the world to mark this very important day themed ‘Ozone for life’ in an event graced by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment

and Forestry Hon Keriako Tobiko at Michuki Memorial Park. He was joined by the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau, Nairobi City County Governor Mike Sonko, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Permanent Secretary Chris Kiptoo, development partners and representatives from G12 and

UN Habitat among others.

The Cabinet Secretary together with the Chief Conservator of Forests led a tree planting exercise to commemorate the day whose aim is to sensitize the world on the need for the Ozone layer protection. With the weakening of the shield offered by the ozone layer, we would become susceptible to skin cancer, cataracts and impaired immune. The CS noted that the commemoration offers an opportunity to create awareness and advocate for the protection of Ozone for human well-being and call for collective responsibility for its preservation. He recognized green spaces such as Michuki Memorial Park, as a huge contributor to a clean atmosphere by acting as a sink for some of the global warming gases and pollutants.

He further said that Kenya had signed the Vienna Convention for the protection of the Ozone layer and its Montreal protocol on substance that deplete the Ozone layer in February 1988 and has ratified the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments.

The country is in the process of ratifying the 2019 Kigali amendment which aims to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)- greenhouse gases with powerful climate warming potential, by cutting their production and consumption to achieve over 80% reduction in HFC consumption by 2047.

In his speech the Chief Conservator of Forests explained the critical role forests play in regulating the environment by sequestering carbon and absorbing pollutant gasses such as ammonia, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides thus protecting the Ozone layer. According to research growing trees is a cost-effective way to reduce ground level Ozone, a toxic component of Smog. Forests have also been casualties of climate change impacts and stratospheric Ozone depletion. To ad-

dress the threats posed by the aforementioned, Kenya Forest Service is collaborating with other government agencies to implement climate actions aiming at regaining the ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being of deforested and degraded landscapes.

In the 1970s, scientists discovered that chemicals were destroying the ozone layer. In response, the world's governments adopted Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone layer in 1985. Under the Convention, Montreal protocol, Governments, Scientists and Industries worked together to cut out 99% of all ozone depleting substances.

In the year 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16th September, International Day for the preservation of Ozone layer. This year 2020, marks over three decades since the world governments consolidated efforts to conserve and restore the ozone. This year's theme 'Ozone for life' is a reminder that not only is ozone crucial for the life on earth, but that we must continue to protect the Ozone layer for future generations.

The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in his message that the Ozone treaties stand out as inspiring examples that show that, where political will prevails, there is little limit to what we can achieve in common cause.

Urging that we take encouragement from how we have worked together to preserve the Ozone layer and apply the same to healing the planet and forging a brighter and more equitable future for all humanity. It is imperative that we put our efforts and investments into tackling climate change and protecting nature and ecosystems that sustain us. "We need this unity of purpose more than ever as we seek to address nature loss, climate change and pollution in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic," says UN Environment Programme Executive Director, Inger Anderson.

ANNUAL SENIOR ENCOM OFFICERS WORKSHOP



A group photo of Senior ENCOM officers with the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau (Centre) during the 2020 Annual ENCOM Workshop at KFC Londiani

Senior officers from the Kenya Forest Service Enforcement and Compliance Division (ENCOM) converged at the Kenya Forestry College in Londiani for the annual Senior ENCOM Workshop which was officially opened by the Chief Conservator of Forests Julius Kamau.

The meeting, attended by ten (10) Regional Commanders, eight (8) Base Commanders, one (1) Joint Enforcement Unit Commander, Commandant Forest Law Enforcement Academy (FoLEA), and other Senior ENCOM staff, was a week-long workshop funded through the Green Zones Development Support Project Phase II.

Through the workshop, the ENCOM Division planned the entrenchment of the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) which KFS in collaboration with the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR) developed to inform the Service's engagement with members of the public such as forest adjacent communities in delivering her mandate, as well as within the organization to foster human rights.

The workshop also informed the development process of ENCOM's FY2020/21 Annual Planning, strengthening of the standing orders for disciplined officers, and among others the enhancement of enforcement and protection of forest resources in the country.

Speaking during the opening, the CCF appreciated the performance of the Division over the past year since he took the helm of office. He said that from his first ENCOM workshop in the previous year, the Service had achieved tremendous milestones.

The CCF noted that over the past year, KFS had developed a code of conduct of disciplined cadre, acquired a Service flag which was an honour and mark of excellence bestowed upon the Service. He also appreciated the Division for the operations that had been conducted to protect Kenya's forest resources such as the Maasai Mau forest reclamation and Kirisia/Leroghi forest voluntary relocation by communities who had earlier encroached into the forest.

"These efforts have seen the Service reclaim more than 48,000 ha in the past one year," noted the CCF in part.

CCF Kamau also committed his office's support to build capacity within the division, adding that all cadres within the Service function better together. He noted that the Service has procured 3,000 sets of uniform for ENCOM officers, with 2,500 boots already delivered.

He also noted the challenges still facing the division, emanating from the lean number of officers mandated to protect vast forest resources, and green spaces countrywide. He thus called on the senior officers present to adopt and exercise HRBA within their areas of jurisdiction and inspire their juniors despite the challenges which the government, through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry was cognizant of and working towards addressing.

The CCF was accompanied by KFC Principal Peter Waweru, KFS Commandant Alex Lemarkoko, and Green Zones Project Manager Jerome Mwanzia.

KFS, TAITA TAVETA LAUNCH UNIQUE PFMP



New Mwambiro CFA Executive Members during signing of the Forest Management Agreement

The Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Mr. Julius Kamau presided over the Mwambirwa-Mbololo (Mwambo) Participatory Forest Management Plan 2020-2024 and signing of the Mwambo Forest Management Agreement held in Tausa, Taita Taveta County.

He was joined by the Taita Taveta County Water, Sanitation, Environment, Climate-Change and Natural Resources CEC Ms. Esther Mwang'ombe, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Senior Representative Mr. Tomoyuki Yasuda and Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management (CADEP-SFM) Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Keiicho Takahata.

The PFMP was developed through a participatory planning process involving a cross-section of Mwambirwa and Mbololo stakeholders under the coordination of a local planning team comprising representatives from KFS, County Government of Taita Taveta and the local community through New

Mwambo Community Forest Association.

This PFMP is unique because of the close proximity of the two forests, Mwambirwa and Mbololo. Mbololo Forest is a national government managed forest under the jurisdiction of KFS and Mwambirwa is a County Government forest but they are both managed under one CFA.

