



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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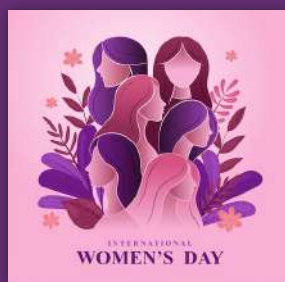
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KEFRI joins the World in marking International Day of Forests

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Editors note



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrating Women in Forestry

Every year on International Women's Day, the world recognizes the achievements, resilience, and invaluable contributions of women across all sectors. This year, we turn our focus to a field that is as vital as it is evolving forestry and to the women who continue to shape its present and future.

Forestry has traditionally been perceived as a male-dominated discipline, rooted in physically demanding fieldwork and technical specialization. However, this narrative is steadily changing. Today, women are at the forefront of forestry research, conservation, policy development, and community engagement. They are not only contributing to sustainable forest management but also redefining leadership within the sector.

At KEFRI, women scientists, researchers, and professionals play a critical role in advancing knowledge on forest ecosystems, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods. Their work spans from laboratory research to field innovation, from policy advisory to grassroots capacity building demonstrating that forestry is not only about trees, but about people, communities, and the future we collectively build.

Despite these gains, challenges remain. Women in forestry continue to navigate barriers such as limited access to leadership opportunities, gender biases, and underrepresentation in decision-making spaces. Addressing these challenges requires deliberate institutional commitment through inclusive policies, mentorship, and the creation of enabling environments where women can thrive. International Women's Day offers an opportunity not only to celebrate these contributions, but also to reflect on the progress made and the work that remains. Creating inclusive spaces, supporting professional growth, and ensuring equal opportunities are essential steps toward a more balanced and effective forestry sector.

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KEFRI joins the World in marking International Day of Forests

On 21st March 2026, KEFRI joined the global community in commemorating the International Day of Forests. This year's theme, "Forests and Economies," underscored the vital role forests play in supporting livelihoods and national development. Locally, the main function was held at Maragoli Hills

The Chief Guest, Prime Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora -Hon Musalia Mudavadi, commended the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry for its commitment to environmental conservation. Hon. Mudavadi particularly recognized the Maragoli Hills community for restoring their ecosystem by planting over 250,000 trees in support of the national 15Billion tree growing program.

Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry -Dr. Deborah Barasa also praised the Maragoli Hills community for planting fruit trees, noting this as a positive step toward environmental conservation, nutritional benefits and livelihood improvement. Dr Barasa disclosed that the Ministry plans to support the community through value addition initiatives, including the development of an agro-processing facility.

During the event, the Principal Secretary for State Department of Forestry- Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, highlighted that Vihiga County had attained a tree cover of 35 percent thanks to the strong community engagement through Community Forest Association (CFA) with support from their Governor, Wilber Ottichilo.

"As we continue growing trees, we must focus not just on planting trees but nurturing them to maturity," Mr. Mugambi emphasized

The KEFRI delegation was led by; its Board of Directors, Director General -Dr. Jane Njuguna, and Senior Management. They called on the public to intensify tree-growing efforts in order to contribute to achievement of Kenya's ambitious target of growing 15 billion trees by 2032, and to document the plantings in the Jazamiti application.

In recognition of the community efforts where one million trees were planted across the Maragoli Hills and adjacent homesteads, community members were awarded certificates, fruit tree seedlings, beehives, and financial support to aid in forest maintenance.

As the world marked the International Day of Forests, a rallying call was made to the public to appreciate the contributions of communities, learning institutions, and development partners in advancing sustainable forestry in Kenya.

Notably, all KEFRI regional centers participated in the celebrations across their respective counties, reaffirming the institute's nationwide commitment to landscape restoration.



KEFRI Board of Directors Tours Muguga Seed Centre



Research Scientist -Oscar Mukolwe demonstrating seed nicking to the Board Chairman (Rtd) General Samson Mwathethe at the Muguga Seed Centre.

The KEFRI Board of Directors, led by Chairman (Rtd) General Samson Mwathethe, undertook a monitoring visit to the KEFRI Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme (CHERP) at Muguga to assess ongoing research activities and institutional development initiatives. During the visit, the Board of Directors toured research facilities including; seed stands, the newly established seed centre, laboratories, and the seed processing and packaging section, where they observed certified seed products ready for distribution. The Directors also visited the tree nursery.

The visit provided the Board with valuable insights into rigorous activities undertaken towards ensuring quality assurance, and subsequently production of quality tree seed.

