



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya Dr. William Ruto handing over an avocado seedling to Kaptagat resident during the event

Editors note

International Day for the Conservation of the **Mangrove Ecosystem** Marked in Kenya

Dr. Deborah Barasa, CS Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry led the country in celebrating the day at Mida Creek, Kilifi County under the theme “Protecting Wetlands for the Future”

The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is marked globally on July 26th with the aim to raise awareness on the importance of mangrove ecosystems and promote solutions for their conservation.

Mangroves are vital to coastal ecosystems as they protect shorelines from storms and erosion, act as nurseries for marine life, filter water and store large amounts of “blue carbon” to combat climate change. Their complex root systems create a natural barrier, absorb wave energy, trap sediment and provide essential habitat for countless species, supporting biodiversity and local fisheries.

During the event, Dr. Barasa launched the National Mangrove Ecosystem Guidelines; Mangrove Harvest Management Plan for Lamu County and the Mangrove Forest Technical Order.

The National Mangrove Ecosystems Guidelines provides a structured framework for the sustainable conservation, restoration and utilization of Kenya's mangrove ecosystems as outlined in the National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan (2017-2027). The Ecosystem-Based Management approach will consider ecological, socio-cultural, economic and institutional factors and will be rolled out in six programs including forest conservation and utilization, fisheries development, community involvement, tourism, research, and human resource development, to achieve its goals.

The Mangrove Harvest Management Plan for Lamu County is aimed at promoting the sustainable use of mangrove wood resources in Lamu County while protecting the ecosystem. The Management Plan proposes the use of a selective harvesting method, where poles are harvested from designated areas (coupes) over specific periods to ensure sustainability.

During the event, The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry also donated 200 beehives to community associations.

CONTENT

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | President Ruto Leads the 9 th Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme |
| 4 | Kenya Celebrates World Bamboo Day in Kericho County |
| 5 | Dr. Barasa Officiates Initial IUFRO Stakeholders' Forum |
| 6 | KEFRI joins the Ministry of Environment in marking the Mazingira Day Celebrations |
| 7 | KEFRI and JICA Conclude Second Regional Training on Climate-Resilient Forestry in Africa |
| 8 | KEFRI Graduate School and JKUAT Host Stakeholders Engagement Forum |
| 9 | Kenya Launches Landmark Frameworks for Landscape Restoration and Agroforestry Development |
| 10 | KEFRI Signs an Mou with County Government of Laikipia |
| 11 | KEFRI Participates in International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer |
| 12 | Kenya Unveils Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050 to Drive Green Industrialisation |
| 14 | KEFRI attends 2025 Devolution Conference in Homa Bay |
| 15 | Turkana Stakeholders Benchmarking Visit to Baringo |
| 16 | Board of Directors Visit to National Forest Products Research Programme, Karura |
| 17 | KEFRI Board and Senior Management review HR Instruments |
| 21 | KEFRI Shines Across Regional ASK Shows |
| 21 | Staff movement |

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President Ruto Leads the 9th Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme

On 11th July 2025, His Excellency President Dr. William Ruto presided over the 9th Edition of the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme (KICP) held at Simotwo Boys High School grounds in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

The event brought together key government agencies, corporate organizations, and local communities to promote tree growing and environmental conservation within the Kaptagat Forest ecosystem.

KEFRI was represented by Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, who was accompanied by members of the Senior Management Team including Dr. James Ndafa, Dr. Eston Mutitu, Dr. David Lang'at, Dr. Robert Nyambati, and Ms. Joyce Okumu.

In her remarks, Dr. Njuguna emphasized KEFRI's commitment to providing scientific support for forest restoration and sustainable land management across the country.

Earlier, a precursor tree planting activity was held at Kipkabus Forest Block, near Simotwo High School, where participants planted 5,400 tree seedlings



as part of efforts to rehabilitate 34,000 hectares of degraded forest land under this year's programme. The event was attended by senior government officials including Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Kosgey, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, PSs Mr. Gitonga Mugambi (Forestry), Eng. Dr. Festus Ng'eno (Environment), Dr. Chris Kiptoo (National Treasury).

The President commended all partners for their continued support in forest conservation and



urged Kenyans to take personal responsibility in growing and protecting trees to help the country achieve its 15 billion tree target by 2032.