In his speech, the CCF thanked the County Government of Taita Taveta noting that it was the first time a joint PFMP for both national and county forests was being launched.

"This is a big milestone for KFS and Taita Taveta County Government based on the Forest Management Act 2016. We are glad that this County will be a model for us to follow in other counties where the forest ownership cuts across the two levels of government." Mr. Kamau lamented.

Taita-Taveta County was also the first County in the

country to sign the Transition Implementation Plan (TIPs) and have begun implementing the plan by employing 10 officers to undertake Forestry and Climate Change functions in the County.

The CCF thanked the County for employing these officers and urged the CEC to sponsor them to undergo advanced training at the Kenya Forestry College, Londiani, which is the technical training arm of KFS in matters, Forest Conservation and Management.

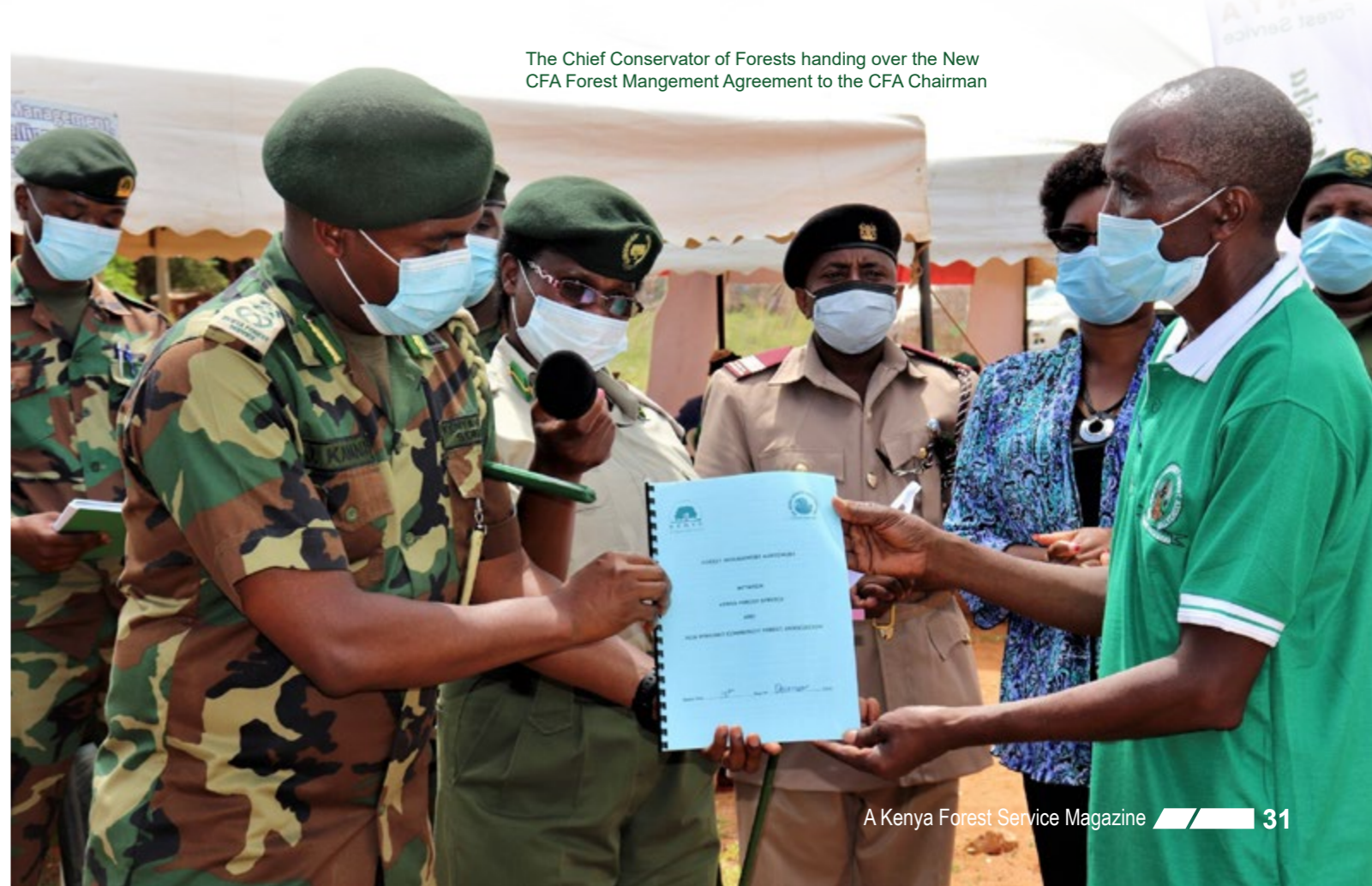
Mr. Kamau affirmed that KFS would assist the community in beaconing and establishing a boundary with support from both the KFS and county survey departments. He also urged the newly employed staff and KFS officers in the county to work hand in hand with the CFA community scouts and promised that the Service will assist them in forest law enforcement training.

"May I congratulate the CFA on the launch of this unique PFMP and urge you to implement it fully so that you can draw full benefits and improve your livelihoods even as you play your part to grow and conserve forests," said the CCF.

On her part, Ms Mwang'ombe said that the County Government will continue playing its part in forest conservation and supporting communities engaged in environmental improvement activities. "We are committed to ensuring that our forests are well conserved and managed and in light of this we employed new officers to help us achieve this and we thank JICA and CADEP-SFM, as they have promised to train and build capacity for these new employees," she added.

KFS co-funded and facilitated the planning process and provided the technical assistance required to develop the plan. JICA funded the plan development and guided in the whole process. Others who provided support and guidance to this process were, CADEP-SFM, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, the Taita-Taveta County Government and the local community.

Also present was CADEP-SFM Project Manager Mr. Peter Nduati, KFS Head of Management Plans Dr. Elizabeth Wambugu, Coast Head of Conservancy Mr. Andrew Soi, Assistant County Commissioner Henry Kinyua among others.



The Chief Conservator of Forests handing over the New CFA Forest Management Agreement to the CFA Chairman

Kinale Forest Station

A nature trail at Kijabe block, Kinale Forest Station

Kinale Forest Station is within Kikuyu Escarpment forest which is part of the larger Aberdare Forest Ecosystem (one of the five main water towers in the country). It covers 10,504.87 ha and was gazetted vide proclamation no.48 of 21st December 1943 as part of the Kikuyu escarpment forest. It neighbors Nyandarua at Kinale block and Nakuru County at Kijabe block. The forest lies 60km north-west of Nairobi between latitudes 0° 3' and 1° 00' S and longitudes 36° 30' and 37° 00' E. It straddles the Nakuru highway next to Soko Mjinga market-Kiambu.