The KEFRI Seed Centre plays a central role in supporting Kenya's government 15Billion Tree Growing Programme,

which aims to achieve at least 30% national tree cover by 2032. As the national hub for tree seed sourcing, processing, and distribution, the Kenya Forestry Seed Centre (KFSC) ensures a reliable supply of high-quality, certified planting materials to meet the scale and ambition of the tree growing programme.

KEFRI provides genetically superior, site-matched, and quality-assured seeds to drive large-scale tree growing across diverse ecological zones. By ensuring the right seed for the right site, KEFRI enhances seedling survival rates, tree productivity, and long-term ecosystem resilience.

Following the field tour, the delegation proceeded to the KEFRI Headquarters for an engagement session with staff. The interactive forum enabled open dialogue on staff welfare, and operational priorities requiring enhanced Board support. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening KEFRI's research capacity, enhancing staff welfare, and improving service delivery to stakeholders, partners, and forest-dependent communities across the country.



KEFRI Scientist explains to the Board seed testing processes

KEFRI Flags off Seed Distribution in Cherangany Ecosystem

KEFRI Director General, Dr. Jane Njuguna, flagged off the distribution of approximately three tonnes of assorted tree seeds and nursery equipment to partners and community groups within the Cherangany. This marked a significant milestone in the ongoing forest restoration efforts.



Berur Womens Group receiving seeds from the KEFRI team

This initiative is part of the Italian-funded, NETFUND-led, multi-agency Cherangany Forest Ecosystems Restoration and Livelihood Project, which seeks to accelerate landscape restoration while enhancing community livelihoods. Notably, the seeds distributed were sourced directly from local communities with KEFRI's technical support, thereby strengthening grassroots capacity in professional seed collection, processing, and enterprise development.

The project has the potential to produce approximately 40 million seedlings, and is expected to contribute significantly to the national 15Billion Tree Growing Campaign. The exercise commenced with a courtesy call and official handover of seeds to Elgeyo Marakwet County and the NETFUND field office, and culminated in the distribution of nursery inputs to Berur Women Group and a National Government Administration Officers nursery group.

In recognition of Berur Women Group's commitment to forest conservation and overall environmental sustainability, Dr. Jane Njuguna pledged KEFRI's continued support and donated avocado seedlings to all 20 members to promote on-farm tree growing and livelihood diversification. Director General -Dr Njuguna further emphasized the importance of scaling up nature-based enterprises and promoting benefit-driven tree growing as a sustainable pathway for restoring degraded landscapes while improving household incomes.

Under the three-year project, KEFRI is implementing key components in landscape restoration, sustainable land management, and green enterprise development, with a focus on value chains such as bamboo and *Tamarindus indica*.

Principal Secretary State Department for Science Research and Innovation visits KEFRI

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation, Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, paid a courtesy visit to KEFRI Headquarters and was received by KEFRI Board Chairman, Rtd. Gen. Samson Mwathethe, members of the Board of Directors, and Senior Management led by the Director General, Dr. Jane Njuguna.



Principal Secretary -Prof Abdulrazak (center) and Director General -Dr. Njuguna (left) observe as Entomologist Miriam Gathogo explains the impact of termite attack on a young Eucalyptus sapling.

During the visit, the Director General gave a presentation outlining KEFRI's mandate, achievements, and contribution to national development. She highlighted that since its establishment in 1986, KEFRI had produced over 10,000 scientific publications, demonstrating the Institute's sustained leadership in forestry research, innovation, and knowledge generation.

In his remarks, Prof. Abdulrazak commended KEFRI for its strong research foundation and impactful work in the forestry sector. He urged the Institute to take a more proactive role in strengthening collaboration with other forestry and research institutions, emphasizing that such partnerships were essential for sharing knowledge, resources, and innovations to achieve greater national impact.

The PS stated that he intends to give research and innovation high priority during his tenure, acknowledging that the sector had previously received limited attention. He added that he would focus on mobilizing resources for research, creating

platforms for institutions to engage and exchange ideas, and foster stronger partnerships across the research ecosystem to enhance efficiency and overall impact.

Prof. Abdulrazak further underscored the importance of forestry in national development, noting that trees play a critical role in supporting food security, improving livelihoods, job creation, and enhancing climate resilience. He emphasized the need to align forestry research with Kenya's broader socio-economic development goals.

As part of the visit, the PS toured KEFRI's laboratories at the Headquarters, where he was briefed on ongoing research activities and innovations. The tour provided him with an opportunity to observe some of the scientific work being undertaken at the Institute.