Kenya Celebrates World Bamboo Day in Kericho County



Kenya Celebrates World Bamboo Day in Kericho County

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa on 18th September 2025, led the country in marking World Bamboo Day at University of Kabianga, Kericho County.

The day was marked under the theme “Bamboo for People, Planet and Climate Action” highlighting Bamboo’s role in job creation, boosting rural economies and supporting climate-smart industries a sustainable resource with significant environmental, economic and social impact.

During the event, CS Deborah Barasa launched the Kenya National Bamboo Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2035) which is a 10 year plan to transform Bamboo from a marginal crop into a driver of economic growth and climate resilience.

Key objectives of the Plan include; promotion of sustainable development, forest protection, and green industrial growth by focusing on a value chain approach that includes research, innovation hubs, and integration into the education system.

"This Strategy and Action Plan will bring forth new measures which will enhance bamboo growing, sustainable management of bamboo resources, and encourage value chain development in Kenya," said the CS.

Speaking on behalf of the PS State Department for Forestry, Mr. George

Tarus acknowledged the great strides that the Bamboo industry has made in the country especially in the creation of green jobs for youth and CBO's.

The Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna thanked the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry and the University of Kabianga for their support in planning this year's celebrations.

"Bamboo holds a special place in KEFRI especially since the Institute was the first to introduce the exotic species in the County. Our scientists will continue working with both state and non-state actors to ensure the continued growth of the bamboo industry in Kenya," she said.

During the event, 1,000 bamboo seedlings were planted to mark the day and a further 4,000 seedlings donated to the local community.

Dr. Barasa Officiates Initial IUFRO Stakeholders' Forum

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa on 27th August 2025, officiated a Stakeholders' meeting in preparation of the 27th International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress to be held in Kenya in 2029.

IUFRO is an independent, non-profit scientific network that fosters global collaboration for people and organizations with research interests in forests, trees and forest products. The 27th congress will bring together scientists and stakeholders from all over the world to discuss scientific issues related to priority areas of Forest Research.

global environmental, social and economic agenda. The Congress will allow us to highlight and acknowledge particularly the crucial roles that African forests, forestry and forest science have been playing in attaining these goals at global, regional and local levels.

"This is the first time in 133 years that the congress is coming to Africa and is an opportunity for Kenya and the continent to showcase its potential especially as we spearhead the clarion call towards 15 billion trees by 2032," said Dr. Barasa

In her remarks Dr. Jane Njuguna, CEO KEFRI thanked the Kenyan government and all stakeholders for their role in securing Kenya's



Stakeholders join the CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa at a Partner Breakfast meeting to usher in preparations of the 27th IUFRO congress

The congress theme "Advancing Global Partnerships in Forestry Research and Development" will present an opportunity for the African continent to showcase its vital potential in forests and their contribution to livelihoods.

This Congress will offer the world of forest science an excellent opportunity to take stock of the role of forests in the achievement of the

bid to host the congress in 2029. She reiterated her confidence in Kenya stating that with continued partnership the congress will be a success.

KEFRI joins the Ministry of Environment in marking the Mazingira Day Celebrations

On October 8, 2025, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) joined Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa during a national media briefing in Nairobi. In the meeting, comprehensive plans for the 2025 Mazingira Day celebrations were unveiled. KEFRI was represented by its CEO, Dr. Jane Njuguna, who stood alongside the Cabinet Secretary, the Principal Secretary for Forestry, and other sector leaders to outline KEFRI's critical contribution to the exercise. The Institute reaffirmed its central role as the government's scientific backbone in tree research, seed systems, propagation, and monitoring.



Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa addressing during a media breakfast in Nairobi on October 8, 2025

CS Dr. Barasa noted that the 2025 theme, "Citizen-centric tree growing and environmental stewardship," calls for a united national effort grounded not only in participation but in scientific excellence, a capacity KEFRI brings to the initiative.

Dr. Jane Njuguna detailed KEFRI's preparations and commitments to ensure the success of the nationwide campaign through:-Scientific propagation of high-quality seeds, coordinated seed and seedlings distribution,

Digital tracking using KEFRI's JazaMiti App, technical backstopping throughout the tree planting exercise.