The forest has different vegetation types. Indigenous forest mainly comprises of the following species: *Juniperus procera*, *Podocarpus latifolia* and

Olea europea. Natural glades are found in grasslands of the forest whereas *Arundinaria aldina* (Bamboo) occupy the high altitude areas of the forest. Exotic species in the forest include *Cupressus lusitanica*, *Pinus patula*, *Eucalyptus* spp and *Acacia melanoxylon*.

The floral composition in this forest includes species like; *Prunus Africana*, *Warbugia ugandensis*, *Olea europea*, *Dombeya rotundifolia*, *Ocotea usambarensis*, *Cussonia spicata*, *Grewia bicolor*, *Macaranga kilimandscharica*, *B. abyssinica*, *Strombosia* spp, *Schefflera* spp, *Neoboutonia macrocalyx*, *Polyscias kikuyuensis*, *Podocarpus latifolia*, *Nuxia congesta* and *Yushania alpine*.

Climate is influenced by altitude that varies between 1760m and 2,610m above sea level. The mean rainfall is 1,500mm per year but varies with location. It is well distributed, reliable and has largely influenced agricultural activities in the landscapes. The average temperature is around 17°C.

The geology of the area is dominated by volcanic rocks associated with the origin of the Rift Valley. The rocks are relatively young in the volcanic consequence and their evolution is highly dominated by volcanic activities. The rocks found in the area are mainly lower trachyte division, commonly known as the trachyte. Soft, light colored tuffs are the most common proclastic rocks. Such pumice tuffs are generally un-cemented. Some tuffs, mainly in the vicinity of Kijabe are of subaqueous origin, but the majority is believed to have been derived from Longonot.

The rivers and streams which emanate from this forest include Thiririka, Theta, Kabuteti, Kijabe, Gatondo, Tongitongi, Gatamaiyu, Bathi, Kago, Ruiru Gathera, Wathingitoni, Kingora, Kirimuri, Nduthi, Munyenye, Thumara, Mwonothywa, Wathingitu and Kamuheria.

Kinale Community Forest Association in 2020 re-structured their organization to align with the Forest Conservation Act 2022. The CFA is currently developing a Participatory Forest Management Plan which is a requirement in the Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016. The plan is aimed at outlining the forest station's management, conservation, and protection roles of both the Kenya Forest Service and community and the benefits thereof.



The Kinale Forest Station Tree Nursery

COMMEMORATION OF WORLD RANGERS DAY 2020

The Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Mr. Julius Kamau led Kenya Forest Service (KFS) in marking the World Rangers Day 2020. The World Rangers Day was founded by the International Rangers Federation and marked worldwide on 31st July to commemorate rangers killed or injured in the line of duty, and to celebrate the work rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage, including forest and wildlife resources.

loggers and poachers, as well as harsh weather conditions which leave some with lifelong health complications sometimes leading to loss of lives. Mr. Kamau also commended the role of the Service men and women at the forefront of forest protection, who due to their lean staff numbers, are often stretched in protecting over 2.5 million hectares of public forests and undertaking other security operations. "Currently, a single forest ranger protects an average 1,045 hectares of forest both day and night compared to the world



The CCF Mr. Julius Kamau speaks to rangers involved in forests operations in Kipini Conservancy, Lamu County. Mr. Kamau visited all KFS operation camps in the month of December 2020. The operation camps are situated in Chaptais, Embobut, Mau, Bothei and Kipini.

In his message to KFS Rangers, the CCF noted the daunting task rangers undertake at the front line in the protection of forest resources and allied resources for the benefit of the present and future generations. He noted that through in line of duty, rangers more often than not face life threatening situations sometimes involving attacks by wild animals, assault or harm by illegal

recommended 400 hectares per Ranger when motorized," he notes.

The CCF noted that over the past six years (between 2015-2020) the Service had lost five forest rangers in the line of duty with 106 sustaining injuries from attacks by illegal loggers and poachers. Another 22 rangers were injured in

the period 2019-2020. Through this occasion, the Service paid tribute to the departed souls, shared condolences to members of their families, and encouraged those recovering from injuries.

"As we celebrate this World Rangers Day, my message to Forest rangers listening or watch-

He noted that the Service in the period 2019/20 had refurbished 98 ranger houses, procured tents, uniforms, and enhanced mobility. 80 ranger houses are set to be refurbished in the 2020/21 period. Mr. kamau also urged members of the public during the celebrations to stand with forest rangers by appreciating the role they play in protection of national heritage.



Forest rangers in a tree planting exercise

ing, from the far-end forest stations, operations camps, beats, and outpost is that you are not alone; you matter to us, and the entire Kenya Forest Service family shares in your day to day experiences. We commit to marching forward with you to a better future," noted Kamau during the event that was held virtually in adherence to COVID-19 regulations.

Mr. Kamau stated that the Service had embarked on an ambitious agenda to train and equip each forest ranger, and above all improve their welfare and working environments including housing, uniform, risk allowance, medical cover, and career progression among others.

During the celebrations, Forest Ranger Victor Mwendwa; a recovered officer who sustained arrow injuries at Olposimoru while undertaking his duties during the Maasai Mau restoration and reclamation programme in 2019, encouraged his counterparts to forge on in their duties diligently saying; "Hii kazi ya askari wa misitu ni mzuri sana, mradi umejitahidi kikazi na kujiamini, kazi ni rahisi."

(The work of a forest ranger is very rewarding, as long as you remain committed to the course, the career is good).

KFS AND NAKURU COUNTY TO ENHANCE FOREST CONSERVATION



The Chief of Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau alongside H.E Governor Lee Kinyanjui and other senior KFS and Nakuru County Government officials

The Chief Conservator of Forests Julius Kamau met with Nakuru County Governor, His Excellency Lee Kinyanjui to discuss forestry development in Nakuru County, Mau Conservancy. The meeting laid key focus on building synergies and enhancing partnership between the two levels of Government towards sustainable forest conservation management and protection of forest resources within the County for the benefit of its residents and the nation.

