



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna (third from left) poses with the awardees, and Chief Guest Mr. Joel Arumonyang, CBS (fourth from left) receiving the Special Infrastructure Impact Award at the Construction Excellence Awards 2025

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, Mangrove Forest Technical Order and the Mangrove Tree Nursery Manual

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.

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KEFRI Honored with Special Infrastructure Impact Award at Construction Excellence Awards 2025



On 1st November 2025 the National Construction Authority, awarded KEFRI with the Special Infrastructure Impact Award during the Construction Excellence Awards 2025, held at Boma Hotel, Nairobi.

The award received by KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna, recognized KEFRI's commitment to excellence and adherence to construction regulations in the development of 18 Seed Centres. The facilities play a critical role in ensuring the availability of quality tree seeds and seedlings in supporting nationwide reforestation and conservation initiatives.

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Works, Mr. Joel Arumonyang, graced the event as the Chief Guest and commended KEFRI for demonstrating excellence and strict adherence to construction standards. "Such achievements set benchmarks for infrastructure development in both public and private sector" he said.

In her acceptance remarks, Dr. Njuguna provided an overview of KEFRI's mandate, and emphasized the Institute's role in promoting sustainable forestry and environmental conservation in Kenya. She highlighted the impact of Jazamiti, KEFRI's innovative digital platform, which has revolutionized access to high quality tree seeds and seedlings, empowering farmers, community groups, and forestry stakeholders across the country.

CS Barasa inspects forest land at Moi International Airport



Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa (centre) inspecting *Eucalyptus grandis* plantation at Moi International Airport, Eldoret

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa on 7th November 2025 appeared before the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining to respond to concerns regarding the alleged undervaluation of forest land located within Moi International Airport, Eldoret.

The Cabinet Secretary was joined by Heads of Departments and representatives from State Agencies and Government Authorities (SAGAs), including Forest Development Secretary Mr. George Tarus, KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna, Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Alex Lemarkoko, and the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) Acting Director, Mr. Mohammed Gei.

The session chaired by Hon. Eng. Vincent Musyoka sort answers over the alleged undervaluation of *Eucalyptus grandis* plantations growing adjacent to the airport. “Stakeholders, including residents, conservation groups, and forestry experts, have questioned whether the value assigned to the forest cover reflects its true environmental and economic worth,” stated Eng. Musyoka.

Eng. Musyoka further emphasized that *Eucalyptus grandis* species around Eldoret has been a key feature in both commercial forestry and environmental conservation. However, the claims of undervaluation have sparked fears that the forest may be at risk of exploitation or

mismanagement, potentially shortchanging the public and undermining conservation efforts.

In her response, CS Dr. Barasa informed the committee that the Ministry, through its agencies Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), affirm that the valuation exercise was conducted in strict accordance with established scientific protocols and existing legal provisions. The CS further called for the improvement of laws around tree valuation in the country.

Following the session, committee members conducted a joint inspection visit to the Moi International Airport forest area to verify the actual acreage and assess the market value of the trees. The committee further urged the Ministry to publish valuation reports for all public forest lands to enhance transparency and restore public confidence in the management of the sector.

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa Visits KEFRI Headquarters to Review JazaMiti App

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, held a consultative meeting on 1st December 2025 with KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna, management and technical teams focusing on the JazaMiti App.

JazaMiti is an award-winning digital platform developed by KEFRI to support Kenya's ambitious tree-growing agenda. The Cabinet Secretary was taken through the various functions of the App and its role in strengthening planning, implementation, and monitoring of tree-growing initiatives across the country.



The JazaMiti App is a key tool supporting Kenya's goal of growing 15 billion trees by 2032. It enables users to select appropriate tree species based on their location, record tree planting activities with GPS accuracy, upload photographs for verification, and monitor tree growth over time. The platform is designed to enhance transparency, accountability, and data-driven decision-making in the forestry sector.

In her remarks, Dr. Barasa encouraged KEFRI to establish strategic partnerships that would enhance the visibility of the App, improve data accuracy, and enable real-time tracking of tree-growing activities nationwide. "We need to make use of advanced technologies, satellite imagery and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), to strengthen monitoring, reporting, and the verification of the trees grown," she said.

KEFRI Showcases Innovation and Sustainability at WoodTech Africa 2025

KEFRI participated in WoodTech Africa 2025 from November 25th to 27th, 2025, a premier international exhibition and conference on Wood and Furniture at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi. The event brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from across the wood, forestry, and furniture value chain, creating a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and collaboration.

