



KEFRI *Newsletter*

Issue No. 27

October - December 2018

A Publication of Kenya Forestry Research Institute



Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Mohammed Elmi (Centre) presenting a copy of KEFRI 6th Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 to Mr. Robinson Ng'ethe - representative KEFRI Board of Directors and KEFRI acting Director - Dr. Jane Njuguna. Looking on is the PS- Ministry of Environment and Forestry Mr. Noor Ismail and KFS acting Director Ms. Monica Kalenda



KEFRI Acting Director - Dr. Jane Njuguna and Mr. Robinson Ng'ethe - representative KEFRI Board of Directors displaying the National Tree Improvement Strategy (2018-2023) which was launched by the CAS – Environment and Forestry Hon. Mohammed Elmi (left)

Table of Contents

KEFRI launches 6th Strategic Plan	2 - 3
Tree Planting Campaign for Short Rain Season	4
Tree Planting in Mt. Kenya region	4 - 5
Launch of tree planting drive for Prisons & National Youth .	5
Kakamega Forest Marathon and Tree planting	5 - 6
Tree planting launch in Turkana County	6
Nairobi International Trade Fair 2018	7
Kitale Show	7 - 8
Farmer's Field Day at Waruhiu	8
Shamiloli Quackers Training on Nursery Establishment and Management	9
KEFRI Signs MoU with Biofuel4Kenya	9 - 10
KEFRI Signs MoU with Kaimosi Agricultural Training Centre (ATC)	10
MERCFA Plants Trees with Religious Community	10 - 11
Marking 7th Anniversary for the Late Prof. Wangari Maathai	11
KEFRI Exhibits at Lamu Cultural Festival 2018	11 - 12
Secretaries attend KENASA Annual National Symposium ...	12
KEFRI Choir Entertains during Jamhuri Day Celebrations .	12
Staff to counterbalance services	13
Pictorial	14 - 15

Contributors:

Charles Mwangi, Henry Komu, Jeseo Lugadiru, Jeseo Owino, Margaret Njenga, Peter Gachie, Peter Ogutu, Simon Kamonde, Stephen Gitonga, Stephen Ndungu.

Editorial Team:

Dr. J. Mulatya, Dorothy Achieng, Margaret Njenga, Stephen Gitonga, John Otwoma, Lisper Mokaya and Josephine Wanjiku

Layout, Design & Printing:

Nelig Group Ltd

KEFRI launches 6th Strategic Plan

KEFRI launched the 6th Strategic Plan at Muguga headquarters, on Wednesday 21st November, 2018.

The Strategic Plan (2018 to 2022) outlines approaches KEFRI will apply in undertaking forestry research and development in the next four years in line with the Institute's mandate and functions.

The 6th Strategic Plan is built on four technical themes namely: Forest Productivity and Improvement (FPI), Socio-economics, Policy and Governance (SPG), Forest Biodiversity and Environment Management (FBEM), and Forest Products Development (FPD), as adopted from the National Forest Programme (2016-2030).

The technical themes are supported by Forest Research Support Services (FRSS), Corporate Services (CS), Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance (CAQA), and the Enterprise Office.

The Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Mohammed Ibrahim Elmi launched the Plan themed ‘forestry technology for livelihood and environment resilience’.

“The Plan will guide and steer the Institute towards contributing to realisation of Vision 2030’s aspiration of a ‘globally competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life by 2030’.

This Plan will enable KEFRI contribute to the national minimum target of 10 per cent tree cover; and improve livelihoods for communities and households through sustainable forest management,” said Elmi.

During the event Hon. Elmi also launched other policy and research documents including: the National Tree Seed Production Strategy 2018 – 2023; the National Tree Improvement Strategy (2018-2023); the National Forest Health Research Strategy; Proceedings of the 5th KEFRI Scientific Conference; and a booklet on the Economic Value of the Mau Forest Complex, Cherangany Hills and Mt. Elgon Water Towers Ecosystem in Kenya.