Governor Lee acknowledged the crucial role forest resources have to the County, which if not well conserved would result in dire environmental and economic effects far-reaching to the region. He noted that in light of recent floods that have been experienced in the County, it was necessary for the two entities to enhance collaboration and fast track ongoing reforestation programs in the region.

“Nakuru town is situated on the lower plains of the Menengai forest and as a county, we intend to work together with KFS to rehabilitate and restore this forest to avoid floods flowing down to the town in the near future.” Said Governor Lee.

CCF Kamau highlighted that KFS has an on-going rehabilitation plan rolled out to secure, conserve, and restore Menengai Forest as a pristine urban forest for its vital recreational and ecological roles, thus welcomed the timely partnership build up.

While appreciating the Governor’s goodwill to forest developments in the region, Mr. Kamau reiterated the need to also involve members of the pub-

lic in each and every process by engaging forest adjacent communities through Community Forest Associations (CFAs) to enhance sustainable conservation. He underscored the need of involving all stakeholders and building CFA capacity and governance which would in turn improve their livelihood through forestry programs.

The meeting identified Nakuru County as a tourism hub for its lakes which support immense biodiversity, and hence the need to protect forest resources as the water catchment areas driving Nakuru’s economy. The CCF stated that the Service was keen on ensuring sustainable programs revolving around eco-tourism, and recreation of the Menengai forest is developed to preserve the historic role of the ecosystem which hosts Menengai Crater, one of Nakuru’s major attractions.

Through this, the CCF informed that the forest presents numerous investment opportunities such as nature trails, campsites, walkways among other nature-friendly facilities that could benefit communities and regional economies in other places. He also called upon similar partnerships between all levels of Government and Non-State actors to invest in forest conservation and tap into forestry opportunities.

In light of the Post-COVID regulations, Governor Lee committed to supporting youth in the County through the ‘Kazi Mtaani Initiative’ to complement KFS efforts in the rehabilitation program of Menengai Forest, a partnership the CCF highly appreciated.

MUKOGODO COMMUNITY LAUDED FOR CONSERVATION



Cabinet Secretary Keriko Tobiko addressing members of the Mukogodo community in Doldol at the foot of Mukogodo forest reserve.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Keriko Tobiko together with the Chief Conservator of Forests Julius Kamau visited Mukogodo forest to appreciate the role played by the community in conservation and protection of the vast forest in Laikipia County that covers an area of 30,189 Ha.

At a Baraza held at the foot of the hilly forest in Doldol, CS Tobiko lauded the community members living adjacent to the forest for their complimentary efforts in collaborating with Kenya Forest Service to ensure the forest ecosystem is safeguarded against forest illegalities such as charcoal burning, and wood poaching. These he said made the forest one among the well-conserved forests in the country.

CS Tobiko also added that the government cannot protect each and every tree in Kenya’s vast forests resources and lauded the community for their role at enhancing that which belongs to the people.

“As a government, we are only but policy shapers and administrators of forests which all belong to the people of Kenya. To protect these resources we cannot do it alone, members of the public should and must be part and parcel of the process to ensure the country’s posterity,” noted Tobiko in part.

The CS also noted the great ecotourism potential the forest offers when he visited Enkijabe View Point,

Sarare, and Lekusuro camp site which overlook the breath-taking scenery of Mt. Kenya complex. Furthermore, he appreciated Mukogodo as it forms a migratory corridor for elephants traversing through the Aberdare, Samburu, and Mt. Kenya ecosystems. CS Tobiko urged the residents of Laikipia to safeguard the forest by protecting the resource to benefit them through their Community Forest Associations in non-extractive income generating activities and other user rights spelt out in Forest Management Agreements.

To private ranchers, the CS warned them against altering the natural course of migratory corridors by electric fencing which would lead to human-wildlife conflicts.

The CCF appreciated the forest adjacent locals for being the first line of defence in protecting Mukogodo forest. He reiterated that the Service will continue deepening engagement with communities to safeguard, conserve, and protect forest resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Pursuant to that, he pointed out that the Mukogodo Community Forest Association had completed electing its leadership as a precursor to engagements towards with the Service to formulate a Participatory Forest Management Plan that will legally spell out joint benefit-sharing (community user rights) in the conservation and protection of the Mukogodo forest.

GROWING TREES IN THE NORTHERN FRONTIER – A MISSION

When people think about forests, what comes to their minds is a lot of green of vegetation in areas associated with high amounts of rainfall and probably lush agricultural lands often referred to as food baskets or 'high potential areas.' Certainly not thorny shrubs and acacias growing sporadically among sand dunes in areas where the annual rainfall average is less than a single day's precipitation in the so called high potential areas.

Yet this is where Ambia Osman, a prolific forest officer and the current Ecosystem Conservator (EC) for Wajir County thrives. To be fair, she is of Somali decent and she in fact comes from the north eastern region of Kenya. But as forest officer and a female one at that, let's just say that she is rare species. Yet she talks forests, eats forest and sleeps forest. In other words, forest is on her mind. And she has taken to promoting and practicing her much loved profession in the arid, nay, semi desert county with a passion. She is credited with quite some achievements in promoting tree planting and leading from the front when it comes to environmental conservation in Mandera and Wajir counties where she is something of a legend. But her story does not begin here. Madam Ambia as she is popularly known was first employed in the then Forest Department on 1st September 1986 after graduating with a Diploma in Forestry from Egerton University in Njoro, Nakuru County. Her first call of duty was Karura Forest in Nairobi where she was posted as the assistant forester.

In 1989, she was transferred to the then Kirinyaga District to take up the role of District Extension Officer for one year. She then became the in-charge of admissions in the district and her role was to admit the first lot of graduate foresters from Moi University. In 1990, she was moved to Ndia Division still in Kirinyaga District as the Divisional Extension Officer where she worked for the next 5 years before being transferred back to the Kerugoya to assist the District Forest Officer (DFO).

Her journey to Mandera and Wajir Counties begun in 1996 when she was transferred to Mandera District as the DFO. She worked there for 8 years until the year 2003 when all forest officers in Kenya were sent on compulsory leave by the then Minister of Environment the late Dr. Newton Kulundu. She notes that this was a dark period for all forest offi-

cers owing to the stigmatization that came with their suspension. One year later in June 2004, Madam Ambia was who holds a BSC degree in Environmental Health Science from Kenyatta University was transferred to Wajir District still as the DFO. This title has since changed first to Zonal Manager with the enactment of the Forests Act of 2005 which created the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), to the current title of Ecosystem Conservator or simply EC which came about with the promulgation of the New Constitution in 2010 that created County Governments. Ms Ambia believes that production of high quality seedlings is the starting point for forest conservation and she observes that she has always focused on seedling production in all her postings. She remembers that while in Karura, they used to produce over one million seedlings annually and over three million seedlings annually in the then Kirinyaga District. She



credits these achievements to strong support from her seniors then and is glad that the current KFS leadership has again prioritized seedling production as a core function in alleviating the country's tree cover.