Dr Njuguna highlighted the importance of KEFRI's contribution through the integration of the JazaMiti App in Mazingira day, which would document and monitor all trees planted on Mazingira Day.

"We encourage all participants students, teachers, alumni, and partners to record their planted trees on the JazaMiti App," Dr. Njuguna emphasized. "The data helps us track survival, identify gaps, generate reliable reports, and guide future interventions. This is how Kenya builds a transparent, accountable, and data-driven tree-growing programme."

During the briefing, CS Barasa and PS Mugambi urged Kenyans to return to their former primary schools on October 10 to plant fruit trees and clean their surroundings. The government is targeting a minimum of 2,000 seedlings per school, supplemented by take-home seedlings where needed.

Basic Education Director Dr. Stephen Sugut confirmed that schools were fully mobilized, while Kenya Forest Service (KFS) assured the availability of additional seedlings in all sub-counties.

By joining the Cabinet Secretary at the briefing and providing scientific, logistical, and digital support, KEFRI reaffirmed its role as a key government partner in achieving the 15-billion-tree goal.

"We remain committed to ensuring that Kenya's tree-growing efforts are grounded in science, supported by research, and strengthened through digital innovation," Dr. Njuguna concluded.

KEFRI and JICA Conclude Second Regional Training on Climate-Resilient Forestry in Africa



JICA KEFRI Training: Dr. Jane Njuguna, KEFRI Director (fourth from left) and Mr. Fumihiko Suzuki, JICA Kenya Office Rep (first from right)

KEFRI in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), successfully concluded the second on-demand Regional Training on Promoting Climate-Change-Resilient Forestry in Africa at KEFRI Headquarters, Muguga, on September 19th 2025.

The three-week programme convened forestry and natural resources professionals from Somaliland, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and other African countries, providing a practical platform to share solutions that strengthen climate resilience across African landscapes.

The closing ceremony was officiated by Dr. Jesse Owino, representing the Principal Secretary, Mr. Mugambi Gitonga (State Department for Forestry). JICA Kenya Office was represented by Mr. Fumihiko Suzuki, while KEFRI was represented by Dr. MTE Mbuvi, Senior Deputy Director, Research and Development, on behalf of the Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna.

Earlier, the opening ceremony was graced by Mr. George Tarus, Forest Development Secretary (on behalf of the PS), alongside distinguished guests including H.E. Gen. (Rtd.) Peter K.

Lavahun, High Commissioner of Sierra Leone; Mr. Ontumetse Anthony Ontumetse, Deputy High Commissioner of Botswana; Dr. Thomas Kiptoo, Acting Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests; Mr. Makoto Shinkawa, Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office; and Ms. Kanako Sasai, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan.

Participants were equipped with technical knowledge and hands-on skills in:

- High-quality tree germplasm development
- Tree improvement and breeding
- Climate-smart forestry and agriculture technologies
- Effective communication and technology transfer for scaling proven practices

The training featured immersive practical sessions at KEFRI's Seed Centre and laboratories, and field work in the Kitui Eco-Region focusing on *Melia volkensii* and other dryland tree species.

A capstone field visit to KEFRI Kibwezi Sub-centre (Makueni County) was led by Dr. Michael Okeyo, Assistant Regional Director. The delegation explored commercial forestry development in drylands, with emphasis on the role of *Melia volkensii* (Mukau) in climate adaptation and livelihoods.

In his remarks, Dr. Owino commended participants' commitment and urged them to apply the acquired skills in their home institutions and landscapes. Participants lauded the programme's practical orientation, peer networking, and regional knowledge exchange.

KEFRI Graduate School and JKUAT Host Stakeholders Engagement Forum

The KEFRI Graduate Research School (KGRS), in collaboration with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), launched a two-day Stakeholders Engagement Forum at KEFRI Headquarters in Muguga. The forum, held on 10th September 2025 marked a significant step toward operationalizing the KEFRI Graduate School, which will soon begin offering advanced degree programmes in forestry research and related disciplines.