PS Prof. Abdulrazak expressed his delight at meeting some of his former students from Egerton University, where he had previously taught before joining mainstream public service.

Launch of Key National Strategy Frameworks in Turkana County

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry -Dr. Deborah Barasa, in collaboration with the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and Regional Development -Ms. Beatrice Askul, presided over the official launch of two key national strategy documents at Nadoto Primary School, Turkana County.

The two strategies launched were: The National Prosopis Strategy and Action Plan for the Management and Control of Invasive *Prosopis juliflora* (2025–2035); and the National Commercial Forestry Strategy (2025–2035).

The National Prosopis Strategy and Action Plan provides a comprehensive, coordinated, and science-driven framework to manage and control the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* species. It presents various approaches such as mechanical removal, including destumping, and presents options for restoration of affected ecosystems. The Strategy and Action Plan also supports promotion of value chains that convert biomass into products such as; biochar, charcoal briquettes, and timber. The Prosopis value chains will result in promoting sustainable commercial forestry in the ASALs

The National Commercial Forestry Strategy (2025–2035) positions the forestry sector as a key driver of green growth and economic transformation. It highlights avenues to increase forest productivity, enhance private sector participation, and promote sustainable forest-based enterprises that create green jobs and improve livelihoods.



From left: Dr. Jane Njuguna, CS Beatrice Askul and CS Deborah Barasa launching the Strategy Frameworks

In her remarks, CS Dr. Barasa noted that while *Prosopis juliflora* remains a serious ecological challenge, research led innovations by sector players have demonstrated its potential to become a driver of economic development. “Implementation of these Strategies will contribute to landscape restoration, climate change mitigation, and job creation in line with Kenya Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA),” Dr Barasa said.

Present during the launch were; KEFRI Director General -Dr. Jane Njuguna, Turkana Deputy Governor -Dr. John Erus, Turkana County Commissioner -Mr. Julius Kavita, and Turkana Central MP -Hon. Joseph Namwar, alongside senior officials from Kenya Forest Service, and line ministries. Also present at the launch were Development Partners including; JICA, FAO, GIZ, and CIFOR–ICRAF.

Board Leadership Transition at KEFRI



Outgoing Chairman Gen (Rtd) Samson Mwathethe (left) handing over the KEFRI Board Pack to Lt Gen (Rtd) Walter Koipaton

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) witnessed a significant leadership transition as Gen (Rtd) Samson Mwathethe officially handed over the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors to Lt Gen (Rtd) Walter Koipaton on 19th February 2026.

Outgoing Chairman Gen (Rtd) Mwathethe expressed his gratitude to H.E. President William Ruto for the opportunity to serve KEFRI over the past three years. He encouraged the incoming Chairman to support the Institute's preparations for XXVII IUFRO World Congress scheduled for 2029, a historic global forestry event set to be hosted in Africa for the very first time.

Gen (Rtd) Mwathethe further reaffirmed his commitment to remain a KEFRI champion and to continue advocating for tree growing and environmental conservation.

Incoming Board Chairman Lt Gen (Rtd) Koipaton thanked the President for the appointment and pledged to build on the strong foundation laid by his predecessor. He emphasized that the synergy between military leadership, discipline, and KEFRI's scientific expertise would propel the Institute to greater heights. He called upon KEFRI staff to uphold integrity, accountability, and teamwork, and to give their best efforts in their respective areas of specialization.

The Chairman underscored KEFRI's critical role in providing quality seeds and seedlings towards achieving Kenya's 30% tree cover by 2032 under the 15Billion Tree Growing Programme. Lt Gen (Rtd) Koipaton highlighted the importance of public participation, community engagement, and partnerships with other research institutions in advancing Kenya's forestry research and landscape restoration agenda. He also committed to supporting the continued effective implementation of KEFRI's 6th Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027.

KEFRI Director General, Dr. Jane Njuguna, noted that the Institute was privileged to have benefited from Gen (Rtd) Mwathethe's stewardship, which significantly advanced the Institute's agenda in the forestry sub-sector. She welcomed Lt Gen (Rtd) Koipaton, observing that the continued appointment of distinguished leaders reflects the trust and goodwill KEFRI enjoys from the Government. "KEFRI looks forward to a new chapter of strengthened governance, innovation, and impact", she said.