She is credited with rehabilitating a Hill in Baricho, Ndia Division during her stay in Kirinyaga which was completely bare thanks to forest destruction. She notes that she mobilized the community to plant and protect the hill way before the concept of Community Forest Associations (CFA) had been envisaged. "I assisted one peasant farmer start a tree nursery and would encouraged my colleagues in the conservation sector to buy seedlings from him," says Ms Ambia, "the farmer once shed tears of joy during a

public meeting while recounting how the tree nursery had uplifted his family. That testimony was one of my fulfilling moments as a professional forester," she says.

In Mandera, Madam Ambia is credited with the afforestation of a former refugee camp called Shafshafy through the Oxfarm Quebec project. The camp had been stripped of all vegetation following years of habitation by refugees. She notes that through the project, they were also able to do a lot of household tree planting in the county.

Wajir is the only county without a permanent source of water. No permanent rivers and certainly no lakes. Even the mighty Ewaso Ng'iro North River which drains into Lorian Swamp is seasonal. The county entirely relies on seasonal dams and boreholes for water and yet even here, trees have to be planted. KFS officers in Wajir rely on water bowsers for provision of water for the nursery and for all their needs. And with Madam Ambia's leadership, the KFS nursery boasts of over 110,000 seedlings and they have plans to produce over 500,000 seedlings annually in the 63 nurseries spread across the county. This is through collaboration with other government agencies including the county government for regular supply of water from far off wells and boreholes which is kept in water tanks at the nursery site.

Using these nurseries, KFS through Madam Ambia's initiative has been very instrumental in tree planting and greening of key government installations including the Wajir International Airport, the KDF Camp, the Border Security Command Camp and the Airforce Base all within the Wajir Town. She has also played a leading role in schools greening initiatives as well as urban planting including working with stakeholders such as the Adan Kenyan Foundation to plant over 500,000 seedlings in Eldas Constituency.

One of the biggest source of pride for Madam Ambia is her ability to raise revenue in a county where traditionally no much revenue was expected. When she first reported to the county, there was no revenue reported during that year. But following a challenge from the then KFS Director for counties in the north eastern region to innovate and come up with new revenue sources, Madam Ambia started raising ceremonial seedlings which they sold to individuals and institutions. On the first year, they collected Ksh.12,000. They carried on and in the second year they raised Ksh.36,000 from the sale of seedlings alone. She continued diversifying sources of revenue to include gums and resins as well as a sustained production of seedlings and in the 2018/19 financial year, they raised an incredible Ksh1.23 million as revenue! Her achievements in Wajir are numerous and they range from seemingly mundane things such as purchasing office equipment like computers, to securing the title for the 6 ha KFS office plot in Wajir town and the rehabilitation of KFS staff houses which had become dilapidated following years of neglect. So what next for Madam Ambia? "I will continue working hard and using the years that God has given me to serve my country through tree planting and forest conservation", she says as a parting shot.



Disability Mainstreaming, Safety and Security Measures by Kenya Forest Service

Disability is a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses or activities. According to WHO disability covers impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions making it difficult for a disabled person to interact with the world around them. Disability mainstreaming is a process of integrating formerly segregated and or stigmatized issues and people into mainstream society and development programmes. It is strategy through which concerns, needs and experience of persons with disabilities are made integral part of dimensions of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs.

Today's workplaces pose very many challenges to various categories of workers.

Disabilities of all types affect employees as they have an impact on the amount of time it takes to complete a task or get from one point to the other. Disabled employees should never be discriminated against, whether they became disabled in the line of duty or not. They should continue working to support their families so long as they are qualified and competent. Organizations should and must fully embrace, promote and comply with laws that deal with disability adaptations at work places.

Workplace adaptations in Kenya Forest Service

The Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has enhance accessibility at entry and exit points to facilities allowing independence for persons in wheelchair by creating ramps instead of stairs. Easy exit during emergencies has also been improved by removing all barriers at emergency exits. KFS has also designed its facilities to accommodate all employees and visitors.

The Service through the welfare department also does monitoring and evaluation of its facilities both in the field and at the headquarters regularly so as to assess the conditions of work for the disabled staffs. Counseling has also been integrated so that staffs who become disabled in the line of duty can be assisted to accept their new conditions. The Service also maintains records of all disabled employees for purposes of managing their welfare. As an equal opportunity employer, KFS gives due consideration and encourages qualified individuals who are living with disabilities to apply for suitable job opportunities in the Service when they arise.

REHABILITATION OF KFS SPORTS GROUND



The Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau while commissioning the rehabilitation and upgrading of KFS Sports Ground at KFS Headquarters Karura

The CCF Mr. Julius Kamau recently led the Kenya Forest Service Senior Management team in a ground-breaking ceremony for the rehabilitation of the KFS sports ground at KFS Headquarters in Karura.

The rehabilitation of the sports ground is in partnership with the Friends of Karura Forest Community Forest Association (FKF CFA), Davis and Shirliff Company, and Asepsis Limited (a sports facility gardening company)

While commissioning the rehabilitation process, the CCF noted that the upgrading of the field would provide a premier sports grounds for the KFS sporting teams (football & volleyball), staff recreational activities, and the neighbouring communities.

The rehabilitation process will involve ground leveling of the pitch to a standard football field, installation of automated underground irrigation systems,

installation of water storage tanks, drainage system, soil enrichment, upgrading of a 400 meters running track, and grass re-carpeting. The project is expected to take 6 months, to a tune of 5 million Kenya shillings.

CCF Mr. Kamau also appreciated the long-standing cordial partnership between KFS and FKF CFA in the conservation and protection of the Karura forest. He also welcomed the partnership with Davis and Shirliff and interested them in adopting degraded forest areas for restoration as part of their CSR. Kamau also said the model would be replicated on other KFS grounds countrywide to the benefit KFS staff and members of the public.

The ceremony was attended by FKF Vice-Chairman Cristina Boelcke, FKF CFA Board members, Stephen Wambua (Davis & Shirliff Irrigation Manager), Bernard Rono (Water treatment Manager), and Peter Mwangi (Asepsis Limited).