Hon. Elmi commended KEFRI for developing the five year Tree Seed Strategy that expounds on how the Institute plans to provide seeds for production of the required 1.8 billion tree seedlings for the country to achieve the 10% tree cover by 2022.



Vice Chancellor Embu University - Prof. Daniel Mugendi, CAS (MoE&F) - Hon. Mohammed Elmi, Principal Secretary (MoE&F) Mr. Ali Noor Ismail, acting KEFRI Director - Dr. Jane Njuguna visiting pathology section research exhibition at KEFRI prior to the launch of the 6th Strategic Plan

“During implementation of the 6th Strategic Plan, KEFRI will focus on generating appropriate forestry technologies for sustainable development thus contributing to the government’s achievement of the Big 4 Agenda - affordable housing, food security, universal health and manufacturing,” said Elmi.

“The 6th Strategic Plan will be used to guide forestry research and development in order to address environmental challenges that include deforestation, germplasm production, conservation and management, effects of global warming and climate change, land use changes, pollution and land degradation caused by accumulation of waste and other development activities,” said the Principal Secretary for Environment and Forestry Mr. Noor Ismail.



CAS Environment and Forestry Mr. Mohammed Elmi planting a commemorative tree. Looking on is Dr. Joram Kagombe (left), acting Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna and Ms. Monica Kalenda the acting Chief Conservator of forests

The seed strategy emphasizes use of science and research technology to come up with productive methods of seeds and planting materials that are in line with changing agricultural practices.

During the launch the Acting Director Dr. Jane Njuguna thanked development partners, County governments and other stakeholders for collaborating with KEFRI in research and development during implementation of the 5th Strategic Plan.

“During implementation of the 5th Strategic Plan KEFRI technologies were developed for rehabilitation, conservation of forests and environment, production of quality germplasm, development of quality forest products for food, construction, and cottage industries, as well as policies to guide valuation of forestry ecosystems. KEFRI technologies also contributed to increasing national forest cover in Kenya by 0.2 per cent,” said Dr. Njuguna

Tree Planting Campaign for Short Rain Season

KEFRI participated in the national tree planting campaign for the short rain season 2018 held in various counties.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) in partnership with Ministry of Education under the theme ‘Panda Miti, Boresha Maisha’. The climax of the short rain tree planting campaign is the annual national tree planting season launched in May each year.

The partnering Ministries supported by state agencies, County administration, County Governments, land owners, the private sector, communities and the civil society organizations led the tree planting activities in Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Kisumu, Siaya, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira counties for the Western region of Kenya and Kitui, Narok, Tana River, Embu, Kajiado, Garissa, Tharaka Nithi, Makueni, Wajir, Meru, Machakos, Mandera, Isiolo and Marsabit for the Eastern region.

The programme was planned following the President’s directive to mobilize communities in the regions whose main tree planting season falls in the short rains period between October and December.

The government, private sector and communities require to produce and plant 360 million seedlings every year for the next 5 years (totaling 1.8 billion seedlings) in order to realize the 10 per cent national forest cover by 2022, as well as contributing to achievement of the Big 4 Agenda.

The Ministry will continue to encourage Kenyans to devote land, labour and other resources for tree growing and environmental conservation as part of the wider agenda for promoting environmental sustainability.

Tree Planting in Mt. Kenya region

KEFRI acting Director Dr. Jane Njuguna led a team of KEFRI and Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) officials and the communities in the launch of this year’s county level tree planting season at Kiamuriuki within the Mt. Kenya Forest in Tharaka Nithi County.

According to Kenya News Agency reporters – Chuka, Evangeline Wangeci and Kenneth Marangu, Dr Njuguna said KEFRI scientists are studying how best to produce in bulk seeds of the popular camphor tree (*Ocotea usambarensis*), whose survival in Mt. Kenya Forest is under threat.

Dr. Njuguna said the hardwood which is highly sought after due to its valuable timber faces decimation and rehabilitation measures must be put in place to secure its seed production in large quantities.