The KEFRI Graduate Research School (KGRS), Stakeholders pose for a group photo led by Prof. Thuku Thiong'o of JKUAT(5th from right), next to Dr. Musingo Mbuvi during the stakeholder engagement forum

The forum was officially opened by Prof. Thuku Thiong'o from JKUAT, who represented the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs. He noted that the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the JKUAT Senate are currently reviewing the curriculum for the Graduate School to ensure alignment with national and international academic standards. In his remarks, Dr. M.T.E. Mbuvi, representing the Director KEFRI, reaffirmed the Institute's readiness to launch the school, emphasizing institutional commitment and preparedness.

The KEFRI Graduate Research School will offer competitive master's degree programmes focused on forestry science and applied research. Among the courses to be introduced are:

- MSc. Microbiology (Forest Pathology)
- MSc. Botany (Plant Ecology)
- MSc. Genetics

- MSc. Zoology (Entomology) and other specialized options aligned with KEFRI's research mandate and Kenya's forestry development agenda.

These programmes aim to produce highly skilled professionals capable of driving sustainable forest management, innovation, and ecosystem resilience in Kenya and beyond.

Participants in the engagement forum were drawn from KEFRI and JKUAT a team of experts tasked with reviewing the proposed curriculum and recommending enhancements to ensure it meets emerging sectoral needs. Dr. Eston Mutitu, Chairperson of the Technical Graduate School Committee of Experts, outlined progress made so far, noting that the school is being anchored on the Forest Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) and existing human resource frameworks to ensure institutional sustainability and compliance.

During the forum, Dr. Joram Kagombe, Deputy Director, Socio-economics, Policy and Governance, updated participants on Kenya's preparations to host the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress in 2029 a historic achievement for the country and continent. The IUFRO Congress, set to be held in Kenya through KEFRI's leadership, will be the first-ever IUFRO conference to take place in Africa, following a successful bid. Dr. Kagombe called for collaboration among all stakeholders to ensure the success of this global event, which is expected to showcase Africa's leadership in forestry research, innovation, and sustainable resource management.

The establishment of the KEFRI Graduate Research School, in partnership with JKUAT, reflects a shared vision for advancing forestry education, research excellence, and capacity development.

Kenya Launches Landmark Frameworks for Landscape Restoration and Agroforestry Development

Kenya has taken a bold step forward in advancing environmental sustainability and climate resilience with the launch of the Kenya Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring Framework and the National Agroforestry Strategy.

The historic event held on 17th September 2025, was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, accompanied by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, the Director KEFRI, Dr. Jane Njuguna, and Deputy Director Forest Productivity, Health and Tree Improvement, Dr. Eston Mutitu, alongside key government officials, development partners, and stakeholders from the forestry and agricultural sectors.

Dr. Barasa emphasized the integral connection between trees and agriculture, noting that both are vital for enhancing food security, improving environmental health, and uplifting livelihoods.



KEFRI Director Dr. Jane Njuguna (Middle) and other delegates during the official Launch



Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Dr. Deborah Barasa (Left) during the launch

She reiterated that the two frameworks will play a central role in realizing the government's ambitious plan to plant 15 billion trees and achieve 30% tree cover by 2032. Notably, at least 30% of these trees will be fruit-bearing species, combining ecological restoration with nutritional and economic benefits for communities across Kenya.

On his part, PS Mugambi highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration in the successful implementation of these strategies. He called for strengthened partnerships between KEFRI, county governments, and local communities, as well as an increase in seedling production to meet the targets and restore degraded landscapes.

The leaders noted that the two frameworks will not only help restore ecosystems but also create employment opportunities, particularly for youth, and enhance livelihoods for millions of Kenyans dependent on natural resources.

KEFRI Signs an MoU with County Government of Laikipia

On 7th August 2025, KEFRI and the Laikipia County Government formalized their partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed



Dr. Eston Mutitu, (Left) Deputy Director Forest Productivity and Tree health Improvement & H.E Joshua Irungu, Governor Laikipia County display the signed MoU following the formal signing ceremony

at promoting sustainable forestry and natural resource management in the county.

The KEFRI team, led by Dr. Eston Mutitu, Deputy Director for Forest Productivity and Tree Health Improvement, paid a courtesy call to H.E. Joshua Irungu, Governor of Laikipia County, on behalf of Director KEFRI. The visit highlighted the strong working relationship between the two institutions and their shared commitment to restoring landscapes and improving livelihoods through forestry.