His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta received by Service Commanders, including the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Julius Kamau (second right) during the official launch of the National Security Telecommunications Services (NSTS) at Embakasi Garrison



CCF Mr. Julius Kamau, together with Service Commanders during the 2020 Jamhuri Day National celebrations at Nyayo National Stadium



The CS Ministry of Environment and Forestry Keriako Tobiko with the CCF Julius Kamau During World Bamboo Day celebrations in Michuki Park, Nairobi County



CCF Mr. Julius Kamau breaking ground for the rehabilitation of Karura grounds at KFS Headquarters



KFS Board Chairman Mr. Peter Kinyua(Left), NCBA Managing Director John Gachora(center) and the Mr. Julius Kamau during the launch of the one million model tree nursery at Karura Forest



The KFS Caravan aircraft takes part in a flypast parade during the Jamhuri Day celebrations at Nyayo Stadium, Nairobi County



KFS Vice Chairman of the Board Mr. Peter Wandera during a tree planting exercise in Bungoma County



Youth from Westlands Subcounty participate in cleaning of Kabarage River during the World Cleanup Day commemorations held at City Park, Nairobi County



Ministry of Environment CS Hon. Keriako Tobiko and CS Ministry of Public Service Prof Margaret Kobia at a tree planting exercise at Ngong' Hills during the 2020 Public Service Week

FORESTS KEY IN POST - COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY

The ushering in of the new year might, in many circles around the globe, not been met with the enthusiasm of yesteryears, with the far-reaching effects of the pandemic still apparent worldwide. Major global cities and hubs are slowly reverting back to earlier and more stringent lockdown measures further affecting businesses and economies in general. Locally, despite the prior easing of movement restrictions, numerous sectors have been adversely affected financially by consequent measures to curb the spread of the virus. The resulting economic constrictions across the different economic segments has led to hampering of livelihood development in the country, and an aggregate 5.7% contraction of the Kenyan economy according to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Nevertheless, the new economic realities posed by the pandemic have necessitated industry leaders in both government and private sectors, to contextualize the role of their respective institutions in formulating policies and principles aimed at the re-thinking and re-inventing of economic structures so as to ensure sustainable livelihood recovery in the country.

For instance, in augmenting the efforts of the government to develop and promote domestic tourism for economic resurgence, Kenya Forest Service has instituted a new policy aimed at ploughing back 10% of the revenue generated from eco-tourism sites managed by the Organization. The funds will be channeled towards the rehabilitation and improvement of the profiles of Ngong Hills, Menengai, Nairobi Arboretum, Kakamega and Arabuko Sokoke Forest Stations, which are, among others, major recreation points under the management of the Service.

According to a policy brief published in June 2020 by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, the number of domestic visitors in these sites is projected to grow back to pre-COVID numbers given that proper recovery strategies are formulated and instituted. Hence, KFS aims at directing the funds towards improving the basic infrastructure, developing nature trails, picnic sites, gazebos, water points and signage in the respective sites to cater for the probable influx of domestic tourists.

Furthermore, the Service intends to support the recovery of Community Forest Associations (CFA), that are gravely affected by the effects of the pandemic due to the disruption of local supply chain structures that hampered access to market for their value-added products. The associations currently sustain close to one million livelihoods across the country. The Organization aims at achieving this by re-negotiating licenses due to the failure of some CFAs in meeting their annual financial obligations and also through enhanced promotion and priming of CFA activities and products via different communication channels.

Additionally, the post-crisis phase presents the Service with an opportunity to fast-track adoption of low-carbon projects and biodiversity protection whilst ensuring generation of alternative sources of livelihood and income diversification for forest-dependent communities. For instance, KFS is currently engaging local, national and international stakeholders on the Mikoko Pamoja project in the Coastal strip, aimed at improving livelihoods through proper management and innovative utilization of Mangrove forests.

In Kwale County, the project which is part of the wider Gongoni-Gazi Community Forest Association, currently sustains approximately 3,700 livelihoods, partly focusing on building the capacity of communities to engage in income generating activities.

The Service is focused at furthering social entrepreneurship by facilitating economic activities such as mangrove honey production and selling, supporting eco-tourism activities and remittances from carbon credits.

In a nutshell, whereas the mandate of Kenya Forest Service is centered on developing, managing and conserving Kenya's forest resources, the Service aims at contextualizing its role to ensure the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the country's Big Four development agenda.

FORESTRY SOCIETY OF KENYA (FSK)- PROVIDING AN OVERSIGHT ROLE IN FORESTRY SCIENCE

FSK is the sole organization that represents forestry professionals in Kenya. The Society was registered in 1979 under the Societies Act to provide a forum for professional foresters to contribute to national development in forestry science, influence direction of national policy on environmental management, as well as safeguarding forestry practice standards by members. FSK was formed after realisation that forestry profession in Kenya was increasingly under threat from non-foresters, politicians, civil society and administrators, hence the need to strengthen professionalism in the sector.

With the current membership of over 1500, FSK take pride in being one of the fastest growing professional forestry associations not only in our region but in the whole of Africa. Indeed in one of the continental workshops, FSK received a standing ovation for its leading edge integration of ICT and social media in its communication networks. The FSK Council has continued to benefit greatly from the strong and unwavering support of its membership.

The Society's role in shaping and informing policy discourse within the country has been well contained in Section 9 and 59 of the FCM Act, which provides

that FSK contributes effectively towards sustainable management of forest resources in Kenya through the provision of technical and policy guidance to Kenya Forest Service board and the Cabinet Secretary responsible for forestry. This requires periodic dialogues and discussions from and within The Society's membership and the wider forest sector stakeholders. Deriving lessons from the dynamics within the forest sector over the last few years, the society has actively engaged her membership and the public in scientific conference and policy dialogue among other forums deliberating on topical forestry issues within the country.

The society has actively participated in representing her membership in voicing key areas within the sector, in this major position statements has been presented to relevant authorities. This include statement on the 2018 timber moratorium, Maasai Mau forest block, Ogiek's land rights case, plastic ban impact on tree seedlings production, achieving 10% tree cover among many others press release.

Currently the society is spearheading the processing of establishing nursery certification standards in Kenya. This process is critical in ensuring tree nursery

operations in the country are up to the desired standards, the production and supply of superior/ high quality planting materials, and act as an incentive to increase sales and profit margins. This includes others standards that the society is keen in developing such as the tree grading and valuation of forest products and service, the Chain of Custody.