Dr. Jane Njuguna planting Mukau (*Melia volkensii*) at Kiamuriuki assisted by Mr. Samuel Auka, a forester at KEFRI DERP - Kitui

“KEFRI will dispatch expert to Chuka forest station to advise the local community forest associations (CFA) on seed multiplication.” The assurance came after the coordinator of the Chuka Community Forest Association Murithi Kamanda lamented that camphor trees were being depleted, while their seed take too long to germinate.

“Camphor is targeted by illegal loggers due to its high value timber and the remaining trees may soon become extinct in the region,” Kamanda said.

Dr. Njuguna commended the community forestry association for protecting and replenishing the forests but called on the integration of youth so that they too could play a leading role in conserving the ecosystem.

“The government intention is to create linkages between the CFAs and county governments to ensure sustainable management and conservation of forests,” the Director said.

The Mt. Kenya forest covers a total of 39,492 hectares in Tharaka Nithi County, with the area under the Chuka forest station covering 23,492 hectares, Chogoria forest station covering 16,000 hectares and 192 hectares of plantation forest.

Launch of tree planting drive for Prisons and National Youth Service Centres

According to Mazingira na Misitu post dated December 19th, 2018, the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko in collaboration with representatives from the Ministries of Interior and Coordination of National Government and Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs led in planting 3000 tree seedlings at Ruiru GK prisons. The exercise was also a launch to planting of 40,000 seedlings in all the correctional centres countrywide.



CS, Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko (holding a seedling) is engaged in a discussion with Dr. Jane Njuguna – KEFRI and Senior Prison Officers prior to tree planting launch at Ruiru Prisons

“Tree planting will be carried out in all the Prisons and National Youth Service stations throughout the country as part of the national campaign to increase forest cover to 10% by the year 2022,” said Tobiko. The CS commended the partnership of his Ministry with that of the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, in their efforts and contribution towards attaining the common goal.

“My Ministry will provide the requisite technical assistance that our partners will require for the successful implementation of the collaborative venture,” said Tobiko.

At the same period, KEFRI Lamu sub-regional centre participated in the tree planting exercise held at Kenya Medical Training grounds in Mokowe on 31st October 2018. Around 1,080 tree seedlings were planted.

On 13th October, 2018 the centre had participated in planting 500 seedlings at Mokowe police lines under the programme My Tree, My Peace, My Future.

A total of 273,000 tree seedlings were planted simultaneously in most police establishments and respective neighboring public institutions in 35 out of the 47 International Police Association (IPA) regions across the country.

My Tree, My Peace, My Future it's a tree planting project an initiative spearheaded by the (IPA) Kenya.

The Inspector General of the National Police Service, Mr. Joseph Boinnet, launched the nationwide tree planting project at the Kenya Police Staff College, Loresho, Nairobi on 13th October 2018.



KEFRI Lamu (OIC) Mr. Henry Komu planting a tree at Mokowe Police Line to mark the International Police Celebrations



Lamu County Police Commander - Mr. Perminus Kioi watering tree seedling after planting at Mokowe Police line

Kakamega Forest Marathon and Tree planting

The KEFRI Kakamega sub-regional centre donated indigenous tree seedlings and participated in the tree planting exercise at Iloro forest during the Kakamega Forest annual Marathon

The 'Ingo' Marathon organized by Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation was held on 22nd November, 2018.



KEFRI staff jointly with KFS Officers and other stakeholders planting trees at Iloro, Kakamega County

The Foundation, set up in 2014, aims at complementing the government's efforts in restoring and conserving Kakamega forest - the only Guinea Congolian type of rain forest remaining in Kenya.

Kakamega forest is a water tower with major influence on the climate and socio - economic conditions of Kakamega, Nandi, Bungoma, Kisumu, Siaya, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia and Busia counties. The marathon raised funds for restoration and conservation of the forests, an initiative that is achieved through planting trees in the depleted forest areas as well as individual farms adjacent to the forests.