The event, organized by Radeecal Communications, with strategic support from the State Department for Forestry, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and KEFRI, served as an opportunity for researchers, industry leaders, policymakers, manufacturers, and technology providers who are shaping the future of Africa's wood and furniture sector.

KEFRI's participation underscored its commitment to advancing scientific research and practical solutions that support sustainable forest use, climate resilience, and economic growth within the forestry and wood industries. By sharing its expertise in areas such as wood science, tree breeding, and sustainable resource management, the Institute contributes to broader efforts in modernizing the sector while ensuring



Cabinet Secretary Debora Barasa engaging with experts during her visit to the KEFRI exhibition stand at WoodTech Africa 2025 at KICC)

During the conference, interested parties had the opportunity to interact with the Institute's experts, discussing potential partnerships and future initiatives in sustainable forestry and wood technology.

Japanese Ambassador visits KEFRI



His Excellency Ambassador Hiroshi Matsuura of Japan with KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna during his inaugural visit to the Institute

His Excellency Ambassador Hiroshi Matsuura of Japan paid a courtesy visit to KEFRI Headquarters on December 8th 2025. The Ambassador was received by the KEFRI Board Chairman, Rtd. General Samson Mwathethe, the Director General, Dr. Jane Njuguna, and the Institute's senior management.

The Japanese delegation included Ms. Kanako Sasai (First Secretary, Japanese Embassy), Mr. Makoto Shinkai (Chief Representative, JICA Kenya), and officials from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Mainichi Newspaper from Japan.

The visit provided a platform to review the collaboration between KEFRI and JICA, which spans over four decades. The discussions focused on ongoing joint programs in tree breeding, climate-smart forest management, and community-based reforestation, while exploring further avenues for cooperation.

Following the discussions, the Mainichi Newspaper delegation expressed interest in partnering with KEFRI to highlight stories of forest conservation, community resilience, and scientific innovation. The guests toured KEFRI's laboratories, where they were taken through seed technology, forest health diagnostics, and climate-adaptive research.

KEFRI Hosted JICA Procurement Delegation

On 19th November 2025, KEFRI hosted a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Procurement Department, comprising officers drawn from various JICA offices across Africa, including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria, and Mozambique.

The delegation was received by the Deputy Director, Forest Biodiversity, Climate Change and Environment Management, Dr. James Ndufa on behalf of the Director General, Dr. Jane Njuguna. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on KEFRI's mandate, ongoing research programmes, and the Institute's long-standing collaboration with JICA, which dates back to 1983.

The team also toured KEFRI's laboratories, where they interacted with scientists and explored key research innovations supporting sustainable forestry and environmental conservation at both national and regional levels.

The engagement provided an opportunity to highlight the impact of the partnership in advancing forestry research, capacity building, and sustainable natural resource management in Kenya.



Delegates during their visit to the Tissue culture laboratory

KEFRI Showcases Science-Driven Solutions at the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly



KEFRI Staff at KEFRI Stand during the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Nairobi

KEFRI, through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, actively participated in the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), which was held from 8 to 12 December 2025 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. Convened under the theme “*Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet*,” the Assembly brought together global leaders at a critical moment as countries confronted the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

During the opening session, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa highlighted Kenya’s leadership at UNEA-7, noting that the country sponsored three resolutions and co-sponsored two others. She emphasized key Assembly priorities, including advancing sustainable solutions, strengthening resilience, and promoting inclusive environmental governance, while reaffirming Kenya’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda, circular economy approaches, strong institutions, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The Institute also demonstrated practical, science-based responses to the global planetary crisis through innovation and technology. In addition, KEFRI’s application of GIS and Remote Sensing technologies strengthened evidence-based monitoring of forest cover, land degradation, and ecosystem health which are critical inputs for climate action and biodiversity conservation.

KEFRI further highlighted its role in enhancing forest resilience and supporting sustainable livelihoods through the display of genetically superior tree seeds, which contributed to increased carbon sequestration and successful landscape restoration. Collectively, these innovations demonstrated KEFRI’s provision of scalable, science-driven solutions that advanced climate resilience, restored degraded ecosystems, and protected biodiversity, reinforcing Kenya’s contribution to addressing the global planetary crisis.

KEFRI holds Workshop on Harnessing Research and Data to Support National Actions

On 23rd October 2025, KEFRI Headquarters hosted a one-day technical workshop titled “Harnessing Research and Data to Support National Actions on Forest Genetic Resource Conservation and Use.” The workshop brought together Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) experts and key stakeholders to deliberate on the application of research evidence and data systems in strengthening national conservation and sustainable utilization frameworks for forest genetic resources.