FSK has undertaken various programmes with several partners and collaborators who includes: - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Embassy of Germany, Embassy of Finland, Commonwealth Forest Association, USAID through IDLO, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Gatsby Africa, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Nature Kenya, World Vision – Kenya. The Society corporate membership has also been very critical in supporting the programmes, they include; Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Gatsby Africa, Better Globe Forestry LTD.

The Society executive commits itself to continue increasing its visibility to the public through organizing

forums and debates relevant to Forestry science in Kenya and in the globe on topical issues. The society will continue to re-brand and explore new areas of collaboration with our stakeholders. Particularly, FSK recognizes the important role County Governments are discharging devolved forestry functions and will continue to work jointly with them to develop and improve in professional capacity of county staff and extending advisory services as may be needed.

Importantly, the society will retain its oversight role in the practice of forest science in Kenya by ensuring that the Code of Ethics is enforced.

At the same time, remain in the forefront to protect her membership from being obstructed in carrying out their professional roles and mandates. By doing this, FSK believe that we shall not only be accountable to Kenyan citizens by working towards the goal of increasing the national forest cover to the minimum 10% as envisaged in our Constitution and Kenya Vision 2030, but also delivering on quality forests that will enhance continuous supply of superior timber as well as environmental services.

By George Tarus

RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS IN KENYA

Over the years, Kenya has been faced with conflicts over natural resources such as water, forests, minerals and land among others. The existing legal and institutional mechanisms that are in place to deal with environmental conflicts have not offered much in stemming the prevalence of environmental conflicts.

“Environmental conflicts” refer to the contests that exist as a result of the various competing interests over access to and use of natural resources such as land, water, minerals and forests. Various groups, communities, developers, government and other organizations have differing ideas of how to access and utilize environmental resources. Laws and policies which have a conflict generating capacity are often pursued by the various groups leading to further friction among them.

There is a legal and institutional framework that is supposed to deal with environmental conflicts and either resolve or manage them. These institutions include the courts of law, tribunals under various Acts, The National Environmental Management Authority, Public Complaints Committee, Environmental Tribunal and other various informal community based resource governance bodies. The laws include the numerous statutes that deal with the environment. Notable among them is the framework law, the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), the Public Health Act, the Forest Management and Conservation Act of 2016, the Water Act and the various statutes dealing with land. Despite the existence of the aforesaid laws and institutions, environmental conflicts continue to manifest themselves in Kenya. There have been for instance violent conflicts over access to and use of land in Kenya especially forest land, which conflicts are well documented an example of the Mau Complex ongoing conflict.

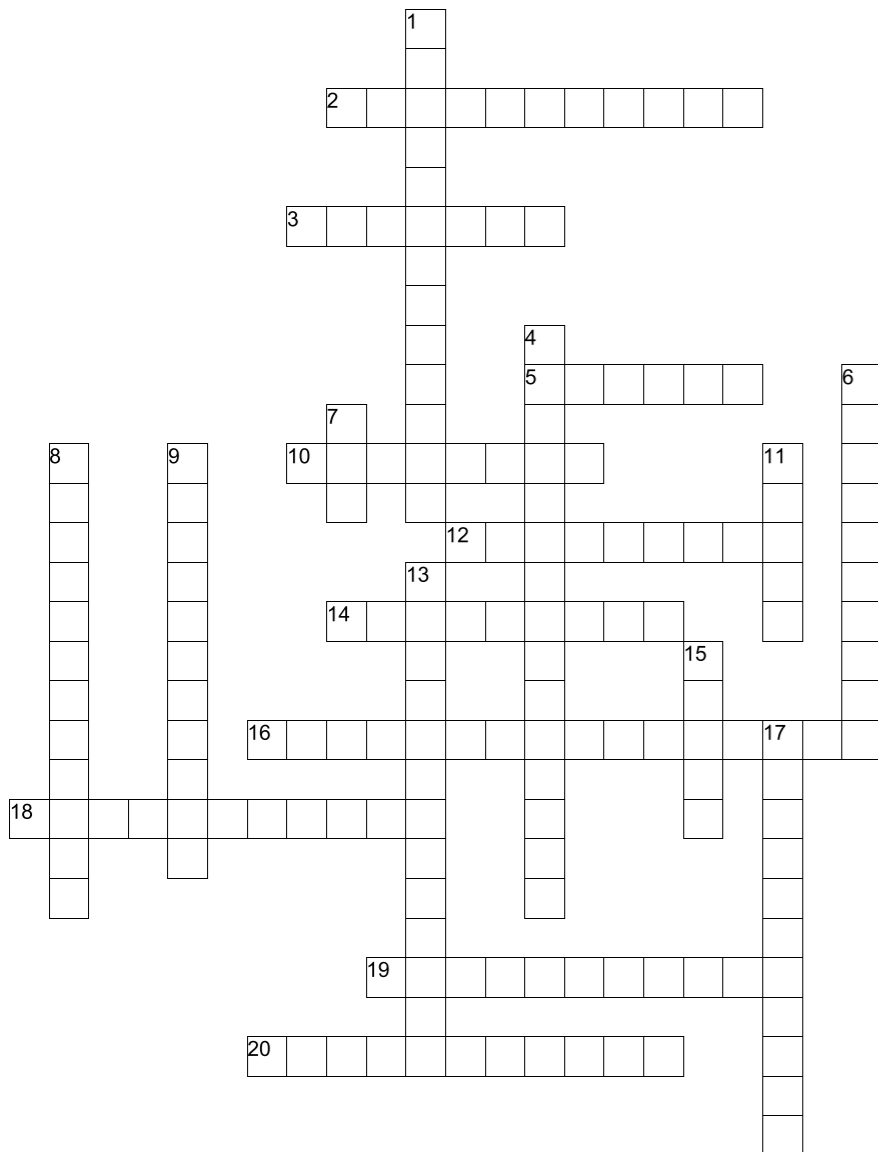
Key to resolving resource conflicts is the appli-

cation of environmental governance, which calls for adequate participation by the people. Environmental democracy which involves giving people access to information on environmental rights, easing access to justice in environmental matters and enabling public participation in environmental decision making.

