



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Aden Duale visiting KEFRI

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The Cabinet Secretary for Environment Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Aden Duale is welcomed to KEFRI headquarters

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The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Aden Duale visit KEFRI Headquarters in Muguga during familiarization visit on 2nd September 2024.

The CS who was accompanied by Forestry The Principal Secreatry Forest Department Mr. Gitonga Mugambi together with KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna and officials from the Minstry welcomed the CS to KEFRI.

“KEFRI’s research and development activities cuts across five thematic areas: forest productivity and improvement; biodiversity and environment management; forest products development; policy issues, and technical support services. Contribute to the country’s socio-economic transformation by supporting livelihoods in addition to strengthening Kenya’s environmental sustainability,” said Dr. Njuguna.

The CS visited the institute’s facilities including insect reference collection, tree biotechnology and tissue culture laboratories where propagation of bamboo and threatened species of sandalwood and Melia are conducted.

While addressing the staff the CS stated, lauded KEFRI for developing and implementing Jaza Miti App which he termed a remarkable technology to revolutionize tree growing and forest management.

The Minister urged KEFRI to ensure its programme fully support the 15 Billion National Tree Growing and Landscape Restoration Programme, a 10-year initiative that seeks to raise Kenya's tree cover to 30% by the year 2032.

"It is through such initiatives that we can make significant strides towards achieving our national goals of at least 30% tree cover for environmental sustainability and climate resilience," CS Duale said.



KEFRI Board Chairman Ret. (Gen) Samson Mwathethe (*Photo: Inset*) presented to the minister the IUFRO Flag which allows Kenya to host the 2029 Congress in Nairobi. The IUFRO World Congress for the first time in the history of the Organization will be held in Africa.

The CS also assured of his commitment to addressing policy challenges hindering the institution from achieving its broad mandate.

"I acknowledged KEFRI's request for a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism in the distribution of certified tree seed to ensure higher germination rates, inadequate funds and low staff motivation," said the CS.

Additionally, the Cabinet Secretary said his Ministry is exploring ways to secure more sustainable funding for KEFRI's research activities, including seeking partnerships and donor funds to complement exchequer allocations.

"I am confident that KEFRI will continue to flourish and lead the way in forestry research and innovation despite the few challenges we face at the institutional," the Cabinet Secretary.

Soon after his appointment to the forestry docket Hon. Aden Duale has met with the 15 Billion National Tree Growing Programme Secretariat led by Ms. Susan Boit, Ag. Forest Conservation Secretary Mr. George Tarus and KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna among other senior Ministry officials to review the progress of the Government's flagship climate action and livelihoods initiative. The programme anchored in the 10-year National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy seeks to raise Kenya's tree cover to 30% by the year 2032.

Jaza Miti App

As the country implements the 15 Billion Tree Growing and Landscape Restoration Programme - 2032, Jaza Miti App, a tree species - site matching digital tool is being used to document tree growing as well as identifying suitable species to grow in the different parts of the country. The tool that KEFRI scientist developed facilitate in documenting tree species.

Application: Once a tree seedling is planted, the user takes a photo of the tree and uploads details as directed (when, and where trees have been grown) consequently the App updates the number of trees planted to a national database that helps track the country's progress toward the ambitious tree-planting goals.

During the recent Africa Public Service Day at Kenya School of Government, Nairobi, KEFRI won the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Award for demonstrating the JazaMiti App.

*Download from the Playstore
for
Android phone or App store for Iphone*

KEFRI Donates Bamboo to restore Kaptagat Forest

On July 13th, 2024, KEFRI joined approximately 28 organizations in the 8th Kaptagat Edition to restore Kaptagat Forest in Elgeyo Marakwet.



His Excellency President William Ruto (*photo : inset, planting seedling*), attended the ceremony which was marked at Our Lady of Glory Kaptagat Girls High School in Elgeyo Marakwet.

“I urge all Kenyans to grow trees for mitigating climate change, conserving ecosystems, and supporting water sources for irrigation, ultimately boosting food production and improving the livelihoods of local communities,” President Ruto said.