Technical discussions focused on the assessment and management of genetic diversity within priority forest tree species as a foundation for effective forest restoration, agroforestry systems, and long-term biodiversity conservation. Participants reviewed existing genetic, ecological, and provenance data, identified gaps in species coverage and data integration, and outlined priority species and research areas to guide future breeding, conservation, and deployment strategies.

Anchored in the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the workshop emphasized the need for coordinated, cross-sectoral approaches that link scientific research, policy development, and field-level implementation. Such integration is critical for safeguarding forest genetic diversity, improving the quality of planting materials, and supporting national objectives on tree growing, ecosystem restoration, and climate change adaptation.

Key technical contributions were provided by KEFRI scientists, including Deputy Director, Forest Biodiversity, Climate Change and Environment Management Dr. James Ndufa, Chief Research Scientist Dr. Robert Nyambati alongside other research scientists who shared insights on genetic resource management, data harmonization, and institutional collaboration.



Delegates of the Harnessing Research and Data to Support National Actions workshop held at KEFRI Headquarters

KEFRI Signs an Mou with Better Globe Forestry



Better Globe Forestry, CEO Jean Paul Deprine with the Director General KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna during the MoU signing.

KEFRI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Better Globe Forestry (BGF), on 10th November 2025 at KEFRI Headquarters. The signing was officiated by KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna and Deputy Director Research and Development Dr. MTE Mbuvi, alongside Better Globe Forestry Chief Executive Officer Jean Paul Deprine and Senior Forester Jan Vandenabeele.

Better Globe Forestry is an international organization implementing forestry, bamboo, and nature-based climate projects across Africa, Latin America, and Europe. The organization focuses on landscape restoration, sustainable production systems, and community-inclusive approaches.

Under the MoU, the partnership will create opportunities for joint research, technology transfer, and capacity building for local communities and forestry professionals. It will also open pathways for knowledge exchange on sustainable land restoration practices, drawing from both global best practices and Kenya's local context.

The MoU sets the foundation for long-term cooperation that links science, policy, bamboo development and practical implementation to strengthen resilient landscapes and sustainable livelihood.

Regreening for the Future Project holds Stakeholders Engagement Workshop

The Regreening for the Future Project held a two-week Stakeholders Engagement Workshop at World Vision offices in Karen, Nairobi. The workshop held from 27th October to 12th November 2025 aimed at reviewing the status of the ongoing project. The 5-year research-led project is funded by the Australian Government via Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) with a Ksh. 287 million grant. The initiative in Kenya seeks to combat land degradation and climate change by empowering farmers and communities with skills for sustainable landscape restoration, integrating climate adaptation pathways, and supporting the national goal of 15 billion tree growing program. The Project is currently implemented in Makueni, Nyandarua, Homabay and Nyamira Counties.

The workshop focused on assessing key findings from the socio-economic assessment, biophysical, and green value chain enterprises. It further sought to establish the benefits the community has received from the training held, provision of solar power, and promotion of smart agriculture. The Project was launched in February 2025 with the aim of training farmers on best practices of integration of climate change adaptation pathways by use of community driver Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and policy research for long-term resilience.



Regreening participants engaging with stakeholders during the workshop

KEFRI Concludes Performance Contract Evaluation for FY 2024/2025

KEFRI successfully concluded its Performance Contract (PC) evaluation for the Financial Year 2024/2025 on Friday, 14th November 2025, at the Institute's Headquarters in Muguga. The evaluation exercise was conducted by a team from the Directorate of Public Service Performance Contracting led by Mr. Isaac Lagat. The Institute attained an overall performance score of 2.8095 (Very Good).

The exercise was attended by KEFRI Board Director, Mr. Justin Kabuiku, the Director General, Dr. Jane Njuguna, and Senior Management. In his remarks, Director Kabuiku commended management and staff for their commitment and commendable work delivered during the financial year under review.

Dr. Njuguna noted that the outcome of the evaluation is a clear reflection of the collective effort and dedication demonstrated across all KEFRI centres. She further acknowledged the contributions of staff in advancing the Institute's mandate, reaffirming the commitment to excellence, accountability, and innovation in forestry research and development.



PSPMU team (left) and the Board of Director Mr. Kabuiku (middle right) and Director General KEFRI, Dr. Jane Njuguna (right) during the KEFRI PC evaluation exercise

Proposal Writing Training for Students on Attachment

On 12th November 2025, KEFRI closed a comprehensive training session on proposal writing and research methodology for university students undertaking industrial attachment at the Institute. The training aimed at strengthening the students' capacity to design, articulate, and implement scientifically sound research projects aligned with national forestry and environmental priorities.