KEFRI Kakamega staff pose for a photograph after participating in the Ingo marathon

Tree planting in Turkana County

KEFRI Turkana sub-regional centre carried out the tree planting campaign for the short rains at Turkana University College on Saturday 17th November, 2018.



Turkana Central Deputy County Commissioner Mr. Alex Mativo planting a tree

On the eve of the event, KEFRI Turkana staff organized a farmer's field day at Katilu to demonstrate suitable agro-forestry practices.

Members of Katilu women group were trained on the importance of agroforestry practices; benefits and management of *Prosopis juliflora*; and *Grevilea robusta*. Four other trees species namely; *Moringa oleifera*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Mangifera indica* and *Cordia sinensis* were planted at the site.

The community also received seedlings for planting on their farms.



KEFRI staff using a poster during the field day and demonstration of best practices for planting suitable agroforestry trees

Nairobi International Trade Fair 2018

KEFRI uses different channels such as exhibitions, open days, seminars, field days among others to publicize itself and disseminate information and technologies to the public. Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) shows is one major avenue used to transfer technology to farmers and other stakeholders.

During the Nairobi International Trade Fair held from 1st to 7th October, 2018 at Jamhuri park grounds KEFRI displayed a wide range of technologies, products and services under the show theme 'Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade'.



Acting KEFRI Director Dr. Jane Njuguna (3rd left) and Deputy Director Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance Dr. Jackson Mulatya (5th left) with other staff after winning several awards at the Nairobi ASK show

Technologies and exhibits displayed included; quality tree seeds, seed collecting techniques; seed processing, testing, breaking dormancy, and germination, tree improvement, soil management, fertility management and improvement strategies, integrated tree pest and disease management, value addition to wood and non-timber forest products, aloe and indigenous fruits, tree nursery management and best practices, agro forestry practices, energy conservation, bamboo propagation and utilization, propagation techniques of *Osyris lanceolata* (East Africa Sandalwood), tree breeding, rehabilitation techniques of degraded areas and benefits of rehabilitated sites.

The exhibitors used posters, explanations, demonstration and publications to reinforce farmers and stakeholders understanding.

KEFRI stand was ranked 2nd best in current show theme interpretation under education and research category, 3rd best in seed producing and marketing, 3rd best in non - agricultural based statutory board stand.



Aloe hand soap and body cream among other newly launched products on display

Kitale Show

At Kitale ASK show, held from October 16th to 20th 2018, KEFRI displayed technologies on; tree grafting for improved seed production, bamboo propagation-its products and the value chain, integrated forest pests management (IPM), and production of high quality tree seeds. Various types of seeds both indigenous and exotic were displayed and availed for sale.



CS Hon. Eugene Wamalwa (Centre) with ASK officials and Prison Officers visiting KEFRI stand where Mr. Martin Welimo is captured demonstrating bamboo timber as alternative in construction industry

The Cabinet Secretary for Devolution, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, visited KEFRI stand and lauded the innovative research being conducted by KEFRI scientists.

"I am impressed by the display on forest utilization, management and exploration of bamboo value chain and their contribution to the cottage industry. I urge the community in the region to embrace bamboo farming as an alternative source of energy so as to save our forests," said Hon. Wamalwa.

The stand was ranked 2nd best government stand to interpret current show theme ‘Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade’.

Farmer’s Field Day at Waruhiu

Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme (CHERP) jointly with Forest Product Development Research Programme (FPDRP) and Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance (CA&QA) exhibited at Farmers Field day held at Githunguri, Kiambu County on 12th and 13th October 2018, courtesy of Waruhiu Agricultural Training Centre (ATC).

Kiambu County Governor Ferdinand Waititu accompanied by his County CEC for Agriculture Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation Mr. Joseph Kamau and other official addressed the audience and officially opened the 2-day annual event.



Jesee Lugadiru briefing HE Governor Waititu accompanied by his County CEC for Agriculture Mr. Joseph Kamau and other official during the visit at KEFRI stand

The Governor called upon farmers to make use the extension officers in order to adopt technologies and utilize products displayed to diversify and increase food production in the county. He urged Waruhiu ATC staff to collaborate with other partners in production and distribution of quality fruit tree seedlings such as avocados and bananas.