The MoU outlined several areas of cooperation, including training and capacity building on nursery management, joint research on tree species such as *Melia volkensii*, and technical support on tree-crop combinations especially intercropping with coffee, one of Laikipia's key cash crops. KEFRI will also supply tree seedlings and offer advisory services to promote agroforestry across the county.

Both parties also agreed to scale up the production of *Melia volkensii* and *Grevillea* seeds to ensure a steady supply throughout the year and to expand the Tree Seedling Centre in Laikipia. In addition, KEFRI requested more land for research trial plots and will continue working with the County Government on tree species-site matching, greening, and beautification programmes.

Later, Governor Irungu visited the KEFRI Rumuruti Centre, where he was received by Dr. Mutitu, Dr. Stephen Omondi (Regional Director), and KEFRI Rumuruti team. He toured demonstration plots showcasing Indian Sandalwood,

Markhamia lutea, and *Grevillea*, located next to a natural forest rich in native biodiversity, and paid a visit to the nursery.



Dr. Omondi, Regional Director CHERP (left), briefs the delegation at the KEFRI Rumuruti demonstration plot during the Governor's visit to the KEFRI Rumuruti Centre

KEFRI Participates in International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer

KEFRI joined the world in commemorating the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, themed “40 years of Vienna Convention: from Science to Global Convention”. The theme highlighted four decades of united efforts to protect the Ozone layer shield of life.

The event took place on 16th September 2025

at Michuki Memorial Park, Nairobi, led by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa.

The ozone layer is a protective shield in the Earth's stratosphere that absorbs most of the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation, safeguarding human health, agriculture, and biodiversity. Thanks to global efforts like the Montreal Protocol, the ozone layer is on a path to recovery a powerful example of what collective climate action can achieve.

The CS called for global solidarity while reminding the nation that all decisions rooted in science can inspire global unity and concrete solutions in reduction of global warming. She added that this year's celebration reminds us that protecting the ozone goes hand in hand with tackling climate change. Every step we take towards sustainable practices, renewable energy, and conservation contributes to a healthier and greener future.



Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Debora Barasa, plants a ceremonial tree at Michuki Memorial Park during the 2025 Ozone Layer Commemoration

Kenya joined the Vienna Convention and the Montreal protocol in November 1988 and since then it has ratified several amendments to show the country's commitment to protect the ozone layer and tackling climate change. Kenya will host the 37th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in November 2025 at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi.



The KEFRI Choir delivers a performance during the 2025 World Ozone Layer Commemoration, highlighting the role of art in promoting environmental awareness

Kenya Unveils Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050 to Drive Green Industrialisation

Kenya marked a major milestone on 29th July 2025 with the launch of the Kenya Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050, a transformative blueprint positioning forestry as a central pillar of the country's green industrialisation, climate resilience, and economic growth. The launch, held at a Nairobi hotel, was officiated by the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, accompanied by the Forestry Development Secretary, Mr. George Tarus.

The event brought together high-level stakeholders including KEFRI Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. Alex Lemarkoko, representatives from the British High Commission led by Ms. Robina Abuya, and development partners from Gatsby Africa, represented by Mr. James Mwai, among other distinguished guests.

The PS in a speech delivered on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, underscored the government's renewed focus on commercial forestry as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable growth. He highlighted that the

Vision is not only about increasing tree cover but unlocking new economic opportunities, restoring degraded landscapes, and creating dignified jobs for Kenyans particularly women and youth.

"For the first time, Kenya is unveiling a comprehensive vision that places industrial



Dr. Jane Njuguna, Director KEFRI perusing through Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050 Booklet

wood production at the heart of our green industrial revolution by empowering smallholder growers, upgrading plantations, and attracting private investment," the CS affirmed through her speech.

The Vision projects a significant leap in national benefits by increasing full-time jobs from 15,000 to 85,000, and potentially unlocking

KSh 13.9 trillion (USD 107 billion) in industrial wood GDP by 2050. It also aligns with the national target of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, designating 750,000 hectares for commercial forestry and 3 million hectares for agroforestry.