The newly appointed Board Chairman

Socio-Economics Policy and Governance Directorate Gets New Director



From left: Dr. David Lang'at, Dr. Eston Mutitu, and Dr. Joram Kagombe during the handing over ceremony

KEFRI marked a leadership transition in its Socio-Economics Policy and Governance (SPG) Directorate, during a handing-over ceremony that saw Dr. Joram Kagombe formally hand over the reins to Dr. David Langat, ushering in a new phase of leadership. The ceremony was presided over by the Deputy Director -Forest Productivity, Health and Tree Improvement, Dr. Eston Mutitu on behalf of KEFRI Director General.

The transition comes at a critical time as KEFRI continues to advance its activities in research and development within socio-economics, policy support and governance as relates to forestry and allied aspects. The handing-over event highlighted the Institute's strong governance structures and its commitment to ensuring continuity in leadership and service delivery. In his remarks, Dr. Mutitu emphasized the importance of seamless leadership transitions in sustaining institutional performance and ensuring effective service delivery. He noted that strong leadership remains central to advancing the Institute's contribution to national and regional forestry and environmental priorities.

Taking over the mantle, Dr. Langat expressed his readiness to steer the Thematic Area forward, pledging to build on existing gains while prioritizing impact-driven research, stronger stakeholder collaboration, and enhanced policy influence. He reaffirmed his commitment to elevating the Thematic Area contribution to KEFRI's Vision of excellence in forestry research and sustainable development.

KEFRI Shares Insights on Financing Kenya's Research, Science, Technology & Innovation



KEFRI Director General, Dr. Jane Njuguna, participated in a high-level panel discussion on "Financing Kenya's Research, Science,

Technology & Innovation" at the NACOSTI Workshop on Mainstreaming Research, Science, Technology and Innovation at Lake Naivasha Resort. The panel brought together key stakeholders from institutions including National Research Fund (NRF), Maasai Mara University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). Together, these institutions are driving forward Kenya's research and innovation ecosystem, contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

In her remarks, Dr. Njuguna highlighted that over 91 years of forestry research in Kenya, KEFRI has developed numerous forestry technologies and continues to deliver on its mandate through strategic partnerships and collaborations. She emphasized the Institute's ongoing efforts to scale up its innovations, such as the *JAZAMITI* mobile application. The application is currently used nationwide to monitor tree-growing progress in support of Kenya's ambitious 15 Billion tree growing program.

Director General -Dr Njuguna also commended JKUAT for its mentorship and support in establishing the KEFRI Graduate School (KGRS). The KGRS which is domiciled within KEFRI is a specialized centre of excellence focusing on mentoring Masters and PhD students in forestry and allied natural resources.

World Wetlands Day Celebrations in Isiolo County

Kenya joined the world in marking World Wetlands Day on February 2nd, with national celebrations held at Merire Wetland in Isiolo County under the theme

“Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage.”

Located within the Fisheries Department in Isiolo Town, Merire Wetland supports diverse vegetation, including water lilies, sage grasses, and other indigenous aquatic and semi-aquatic plant species. The wetland also plays a critical role in enhancing food security, supporting livelihoods, and strengthening urban environmental resilience.

During the event, CS for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa launched a simplified Community Guide for Carbon Markets in Kenya. The guide aims to enhance community understanding of carbon market regulations, build local capacity to participate in carbon trading, and demystify the requirements for developing community-led carbon projects.

In her remarks, CS Dr. Barasa called on communities to actively conserve and protect wetlands. Dr. Barasa highlighted that, in partnership with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry (MoECCF) has rolled out the 'Adopt a Wetland Initiative', which has attracted 60 stakeholders committed to wetland conservation efforts.



Governor Isiolo County, H.E. Abdi Guyo (middle) with CS Deborah Barasa at the World Wetlands Day celebrations

“As the Ministry, we reaffirm Kenya's commitment to environmental sustainability through forest biodiversity conservation, climate change research, and the promotion of sustainable ecosystem management practices. Our focus is to safeguard wetlands through the integration of traditional knowledge, scientific research, and community driven conservation efforts to preserve both ecological integrity and cultural heritage”, said Dr. Barasa.

In the lead-up to the World Wetlands Day celebrations, KEFRI also partnered with Friends of Ondiri for the Ondiri Wetland Conservation Run, an initiative aimed at promoting conservation of Ondiri Wetland near Kikuyu Town. The 34.5 hectare Ondiri Wetland is Kenya's only peat bog, the primary source of the Nairobi River which supports rich biodiversity, filters water for over 60,000 residents and serves as a vital carbon sink.