There is on the other hand what is commonly referred to as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods. They include mediation, conciliation, negotiation and traditional/community based dispute resolution mechanisms. These methods aim at realizing tranquility that comes with equitable resource sharing between communities, which is much sought after. The nexus between the environmental conflicts and the state of the existing dispute resolution mechanisms for resolving environmental conflicts is yet to be fully explored. The institutional and legal mechanisms for resolving environmental conflicts now in place in Kenya are geared towards eliminating environmental conflicts.

The Constitution of Kenya requires the State to, inter alia: ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and ensure the equitable sharing of the accruing benefits; encourage public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment; and utilize the environment and natural resources for the benefit of the people of Kenya. Further, every person has a constitutional duty to cooperate with State organs and other persons to protect and conserve the environment and ensure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources. It has rightly been argued that giving voice to communities and explaining the details of these conflicts helps them regain power in decision-making process and create a model of active democracy enabling them to help protect their own territory and environment.

FORESTRY



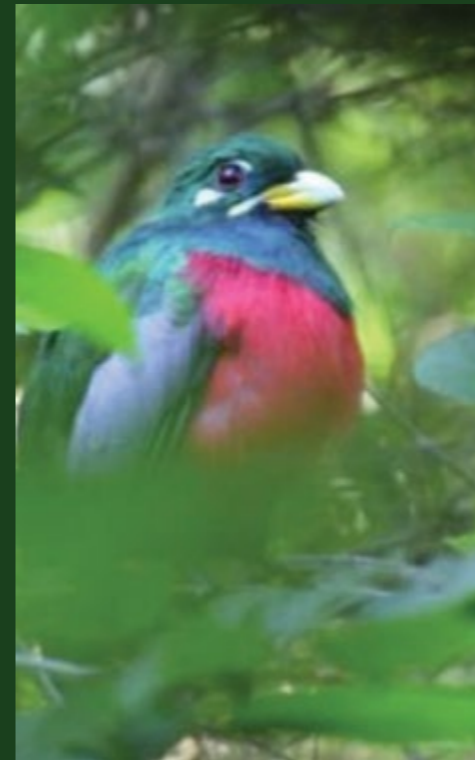
ACROSS

2. Caused by vegetation dying out and more undergrowth
3. Name for the type of management used in the practice of tree plantations
5. Increases with deforestation
10. Removing all trees except for seed producing trees scattered to regenerate new trees
12. Type of cutting where specific trees in an area are chosen to cut
14. Type of management where an area is growing with trees of all ages, from seedling to mature
16. High biodiversity, decaying wood and ground layer, and healthy soil profile
18. Occur underground, fire is difficult to detect
19. The forest ecosystem helps to clean these
20. Type of topography in an old growth forest

DOWN

1. Trees help reduce the amount of this gas in the atmosphere
4. Genetically improved species of trees, but decreases biodiversity
6. Occur in forests that haven't had ground fires in a while
7. In 2030, only _percent of all forests will be left
8. Burns undergrowth and leaf litter
9. Practice of only cutting and removing the largest, best trees
11. Type of cutting where all of the trees in an area are cut at the same time
13. Caused by mining, logging, and urban sprawl
15. Type of cutting when trees are clear cut to match the contour of the land
17. Removing trees in a series of cuttings instead of all at once to give the forest a chance to regenerate

Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve is a 420 km² coastal forest in Kenya managed by Kenya Forest Service (KFS). It is the largest and most intact coastal forest in East Africa, with 20% of Kenya's bird species, 30% butterfly species and at least 24 rare and endemic bird, mammal and butterfly species.



Tree Puns

1. What did the tree do when the bank closed?
It started its own branch.
2. How do trees get online?
They just log in.
3. How do you properly identify a dogwood tree?
By the bark!
4. What did the single tree say to the tree who stood her up?
You should have put a ring on it.
5. What type of tree fits in your hand?
A palm tree.
6. What's a tree's favourite dating app?
Timber.
7. Why did the tree need to take a nap?
For rest.
8. Why was the weeping willow so sad?
It watched a sappy movie.
9. Why do you never want to invite a tree to your party?
Because they never leaf when you want them to.
10. Why couldn't the evergreen ever land a date?
It was so busy pining after unavailable trees that it never really branched out.



ARABUKO SOKOKE

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Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve
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#TutembeleeMisitu

KNOW YOUR TREES

BRIDALIA MICRANTHA | Scientific Name: *Bridelia micrantha*

Indigenous

Rank: Species

Order: Malpighiales

Family: Phyllanthaceae

English Name: Mitzeerie

Common Names: **Digo:** Mdudu; **Kikuyu:** Mukoigo; **Kisii:** Omotarakaranga; **Luhya:** Shikanganya; **Luhya (Bukusu):** Kumulon-dang'ombe, Kumukhulang'wa; **Luo:** Athuno, Odughu kulo; **Maasai:** Oleragia; **Meru:** Mukwegwe; **Nandi:** Chemegulde, Ngorouet; **Pokomo:** Mdudu, Mpuju; **Samburu:** Lapironit; **Swahili:** Mkarakara, Mkarati, Mtutu; **Teso:** Eruaka.

DESCRIPTION

A medium-sized, often thorny, leafy evergreen tree with dense spreading crown, to 13 m. Young stems have a zigzag form, dotted with paler breathing pores. Its Bark is Grey-brown, flaking with age. Leaves appear compound but actually alternate along branches, dark shiny green above, to 12 cm long, veins parallel, extending along margin. Leaf stalks slightly hairy.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION

This is a tree of humid and sub humid areas in eastern and southern Africa. Widespread in Kenya and particularly common in the western and central parts of the country. Found in riverine forests, edges and occasionally in open woodland, 0-2,200 m. Agro climatic Zones 11-111. Flowers mainly in December and produces seed in March in western Kenya.

FLOWERING AND FRUIT DEVELOPMENT

It has Small and yellowish green flowers, bunched in leaf axils along branch, male and female flowers separate but on the same tree. Its fruits are soft, purple-black, oval, up to 8 mm, sweet and edible when ripe.

PROPAGATION

Seedlings.

END USES

Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, tool handles, utensils (spoons), construction material for granaries (branches), edible fruit, The bark is used to treat burns, wounds, venereal diseases, tapeworm, diarrhoea and toothache. Leaf sap is used to treat sore eyes. Root is used to treat stomach pains, possibly gastric ulcers, or can be powdered and mixed with fat or oil and rubbed into the head to cure headaches, fodder (leaves for goats), bee forage, shade, mulch, river-bank stabilization and red dye (bark).



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