In his remarks, PS Mugambi reflected on the impact of past policy uncertainties, including moratoriums that hindered business growth and caused job losses within the forestry value chain. He emphasized that Kenya now has an opportunity to unlock massive economic value from commercial forestry.

Using the example of tree sales, the PS noted that a single tree purchased from a farmer at KSh 5,000 can generate up to KSh 30,000 once processed into furniture highlighting a strong value addition margin capable of revitalising local economies. He further estimated the value of 14 billion commercially viable trees at KSh 7.5 trillion, an amount nearly equal to Kenya's total public debt.

"Forestry could become the magic bullet for our economy," he said. "Countries like South Africa and Sweden have demonstrated that forestry can drive exports and create dignified jobs, we can replicate that here. Let us together turn forestry into a real driver of economic transformation in Kenya."

Representing the British High Commission, Ms. Robina Abuya, who oversees the UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) programme, applauded the Vision as a timely and ambitious step forward. She reaffirmed the UK's continued support through technical assistance, agroforestry development, urban greening, and talent development initiatives.

Speaking at the launch, KEFRI Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, emphasized KEFRI's commitment to strengthening Kenya's commercial forestry sector through research, innovation, and

sustainable resource development. She expressed appreciation to the Chief Conservator of Forests for approving 10,000 hectares of land for research, a move that will enhance the development and testing of improved tree varieties.

Dr. Njuguna highlighted KEFRI's ongoing improvements in forestry germplasm, noting that the Institute currently has:

- Three pine hybrids,
- Elite varieties of *Cupressus lusitanica*,
- *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, and
- *Gmelina arborea*,

all available for scaling up commercial forestry. In his remarks, Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. Alex Lemarkoko, reaffirmed the Kenya Forest Service's commitment to driving the Vision through increased forest plantation establishment, ecosystem restoration, and strengthened stakeholder partnerships. He underscored the central role of KFS in promoting sustainable forest management and supporting the growth of a competitive industrial wood value chain.

Development partners, including Gatsby Africa and the UK PACT, commended the collaborative efforts that shaped the Vision. Ms. Beulah Songok from Palladium praised the multi-year partnership behind the initiative and committed continued support toward achieving the targets.

The Kenya Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050 aligns with key national frameworks, including the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the National Forest Policy 2023, and the Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan. It is backed by upcoming regulatory reforms on forest concessions, private forest registration, and timber evaluation currently awaiting finalisation after public participation.

KEFRI attends 2025 Devolution Conference in Homa Bay

KEFRI joined state and non-state actors at the biennial Devolution Conference held at Homa Bay National School, On August 12th-15th 2025. At the Conference, KEFRI demonstrated how sustainable forestry can drive economic inclusion and climate resilience across Kenya's 47 counties.

The Institute's message was clear sustainable forestry extends far beyond environmental conservation. It's about creating jobs, building enterprises, and linking communities to markets, ultimately turning green initiatives into economic opportunities that reach every corner of Kenya. Through, county level engagement,



Former Prime Minister The Late Hon. Raila Odinga being welcomed by Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, CoG Chairman

The Conference, which was officially opened by President William Ruto, provided KEFRI with a strategic platform to showcase its critical role in transforming Kenya's forestry sector under the theme "For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice."

During the Conference, the Institute showcased some of its developments in Seedling Production and distribution, Nursery Certification, Tree Health Management, Harvesting & Value Addition, Partnerships with the community for Impact acting as a catalyst for socio-economic transformation and inclusive development.

KEFRI ensures that forestry programs are tailored to local contexts, address specific community needs, and contribute directly to closing socio-economic gaps.

The conference, organized by the Council of Governors in partnership with stakeholders, brought together governors from across Kenya, senators, members of parliament, and international partners including the European Union Ambassador to Kenya, Henriette Geiger.

The week-long conference concluded with a closing ceremony presided over by Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki. In his address, he called for stronger intergovernmental partnerships and emphasized that devolution must remain people-centred to deliver equitable opportunities across Kenya.

Turkana Stakeholders Benchmarking Visit to Baringo



KEFRI Turkana Sub-centre staff, ILO members, and the community members during the benchmarking exercise at KEFRI Baringo Sub-centre

KEFRI Turkana Sub-centre in partnership with ILO participated in a benchmarking exercise at KEFRI Baringo Sub-centre on August 14th 2025. The exercise brought together participants from both communities to explore practical ways of managing and utilizing *Prosopis juliflora* (locally known as eterae).