The session was facilitated by KEFRI Chief Research Scientist Dr. Robert Nyambati. He drew on his extensive experience in forestry research, scientific writing, and research supervision to guide the trainees through key components of proposal development and methodological rigor. The training also marked the successful completion of a three-week Proposal Writing Training Programme, during which KEFRI recognized 14 attachées from the third cohort. The programme ran from 3rd to 26th November 2025.



The Deputy Director, Forest Biodiversity, Climate and Environment Management, Dr. James Ndufa, awards a certificate to a participant

Speaking on behalf of the trainees, the class President Lorenza Gacheri, expressed appreciation to KEFRI management for prioritizing student capacity development. She further commended Dr. Nyambati for his professionalism, punctuality, and commitment throughout the programme.

KEFRI leads Mazingira Day Celebrations across the Country



Director General KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna (right) demonstrates how to plant a seedling during the Mazingira day celebrations at Kianguenyi Primary school.

In the build-up to the 2025 Mazingira Day Celebrations, the Director KEFRI, Dr. Jane Njuguna, represented the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, during a special breakfast engagement and media outreach on 8th October 2025.

During the radio talk show at KBC, Dr. Njuguna emphasized the importance of Mazingira Day as a national platform for environmental action. She encouraged Kenyans to visit their former primary schools and donate fruit trees to enhance food security, environmental restoration, and community engagement. She further urged citizens to download the JazaMiti App from Play Store or App Store to document and monitor their tree planting activities, thereby contributing to the 15 billion tree growing program. KEFRI centres participated in Mazingira day celebrations under the theme “Citizen Centric Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship,” across the country. Dr. Njuguna paid homage to her primary school at Kianguenyi Primary School and donated 620 fruit tree seedlings to the school and surrounding community. The donated species included avocado, lemon, guava, mulberry, and tree tomato, selected for their nutritional benefits and potential to support agroforestry and household resilience.

In her remarks, Dr. Njuguna outlined KEFRI’s mandate in advancing forestry research, promoting tree health, and supporting national climate and conservation efforts. “I encourage you to remain disciplined,

focused, and environmentally conscious as this Day offers a great opportunity to educate and empower you on climate action and sustainable living,” she said.

To complement the tree growing initiative, KEFRI also donated waste bins and conducted a training session on waste segregation and management. The training equipped learners and staff with practical skills on environmental hygiene and sustainable practices. Dr. Njuguna noted that the outcome of the evaluation is a clear reflection of the collective effort and dedication demonstrated across all KEFRI centres. She further acknowledged the contributions of staff in advancing the Institute’s mandate, reaffirming the commitment to excellence, accountability, and innovation in forestry research and development.



Director General KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna (right) demonstrates how to plant a seedling during the Mazingira day celebrations at Kianguenyi Primary school.

MAZINGIRA DAY CELEBRATIONS





END YEAR TEAM BUILDING

Headquarters



Kitui



Kibwezi



Lamu



Londiani



Maseno



Marigat



Meru



Nyeri



Migori



Turbo



Wajir



STAFF MOVEMENT

APPOINTMENTS

S/No.	Name	Designation	Station
1	Jackline Atieno Ngutu	Principal Pension Officer	Headquarters
2	Evans Owino Omwa	Pension Assistant II	Headquarters
3	Jeremiah Kinyili Mueni	Office Assistant	Headquarters
4	James Mwanza Mwaniki	Clinical Officer	Headquarters

EXIT

S/No.	Name	Date of Exit	Mode of Exit
1	Rosemary O. Atieno	7/10/2025	Retirement
2	James K. Musemi	15/11/2025	Retirement
3	Jackline Wanjira Kinyua	17/11/2025	Retirement
4	Emilio Ireri Kinyua	21/11/2025	Retirement
5	Thomas Kayai Kariuki	28/11/2025	Retirement
6	Jane Wanjiru Mwangi	12/12/2025	Retirement
7	Julius Ongeru Mose	12/12/2025	Retirement
8	Mathew Manoti Ombaba	12/12/2025	Retirement
9	Jared Amwatta Mullah	29/12/2025	Retirement
10	David Kiplagat Rono	1/10/2025	Resignation
11	Savina Musyoka Kyalya	1/12/2025	Resignation
12	Thomas Kiplangat Kundos	11/10/2025	Deceased



KEFRI



Wishes you a MERRY

Christmas

filled with love, laughter, and joy

May your holidays be blessed
and your New Year
2026

be prosperous!

 Kenya Forestry Research Institute

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