Over 74 agri-based firms who exhibited and were drawn from; government departments, chemical companies, seed companies, farm machinery companies, banks and SACCOs, universities, livestock products companies, research institutions, NGOs, CBOs, and individual farmers.

The event that attracted 4,070 visitors gave KEFRI an opportunity to promote several technologies and demonstrate products and services as well as share forestry information with stakeholders.

KEFRI displayed various technologies that include; bamboo propagation, production of high-quality tree seed and seedlings, different varieties of bamboo species, seedlings and seeds, integrated pest management techniques, pathogens and diseases that attack seedlings in the nursery, root rot and stem canker, value addition to wood products, value addition to timber and non-wood forest products.

Wood recovery using Chainsaw mills are essentially used for on farm sawing. According to Mr. Njagi Munene, a chainsaw operator at KEFRI reported that studies by KEFRI have shown that use of framed chainsaw has been noted to increase timber recovery from 27 percent to 56 percent.

Mr. Demetrius Njoroge, of Kihuru tree nursery in Kikuyu sub-county, demonstrated grafting techniques of assorted fruits and commercial trees including mango, avocado, apples, neem and *Melia volkensii*. Farmers were informed that grafting quickens the maturity of fruit trees to start bearing fruits in a minimum period of 3 years after planting.

Kiambu county government aims at planting 1 million trees annually to support the achievement of 10% tree cover in the country and raise awareness on tree growing to protect forests, riparian land, riverine and conservation of the environment, which is crucial in sustainable development.

In order to realize the achievement of 10% tree cover in the country, the Principal of Waruhiu Agriculture Training College, Mr. Muriithi offered KEFRI 5 acre plot to demonstrate forestry technologies whereas the arboretum offered to grow various tree species to facilitate increase of tree cover.



Mr. Kung'u Kibunja a technologist at KEFRI displaying bamboo propagation and the edible shoots

Shamiloli Quackers Training on Nursery Establishment and Management

Members of Shamiloli Quackers Church in Shinyalu constituency, Kakamega County benefited from training on tree nursery establishment and management courtesy of KEFRI Kakamega Sub-centre. The objectives of the group is to promote environmental conservation in Kakamega forest, in line with the government directive on attainment of 10% tree cover by 2022.

In addition, the group aims at engaging income generating activities such as tree seedlings production. KEFRI forester Mr. Jimmy Maison assisted by nursery attendant Mr. James Ombwa trained the group on various nursery techniques and management practices such as sowing, pricking out, potting, and root pruning.



Group members training on pricking out germinant in the nursery

KEFRI Signs MoU with Biofuel4Kenya

On 7th November, 2018, KEFRI signed a 3-year consortium agreement for 'Biofuel4 Kenya', financed by Norwegian Overseas Agency for Development (NORAD).

The project aims to improve framework conditions for private sector development in biofuel value chain for commercial production of carbonized biomass briquettes from agro-industrial residues in Kenya.

The project will address challenges in renewable energy sector in Kenya with direct effects on the economy, environment and poverty reduction in small scale sugarcane farming households in the sugar belt region of western Kenya. It builds on the previous (2015-2017) Green Economy Partnership (GEP) project in Ndhiwa Sub-County. The GEP established 3 biofuel enterprises in piloting production of carbonized briquettes from sugarcane bagasse to replace wood charcoal for cooking.

In particular, the Biofuel4 Kenya Project aims to overcome barriers including policy, technology, skill, market and financial challenges that impede the growth of community-based biofuel enterprises to commercial-scale operations.

The Project overall goal is to improve framework conditions for private sector development in biofuel value chain for commercial production of carbonized biomass briquettes from agro-industrial residues in Kenya.



Mr. Waheed Chaudhry (NGARA chair), Esther Kimathi (standing)

The planned effect of the Project on society, (Impact) is an implemented biofuel value chain in Kenya that will contribute to economic growth, poverty alleviation and reduced carbon emissions. The anticipated effect for the target group (Outcome) is an improved production system with improved returns from this asset base.