KEFRI Signs 2025/2026 Performance Contract with the Ministry



PS Mr. Gitonga Mugambi oversees the PC signing with KEFRI Chairman Lt. Gen (Rtd) Walter Koipaton

KEFRI, led by Board Chairman Lt. Gen (Rtd) Walter Koipaton, EBS, on 4th March 2026, signed its Performance Contract for the 2025/2026 Financial Year with the Principal Secretary,

State Department for Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, EBS, at the Ministry Headquarters in Nairobi.

The KEFRI delegation included; Board Director -Hamara Aden, Director General -Dr. Jane Njuguna, Senior Deputy Director for Research and Development -Dr M.T.E. Mbuvi, and members of the Performance Contract coordination team led by Dr. Victor Jaoko.

The signing, undertaken in line with the 22nd Cycle Performance Contracting Guidelines, formalizes KEFRI's performance targets for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and reaffirms its commitment to accountability, efficiency, and results-based service delivery within the forestry sector.

The process leading to the signing was rigorous and structured, guided by the June 2025 circular from the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and subsequent vetting of Ministerial and State Corporations' performance contracts in August 2025.

Speaking during the ceremony, PS Mr Gitonga Mugambi emphasized that implementation of performance targets begins at the start of the Financial Year, noting that the signing serves as a reaffirmation of institutional responsibility and commitment to delivery. He urged the Ministry and its Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) to strengthen collaboration, track performance trends, and set progressive benchmarks to drive continuous improvement.

KEFRI Board Chairman Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Koipaton reaffirmed the Board's commitment to providing strategic oversight and enhancing collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), to support KEFRI Management in delivering on the Institutes mandate.

"The signing of the Performance Contract signals our collective resolve to deliver a measurable impact. We remain focused on innovation, accountability, and partnerships that will ensure we meet and surpass our targets for the benefit of all Kenyans," remarked KEFRI Director General Dr. Njuguna.

KEFRI Signs an MoU with Riziki Nature Based Solutions

Riziki Nature Based Solutions (RNBS) Ltd led by its Co-founder Julie Brown, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna at KEFRI headquarters in Muguga.



Ms. Julie Brown Co-Founder RNBS and Dr. Jane Njuguna DG KEFRI during the MOU signing

“The partnership will strengthen KEFRI’s ongoing efforts to address the spread of invasive species, particularly *Prosopis juliflora* (Mathenge), which continues to pose significant ecological and socio-economic challenges in arid and semi-arid regions,” said Dr. Njuguna.

Ms. Brown in her remarks acknowledged that RNBS had previously partnered with KEFRI Baringo Centre in managing *Prosopis*, including the application of destumping techniques, as well as the utilization of invasive biomass for value-added products such as biochar.

This partnership will also focus on joint initiatives in capacity building, research, knowledge exchange, and resource mobilization, all aimed at advancing nature-based solutions, promoting sustainable land restoration, and improved livelihoods.

RNBS is located in Lorwok and focuses on transforming invasive plant species into renewable biofuels, restoring economies, and creating economic opportunities for local communities. The company converts invasive mesquite into biochar and biofuel providing alternatives to non-renewable wood and fossil fuels country.

KEFRI Supplies Seeds to Kenya Forest Service

KEFRI supplied close to eight tonnes of certified tree seeds to the Kenya Forest Service, (KFS) marking another significant milestone in Kenya’s forest restoration journey.

The seeds will be distributed across key North Rift counties - Nakuru County, Kericho County, Turkana County, Narok County, Uasin Gishu County, Trans Nzoia County, Nandi County, Elgeyo Marakwet County, West Pokot County, Baringo County, and Bomet County as well as critical ecosystems such as the Mau Forest Complex. These regions are vital to the country’s ecological stability, biodiversity conservation, and water tower systems.

Tree seed distribution directly supports the Government’s 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme, which aims to increase Kenya’s national tree cover to 30 percent by 2032.

The 10-year initiative is designed to; restore approximately 5.1 million hectares of degraded landscapes, reverse deforestation trends, and mitigate effects of climate change. As of late 2025, the country has already surpassed one billion trees planted, an encouraging milestone that underscores the growing momentum of this nationwide effort.

KEFRI continues to play a critical role in ensuring not just the quantity, but the survival, and long-term impact of trees planted across the country.



KFS collecting eight tonnes of tree seeds from KEFRI Seed Center, Muguga

KEFRI Showcases Climate-Smart Forestry Innovations at the 2026 Eldoret ASK Show



KEFRI Staff exhibiting various technologies during the Eldoret National ASK Show

KEFRI participated in the 2026 Eldoret National ASK Show held from 3rd to 8th March 2026 at the Eldoret Showground. This year's event, themed *"Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth,"* brought together key players in agriculture, research, and trade to showcase innovations driving sustainable development.