During the event, President Ruto commissioned the Etio and Yokot dams and launched the Kelvin Kiptum Foundation, which was dedicated to supporting community-led environmental initiatives. Deputy President H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs H.E. Musalia Mudavadi and Principal Secretaries, Dr. Chris Kiptoo (The National Treasury),

who is the initiator and patron of the initiative, Dr. Belio Kipsang (Education), and Ephantus Kimotho (Irrigation), area MP attended the event.

The Kaptagat Tree Planting Initiative aims to build resilience against climate change while improving the livelihoods of forest-adjacent communities through the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and responsible resource management.

“The initiative stands as a beacon of hope for forest restoration, showcasing how collaboration among diverse stakeholders can lead to meaningful environmental change,” said Dr. Chris Kiptoo.

The 8th Kaptagat Edition is driven by the “5-Year 1Km, 1Acre, 1Cow Initiative,” which is a comprehensive program focused on sustainable management of the Kaptagat forest ecosystem.

As a commitment to conserving the forest ecosystem KEFRI donated 500 bamboo seedlings to the initiative totalling 55,000 tree seedlings planted during the event. Bamboo is renowned for its rapid growth and numerous environmental benefits, such as soil stabilization and carbon sequestration, making it an ideal choice in forest restoration.

Kenya is a passionate participant in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global movement to revive ecosystems worldwide. Through the AFR100 initiative, Kenya pledged to restore 5.1 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, contributing significantly to Africa's ambitious goal of 100 million hectares. and the achievement of the ambitious 15 Billion Tree Growing Campaign in Kenya will be achieved through consolidated leadership from scientists, forest experts and goodwill of policy makers, donors and development partners.

By planting trees today, KEFRI and its partners have invested in a greener, more resilient future for the people of Elgeyo Marakwet County and beyond.

World Bamboo Day, 2024

KEFRI led the country in marking World Bamboo Day in Ekerenyo, Nyamira County on 18th September 2024. This year marked the 9th anniversary of Kenya's participation, which is a milestone for Bamboo stakeholders.

During the celebration the Chief Guest PS for Forestry representative, Ag. Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna and Nyamira Governor Amos Nyaribo led the community in planting bamboo along River Gucha which is an important river basin in South Nyanza, draining into Lake Victoria.



The Ag. Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna addressing the public at Ekerenyo, Nyamira County where national celebrations to mark the World Bamboo Day 2024

Growing Bamboo is a strategic intervention towards achieving 15 Billion trees by 2032. Bamboo offers many products for sustainable resource and biodiversity. It is useful in soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration and enhances ecological benefit,” said Dr. Njuguna.

The PS forestry department Mr. Gitonga Mugambi in his speech delivered by Ag. Forest Conservation Secretary, Mr. George Tarus, stated that the government will work towards empowering bamboo stakeholders through commercialization and value chain development.

In September 2020 the Kenya Parliament classified Bamboo as cash crop and recorded it as the 16th scheduled cash crop in the country.

World Cleanup Day 2024

KEFRI displayed various forestry technologies and products including riverbank protection using bamboo species and Vetiver grass during the World Clean Up Day.

National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), the lead agency, Nairobi City County and various environmental partners organized the event under the theme, “Make Room for Life”. The theme reflects Kenya's commitment to preserving natural resources through effective recycling and responsible waste management.

“Kenya generates approximately 22,000 tonnes of waste daily but only 38 percent of it is collected, and less than 10 percent is recycled. This inefficiency leads to a substantial amount of waste remaining unprocessed, often ending up in illegal dumpsites or being incinerated, both of which have detrimental effects on public health and the environment,” said the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Hon. Aden Duale.

In his remarks read by Director Environmental Enforcement Dr. Ayub Macharia the CS noted the World Clean up Day is an international event marked every 20th September, to raise awareness about importance of keeping our surroundings clean, reducing waste, and protecting natural resources.

The CS further stressed the necessity for a paradigm shift in waste, urging society to consider and treat waste as a resource.



KEFRI Staff participating in the World Clean Up Day 2024

KEFRI shines at Nairobi Trade Fair

The Nairobi International Trade Fair is a platform for showcasing the best in agricultural and environmental innovation, and KEFRI has once again proved its leadership in this space.