The main projected outputs products are: improved access to low-carbon technologies by local private enterprises for commercial production of carbonized biomass briquettes from agro-industrial residues; strengthened technical skills and organizational capacity of project partners and community-based biofuel enterprises to effectively implement sustainable and replicable investment projects and business models; and financing mechanisms developed for scaling up and replication of commercially proven concepts of biofuel to new markets by the private sector.

The consortium partners are two Norwegian Institutions namely Norwegian Institute of Bio-economy Research (NIBIO) and Royal Norwegian Society for Development (NV) and eight Kenyan Institutions comprising: Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI); Gum Arabic and Resins Association (GARA); Agriculture and Food Authority – Sugar Directorate (AFA-SD); Migori Juakali Cooperative Union (MJCUC); Fine Aromas Limited; and three community-based beneficiary cooperative societies.

In the consortium, NIBIO is the overall Project Manager, while KEFRI is leading Institution for Kenyan Consortium partners.



Dr. Jane Njuguna signing the MoU at KEFRI headquarters. Looking on from left is Ms. Eveline Oroni, Violet Oriwo, and Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo

KEFRI Signs MoU with Kaimosi Agricultural Training Centre (ATC)

KEFRI signed an MoU with Kaimosi Agricultural Training Centre on 8th October, 2018 for co-operation and linkage in training, research and development.

The aim of this MoU is to foster stronger collaboration for mutual benefit of the partners and the country at large in the protection of Kenya’s agricultural sector and environmental conservation in order to ensure natural resource management and improved livelihoods.

The project partners recognize that there is need to: make provision for research and development targeting use of agroforestry land use systems in their work plans and; strengthen synergies between the parties in the implementation of their activities in the target areas to achieve greater impact.



Dr. Bernadette Tiony from Kaimosi ATC and CEC for Agriculture in Nandi County, Dr. Benjamin Kiplimo signing the MoU which also sanctioned KEFRI as one of the parties

Among the potential activities earmarked to be realized from implementation of the MoU include: establishment of seed stands - one hectare each of *Eucalyptus grandis*, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Gliricidia sepium*, *Callistemon lanceolatus*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Prunus africana*, *Maesopsis eminii*, and *Warburgia ugandensis*; rehabilitation of a degraded Murrum extraction sites; conservation of riverrine and natural forests; agroforestry systems; fruit orchards; enrichment of nursery and training programmes.

MERCFA Plants Trees with Religious Community

Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA) donated tree seedlings to Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) Nguriunditu, Kiambu County on 18th November, 2018.

KEFRI staff Mr. Stephen Ndung’u and Samuel Kirumba provided technical advice during the tree planting exercise which also marked the dedication of the church.

Rev. Patrick Thegu Mutahi (former Deputy Moderator) representing the chief guest - Right Reverend Julius Mwamba (Moderator of PCEA General Assembly), planted Mururi (*Trichilia emetica*). The tree is useful in environmental conservation, extraction of medicinal products and dye.

Rev. Thegu encouraged the congregation to sustain God’s creation by planting and growing trees on their farms adding that the turn will increase food security and conserve the environment.

“God was the first environmentalist having created the universe including the trees that offer diverse products and services to both human and animals. Nature is very unforgiving and if you destroy it, the consequences are regrettable”, said Rev. Thegu.

The other invited guests planted various trees including Munderendu waitu (*Vepris glandulosa*), Muthengera (*Podocarpus latifolius*), Munderendu (*Teclea simplicifolia*), Muhuru (*Vitex keniensis*), Mukinyai (*Euclea divinorum*), Muhugu (*Brachylaena huillensis*), Muthiga (*Warburgia ugandensis*), and Wild date palm (*Phoenix reclinata*).