Prosopis, an invasive species, covers over 361,000 hectares in Turkana County posing a challenge to livelihood, grazing land and biodiversity. The communities explored ways of transforming this challenge into opportunities through production of briquettes, Biochar, timber products and the creation of green jobs.

During the exchange forum, Mr. Patrick Mwenja, KEFRI Turkana Sub-centre Assistant Director, encouraged the participants to become champions in their communities by sharing the knowledge and skills acquired. He further stressed on the importance of investing in values addition by building market access to ensure sustainable income. He emphasized the importance of involving both the host and refugee communities in restoration projects.

Mr. Martin Kiandiko, ILO Monitoring and Evaluation Lead, emphasized the necessity of the exchange programs as they mark a significant step towards developing localized response to the *Prosopis* menace.

Board of Directors Visit to National Forest Products Research Programme, Karura

The Board of Directors, led by Board Chairman Gen (Rtd) Samson Mwathethe and the Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, paid a visit to the National Forest Products Research Centre in Karura. During the visit, they observed the Centre's innovative forestry research and development programs, including biofuel technologies such as charcoal kilns and briquette production, timber engineering involving efficient sawing techniques, laminated wood, and bamboo beam fabrication.

Highlighting non-wood forest products, they learnt about value-added processing of indigenous fruits, gums, resins, and aloe, which are already benefiting small-scale enterprises across several counties. The Board Directors witnessed the operation of the bamboo processing machine, capable of transforming bamboo stems into export-grade panels and beams.

The Board Chairman affirmed that the visit had allowed him to engage directly with the team and gain firsthand insight into the essential work being carried out at the Centre. He noted that he was deeply impressed by the innovative technologies on display and commended the staff for their unwavering dedication.



The Chairman, KEFRI Board of Director, Rtd Gen. Samson Mwathethe using the microscope in the Karura Laboratory

KEFRI Board and Senior Management review HR Instruments

KEFRI Board Chairman, Rtd. General Samson Mwathethe, Board of Directors, Director Dr. Jane Njuguna and Senior Management, held a week-long strategic retreat from 2nd September 2025. The retreat focused on strengthening the Institute's Human Resource Management Instruments.

The aim of the retreat included reviewing the human resource and governance policies to enhance transparency, equity, and staff development, as well as streamlining procurement systems to align with best practices and ensure value for money.

The team was guided by experts from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, the Public Service Commission (PSC), and the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) to ensure the Human Resource Instruments are harmonised across board. The outcome of the retreat was to support a comprehensive review of roles and structures within the Institute, paving the way for improved service delivery and a stronger contribution to Kenya's Environmental and Climate Change agenda.



Board of Directors and senior management during the HR instruments retreat in Mombasa

KEFRI SHINES ACROSS REGIONAL ASK SHOWS: A Celebration of Research Excellence and Innovation

Kenya Forestry Research Institute demonstrated its national presence and scientific leadership through outstanding participation in several Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) shows across the country during quarter one.

The following were the results:

Nakuru - The Branch Chairman's Board commendation.

These exhibitions provided an opportunity for KEFRI to showcase its cutting-edge forestry research, technologies, and innovations, reinforcing the Institute's role in promoting sustainable forest management and environmental conservation.

Kisumu - The Show took place from 16th to 20th July 2025. The Institute scoped awards in the following categories:

1st Place - Best stand that Interprets Current Show Theme

1st Place - Best National Government Ministry Stand

1st Place - Best Innovation and Intervention stand

2nd Place - Best stand in Research and Development

2nd Place - Best Organization/Association that Supports/Promotes Community Projects/ Services stand

2nd Place - Best Energy Services and Conservation Sector stand

2nd Place - Best Seed Producing and Marketing stand

Mombasa - Chairman's Recommendation Award

3rd Place in Best Stand Demonstrating Application of Environmental Quality Standards.

Nyeri - **1st Place** Best Stand Demonstrating the Application of Environmental Quality Standards, Best Non-Agriculture-Based Statutory Body/Commission Stand and

3rd Place in, Best Seed Producing and Marketing Stand (Government) and

Best Stand in Research and Development (Non-Education).