H.E. Deputy President Hon Rigathi Gachagua presenting the Environmental trophy to Ms. Ivy Wanjiku

At the Trade Fair 2024, held at the Jamhuri Showground, on 23rd to 29th September 2024, KEFRI won a prestigious trophy for exemplary demonstrating Application of Environmental Quality Systems.

Adding to the trophy, KEFRI secured the second-place ranking in Seed Production and Marketing - Government Stand, and third place in Theme Interpretation Research Non-Education Category. This is a clear indication of its ability to translate complex research into impactful solutions that address national goals.

Under the theme, Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture, Trade Initiative for Sustainable Economy, Over the course of one week, KEFRI was among the notable exhibitors that garnered significant attention due to outstanding display of forestry technologies and innovations creating practical forestry solutions to reshape Kenya's agricultural and environmental sectors, particularly in the face of climate change and deforestation.

The Nairobi's Deputy Governor, H.E James Muchiri, toured the stand and engaged with researchers on the institute's innovations. The Deputy Governor Muchiri, was impressed with KEFRI's technologies, particularly the JazaMiti

App, and its potential to revolutionize Kenya's reforestation initiatives.

Mr. Muchiri further emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships between local government and research institutions to achieve national environmental goals.

Visitors to the KEFRI stand were treated to an array of other cutting-edge forestry technologies, including advanced seed production techniques that ensure the availability of high-quality tree germplasm.

Mombasa International show

The Mombasa International Trade show held from 3rd to 8th September 2024 at Mkomani show ground, KEFRI exhibited captivating forestry technologies and innovation including restoration of mangrove, and use of casuarina species to restore degraded coastal areas, Bamboo products and tree seedlings.



KEFRI Coastal Director Dr. Linus Wekesa (2nd row centre) celebrates with staff from Gede, Lamu, Taita-Taveta Centres and Corporate Affairs

Team KEFRI Coast Region presented great performance at the show whose Theme was "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiative for Sustainable Economic Growth"

The stand was recognized and awarded certificate for 3rd position best Stand in Research and Development and 3rd Best Stand in Demonstrating the Application of Environmental Quality Standards.

Kisumu Show

KEFRI through Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region research Programme (LVBERP) participated at the Agriculture Society of Kenya Regional show in Mamboleo grounds, Kisumu County.

The stand for the first time since the interruption of COVID 19 pandemic and Africity symposium, KEFRI stand was ranked the Best in Research and Development - Non Education category, second position for demonstrating Application of Environmental Quality Standards, second position also in Theme Interpretation - Education and Research Category, and lastly third position for the best stand in Seed Production and Marketing, as well as third best Non Agricultural based statutory Board.

Visitors to the stand gained more information on forestry research and development, tree seed and seedlings production, tree nursery establishment and management, restoration of degraded forest, hills and other landscapes, forest health, bamboo products and Jazamiti App.

KEFRI's innovations are not only aimed at enhancing forest cover but also at improving livelihoods through sustainable agroforestry practices. The institute's research is rooted in the belief that forestry technologies should benefit both the environment and the communities that depend on it.



KEFRI LVBERP Director Dr. John Otuoma taking judges through KEFRI display at Mamboleo ASK show

Central Highlands Nyeri Show

KEFRI CHERP, Nyeri, NFPRP and Corporate Affairs, through teamwork scored two trophies for demonstrating forestry technologies at the Central Kenya Agricultural Society of Kenya show in Nyeri.

His Excellency Deputy President Hon Rigathi Gachagua officially opened the show and urged citizens to integrate forestry and agriculture technologies to mitigate negative impacts of climate change as well as respond appropriately to increase food security.

The Nyeri ASK show, which ran from 11th to 14th September 2024, attracted over 90 exhibitors from diverse sectors. KEFRI stand was ranked the best in Research and Development, and in demonstrating Application of Environmental Quality Standards.

Farmer's field day - Nyeri



KEFRI Staff demonstrating various products during the farmers field day in Nyeri

KEFRI participated at the 2-day farmer's field day, held at Kenya Agricultural Training Centre, Wambugu in Nyeri County. Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga paid a visit to KEFRI stand and he was accompanied by County Executive Committee for Agriculture Mr. James Wachihi and College Principal David Kariuki.