Rev. Thegu (right) assisted by Muriithi Ndungu in planting Mururi tree at Nguriunditu PCEA church grounds

Marking 7th Anniversary for the Late Prof. Wangari Maathai

Stakeholders involved in Muguga forest management, of which Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA) and KEFRI are key-players, marked the 7th Anniversary of the demise of late Prof. Wangari Maathai on 31st October 2018.

Volunteers cleared the bush in Gachuthi natural forest at the site where in 2010, stakeholders planted 71 commemorative trees to mark the lifespan of the late Prof. Maathai who dedicated a reasonable part of her life on environmental conservation.

The chief guest Mr. Joseph Karanja of Solar for Peace Initiative (SPI) led the team in planting 7 ceremonial trees symbolizing 7 years since the late Prof. Maathai passed on.

Karanja planted Mutarakwa (*Juniperus procera*), a popular indigenous tree useful in forest conservation, construction and fencing among other uses.

A KEFRI staff, Simon Wairungu planted Muthiga (*Warburgia ugandensis*) highly valued in medicinal uses, while Community Score Card -Kiambu group planted Munderendu (*Teclea simplicifolia*).

Addressing the gathering, Mr Karanja stated that Gachuthi forest, though mildly preserved has a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna.

The peace crusader urged the CFA to widen its networks and embrace stakeholders who have interest in uplifting their efforts in conserving the Muguga forests and improving the livelihood of the forest adjacent communities.

The CFA Chairman Mr. Simon Kamonde stated that Gachuthi forest inhabits endangered tree species - Munderendu waitu (*Vepris glandulosa*) and Muthithii (*Osyris lanceolata*) that are of national importance. The chairman revealed that the CFA had made tracking for sports to enhance income generating and protection of the forest.

Sustainable management of Gachuthi natural forest is paramount to ensure current and future generations continue to derive products and services from the resource.



Wangari Maathai holding up a seedling of *Mangifera indica* - Mango (source: www.potentash.com)

KEFRI Exhibits at Lamu Cultural Festival 2018



Deputy Governor Lamu County, Hon. Abdulhakim Aboud Bwana (2nd right), visiting KEFRI seed stand

KEFRI Lamu Sub-Centre exhibited at the 18th Lamu Cultural Festival held between Thursday 22nd and Sunday 25th November 2018, under the theme ‘Tembea Lamu’.

Lamu Cultural Festival is an annual event organized by the County Government of Lamu in collaboration with Lamu Cultural Promotion Group.

The event which begun in 2012, is dedicated to celebrating local cultures of the archipelago.

During the 2018 festival, various stakeholders showcased their traditional customs, were involved in dhows competition, jahazi, traditional dances, kasa race, and donkey races, which provided an opportunity for participants to integrate and promote social cohesion.



Diplomatic Police from Spain visiting KEFRI stand at Lamu Cultural Festival

The festival brought together locals, domestic and international tourists, potential investors, national and county government departments, embassies and high commissions, as well as industrialists.

KEFRI participated by showcasing its products and services suitable in attaining clean and healthy environment.

Among products exhibited were high quality tree germplasm such as: *Milicia excelsa*, *Azalia quanzenis*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Gmelina arborea* and *Eucalyptus camadulensis*, species suited for production of timber and environmental conservation.

Secretaries attend KENASA Annual National Symposium



KEFRI staff - Elizabeth Waiganjo, Jovita Akiki (front row), Alice Muroki, Lucy Waratho, Augusta Kabunyi, Lucy Mutiria and Lucy Wambora donned in KENASA corporate wear pose for a photo during the symposium

The Kenya National Secretaries Association (KENASA), a professional body of secretaries, held the Annual National Symposium in Eldoret from 5th to 7th December, 2018.

KEFRI staff; Alice Muroki, Ann Indimuli, Augusta Kabunyi, Elizabeth Waiganjo, Hellen Nyarido, Jovita Akiki, Margaret Njenga, Mary Mudaki, Lucy Mutiria, Lucy Wambora, Lucy Waratho, Redempta Mutembi and Veronica Ratemo attended the Symposium.