Through its exhibition stand, KEFRI- Rift Valley Eco-Region Programmes highlighted a range of innovative forestry research technologies, climate-smart tree growing solutions, and sustainable land restoration practices designed to support farmers, communities, and stakeholders in building resilient landscapes and green enterprises.

Visitors to the KEFRI stand were engaged through interactive sessions and demonstrations, offering insights into climate-smart forestry technologies, tree seed and seedling production systems, landscape restoration initiatives, and forestry research and capacity-building programmes.

The exhibition provided an important platform for KEFRI to strengthen stakeholder engagement, promote adoption of research-based solutions, and reaffirm its role in advancing sustainable economic growth and environmental conservation through forestry science and innovation.



At the Eldoret Show KEFRI achieved various awards as follows:

2nd Position in categories of:

- Best Stand Demonstrating the Application of Environmental Quality Standards
- Best National Government Ministry stand
- Best Seed Producing and Marketing Government stand

KEFRI's Drone Technology and Vital Monitoring in Forest Restoration

Over the years, KEFRI has collaborated with key partners to adopt the Vital Signs Monitoring System, an integrated approach designed to collect, analyze, and share data on ecosystems, agriculture, and human well-being. This system has laid the foundation for evidence-based decision-making by providing reliable, real-time insights into environmental conditions and forest resource management.

As forests face increasing pressure from climate change and human activity, KEFRI is embracing smarter, technology-driven solutions by advancing the use of drone technology in aerial mapping and seeding.

These unmanned aerial systems, equipped with high-resolution cameras, sensors, and automated navigation capabilities, are transforming how forest landscapes are assessed and restored, enabling rapid data collection over large and often inaccessible areas, hence accuracy.

Recent initiatives, including the piloting of drone assisted aerial seeding in various forest ecosystems, mark an important milestone in KEFRI's journey towards embracing modern, cost-effective technologies.

These efforts support national restoration goals by enabling targeted seed distribution and improving the survival rates of planted species.

Additionally, the integration of drone technology which has the capacity to take high quality photos of tree species from high heights, the drone is also flexible in that once you feed it with a sample of the tree specie the drone cam help identify the given sample in a given area of land. Drone technology is highly effective in aiding researchers to track tree growth progress in areas where the access is limited. This is through its high technology and the use of AI.

As KEFRI continues to innovate and harness cutting edge technology, the integration of drone technology and vital monitoring systems represents a significant step forward in sustainable forestry. By leveraging these tools, the Institute is not only improving restoration efficiency but also contributing to a more resilient and data-driven approach to natural resource management.

This commitment ensures that Kenya's forests are restored, protected, and sustainably managed for future generations moreover directly supporting success of Kenya's 15 Billion tree agenda.



KEFRI drone displayed during Muguga Open day

OPEN DAYS & FIELD DAYS



Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme, Muguga



Rumuruti Sub-regional Research Centre



Kibwezi Sub-regional Research Centre



Lamu Sub-regional Research Centre



Coast Eco-region Research Programme, Gede



Turbo Sub-regional Research Centre

STAFF MOVEMENT

S/No.	Name	Date of Exit	Mode of Exit
1	Reuben Shanda	01/01/2026	Retirement
2	Joseph M. Kabera	02/01/2026	Retirement
3	Shadrack O. Omambia	03/01/2026	Retirement (Early)
4	Fredrick Misolo Amolo	21/01/2026	Retirement
5	Peter Mabiru Mwai	17/02/2026	Retirement
6	Paul Musyimi Mumo	01/03/2026	Retirement
7	Esther Wanjiru Mutonya	03/05/2026	Retirement
8	Peter Wachira Munyi	01/06/2026	Retirement
9	Jared Amwatta Mulah	29/12/2025	Retirement
10	Daniel Rotich	01/01/2026	Resignation
11	Abdi Ibrahim Mohamed	03/01/2026	Resignation
12	Mohamed Hussein Mohamed	03/01/2026	Resignation
13	Fredrick Orodhi Busera	22/01/2026	Resignation



IUFRO Small Scale Forestry and Forest History and Traditional Knowledge Joint Conference

THEME: The Supply of Forest Products and Services from Small-Scale Forests, Agroforestry, Farms, and Community Lands



**21- 23
JULY 2026**



KEFRI, NAIROBI



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