Migori - KEFRI Migori proudly participated in the South Nyanza Agricultural Exhibition and Trade Fair held on 25th-27th September 2025 under the theme "Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth." The Sub-Regional Centre won the following award.

1st Place - The best stand in Research and Development

1st Place - The best stand demonstrating the application of environmental quality standards

1st Place - Best stand demonstrating current Show Theme (Education and/or Research

1st Place - The best non-agricultural based statutory board

2nd Place - Showcasing Information Communication and Technology.

2nd place - Seed producing and marketing stand

Nairobi - Nairobi International Trade Fair took place from 29th September to 5th October 2025.

The Institute scoped award in the following categories:

3rd Place - Best Stand in Research and Development (Non-Educational)



Nakuru Show



Kisumu Show



Mombasa Show



Nyeri Show



Migori Show



Nairobi Show

Staff Movement

| S/No. | Name | Date of Exit | Mode of Exit |
|-------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Stephen Mbabu Haron | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 2 | Charles Stephen Mwisa | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 3 | Anne Muthoni Kamau | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 4 | Jeremiah Otinga Kamuti | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 5 | Janiffer Njeri Maina | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 6 | Joel Bakamba Ibuye | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 7 | Felistus M. Mutisya | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 8 | Grace Njeri Ngatia | 30/06/2025 | Retirement |
| 9 | Stephen Mbabu Harun | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 10 | Joel Bakamba Imbuye | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 11 | Wycliffe Muoka Mauta | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 12 | Racheal W. Kariuki | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 13 | Shadrack O. Aluoch | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 14 | John Mburu | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 15 | Janeffer Njeri Maina | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 16 | Mark Michira Mwengei | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 17 | Flora Korir | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 18 | Stephen Mbabu Harun | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 19 | Anne Kamau | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 20 | Hellen Gathii | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 21 | Roselyne Wamari | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 22 | Mary M. Mudaki | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 23 | Peter Muriithi Angaine | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 24 | Philip Koech | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 25 | Charles M. Mwisa | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |

| S/No. | Name | Date of Exit | Mode of Exit |
|-------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 26 | Mary W. Mutuaruhiu | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 27 | John M. Ngugi | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 28 | Jeremiah Otinga Kamuti | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 29 | George Nganga Chege | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 30 | George Kiranga Njoroge | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 31 | Grace Njeri Ngatia | 1/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 32 | Cinderella Mukaisi | 6/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 33 | Alphonse S. Mmasi | 12/7/2025 | Retirement |
| 34 | Vintrace S. A. Onyango | 25/8/2025 | Retirement |
| 35 | James Ndungu Mwaura | 29/8/2025 | Retirement |
| 36 | Rose B. Nyangai | 1/9/2025 | Retirement |
| 37 | Miriam W. Wainaina | 18/9/2025 | Retirement |
| 38 | Lukas Ojwang | 22/9/2025 | Retirement |
| 39 | George S. Mmasi | 25/9/2025 | Retirement |
| 40 | Rachael Nyaruai Kagai | 25/9/2025 | Retirement |
| 41 | Benard M. Kamondo | 30/06/2025 | Early Retirement |
| 42 | Fredrick Otieno Oloo | 30/06/2025 | Early Retirement |
| 43 | Meshack Odera Muga | 8/9/2025 | Early Retirement |
| 44 | Ibraim Aliow Haji | 1/7/2025 | Resignation |
| 45 | Jane Muthoni Mbae | 10/7/2025 | Resignation |
| 46 | Paul Ochieng Onganda | 11/8/2025 | Resignation |
| 47 | Joseph Njenga Gitau | 16/9/2025 | Resignation |
| 48 | Alice Akinyi Rawago | 29/7/2025 | Deceased |
| 49 | Solomon Mburu Ngige | 8/9/2025 | Deceased |
| 50 | Samuel Wakori Kubai | 12/9/2025 | Deceased |



Forest Development Secretary Mr. George Tarus (left), CS Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa and KEFRI Director Dr. Jane Njuguna peruse through the Kenya National Bamboo Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2035)

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