Members of the Association, drawn from both public and private sectors, came together to deliberate on diverse issues affecting the secretary profession under the theme ‘Unleashing the Potential within: Yield Discernible and Measurable Impacts’.

The Principal Administrative Secretary, State Department of Public Service, Mrs Mary Kimonye called upon the secretaries to embrace regional co-operation and uphold professionalism, ethics and standards in order to enhance efficient service delivery.

“Leveraging best office administration practices is key towards optimizing productivity and achieving the Big 4 Agenda of Kenya’s government,” said Mrs Kimonye.

Speakers from America, Lesotho, Uganda, Tanzania, Supers Achievers, and IRC Pitman addressed the symposium noting that reviewing the evolution of the Office Administration Profession in Africa is crucial in unlocking organizations and regional opportunities.

KEFRI Choir Entertains during Jamhuri Day Celebrations

KEFRI Choir entertained the public with songs and choreography in two key events held between October and December 2108. On 12th December 2018, KEFRI Choir performed jointly with other choirs that form Parastatals, Ministries and County Choirs Organization (PAMICCO) Committee during the 55th Jamhuri Celebrations officiated by HE President Uhuru Kenyatta at the Nyayo National Stadium. KEFRI Choir is a member of the PAMICCO, a committee that coordinates state agencies choirs to entrench national peace and integration.



KEFRI Choir Master, Mr. Charles Mwangi performing a twist dance during the celebration to launch the strategic plan

During the launch of 6th Strategic Plan held at the Headquarters on 21st November 2018, KEFRI choir under the leadership of the Choir Master, Mr. Charles Muturi, performed the national and East Africa Community Anthems and two self-composed songs ‘Tuhi-fadhi Mazingira’ and ‘Panda Miti Penda Kenya’.

Staff to counterbalance services in the regional centres

Researchers, technical staff as well as supporting staff must prepare to serve in the regional centres or sub-centres countrywide. The Acting Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna stated during the staff forum held at the headquarters on 7th December 2018.

“As you resume from Christmas holiday brace yourself for staff rationalization. The action is not punitive but a necessity to counterbalance staff deficit in the eco-regions,” said Dr. Njuguna.



Acting Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna (centre) with John Mutua and Godfrey Ipalei (left), Michael Meso and James Macharia during the tea session

Dr. Njuguna called upon the staff to embrace teamwork and synergy noting that the Institute has realized six key achievements, since commencement of this calendar year, that include: the 5th scientific conference, development and launch of the KEFRI 6th Strategic Plan, advocacy and guidance to forestry development and environmental conservation.

However, she cautioned the ‘self-proclaiming old staff’ some of whom are sluggish and unconscious of time management. “Let us be accountable to everything we do - job, resources, time, family, welfare and God,” added Njuguna.

In the same forum, Mr. Nicodemus Ngila from NIC Bank made a presentation on financial management, while Mr. Godfrey Ipalei, HSC, ‘a motivational speaker’ from Kenya Wildlife Service encouraged staff on realizing ones’ potential irrespective of life challenges.



PS – Environment and Forestry Mr. Ali Noor (right) presenting the tree health strategic plan to Mr. Robinson Ng'ethe - representative KEFRI Board of Directors (centre) and KEFRI acting Director - Dr. Jane Njuguna during the launch at KEFRI headquarters




KEFRI staff and members of the choir performing gigs during the celebration of the strategic plan launch

Pictorial



The acting Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna and Chief Advisor JICA CADEP-SFM project Mr. Keiichi Takahata addressing staff and guest during the launch.





*Wishing you a New
Year filled with
new Hope, Joy and
New beginnings*

2019



Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)

Headquarters Muguga, off Nairobi - Nakuru Highway

P. O. Box 20412 - 00200 Nairobi.

Tel: +254 722 157 414, 724 259 781/2

Email: director@kefri.org

Website: www.kefri.org

Follow us :  [kenya forestry research institute](https://www.facebook.com/kenyaforestryresearchinstitute)  [@KEFRIHQ](https://twitter.com/KEFRIHQ)