The Governor commended KEFRI scientists for fronting technologies and innovations that support agroforestry in the County. He also urged KEFRI to impart tree growing skills to the youth as well as students in both lower and higher education institutions.

10th Scientific Colloquium

KEFRI held the 10th colloquium with a presentation from Leonida Cherotich, currently pursuing a PhD study at North Carolina State University.



The College of Natural Resources (North Carolina State University) and CAMCORE, are supporting the project which aims to improve the vegetative multiplication rate of pine seedlings and develop sterile propagation methods for mature pine genotypes.

Pines are among the most significant species, which are grown in commercial forest plantations globally. The importance of pine has spurred the development of numerous breeding programs worldwide aimed at increasing productivity.

However, the number of seeds collected from top full-sib families produced through controlled crosses is limited. While vegetative propagation of pines is possible, it remains challenging due to the physiological maturation of the trees.

In addition, the hedges used for propagation have a limited lifespan, with shoot production declining over time. These challenges underscore the need for alternative techniques to increase the number of clonal materials that can be obtained from each hedge.

“My research focuses on exploring how tissue culture micropropagation techniques can enhance the multiplication rate of highly valuable seeds.

from five pine species: *Pinus tecunumanii*, *P. patula*, *P. greggii*, *P. maximinoi*, and *P. taeda*,” explained Leonida.

The micropropagation experiments aims to address issues related to aseptic methods, explant selection, and most critically, how different concentrations of plant growth regulators such as Meta-topolins (mt) and Thiadizuron (TDZ) affect shoot proliferation and rooting in pines.

These plant growth regulators have been used widely in plant sciences, but there are limited studies to determine their use in conifer research where Pines belong. Leonida explained that outcomes of her research will contribute to solving current challenges in vegetative propagation, particularly as family forestry becomes increasingly integrated into breeding programs.

In Kenya, Pine species grow well in Western region, Rift Valley and parts of Central highlands with great potential in the timber industry and paper manufacturing.

In 2021, Leonidah together with her colleague scientists, Michinari Matsushita, So Hanaoka, Stephen F. Omondi, James Ndufa and Jason Kariuki published a Book titled: Breeding Strategies, Mating Systems and Future Perspective of Indigenous Tree Species Improvement in Kenya: A Case Study of *Melia Volkensii*.

The book introduces *Melia volkensii* as an example case study and aims to promote and encourage further tree breeding of insect-pollinated "non-model" tree species in tropical regions.

The authors also explore forest tree breeding as the application of genetic, reproductive biology, ecological and economics principles to produce genetically improved tree materials enhance understanding of the diverse mating systems of plants and methods to promote crossing for genetic improvement.

Seminars and Career advancement

We wish to congratulate Senior Research Scientist, Amina Aden Maalim, (*photo inset*) on her selection to attend the 10th FLARE (Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement) Annual meeting in Rome, Italy, from October 3rd to 7th, 2024.



Amina will present a collaborative research paper titled “Revitalizing Kenya’s Arid Landscapes: Unlocking the Potential of High-Value Plants through Forestry Extension and Resource Handbook in Garissa and Beyond.” hosted by FLARE and the University of Notre Dame Rome.

This prestigious event provides a unique opportunity for Amina to share KEFRI research in the drylands with a global audience, gain insights from international experts, and establish valuable collaborations.

We wish Amina all the best as she represents our country and hope this exposure will not only enhance her career but also open up opportunities to advancement of forestry research in Kenya.

At the same time, we wish to congratulate the following staff for excelling in their academic pursuit, acquiring knowledge, in their respective universities, to a certain level of proficiency or mastery.

Paul Nyathore (PhD)



For pertaining a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Nairobi.

Paul is the Manager: Supply Chain Management serving at Headquarters.

He is a professional with extensive expertise in supply chain management, and has won Professional awards.



Priscilla Kimani:

For attaining postgraduate degree - Master of Science in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, at the University of Nairobi.

Priscilla a Research Scientist at CHERP, has also written a Thesis titled: Hybridization and in vitro regeneration of immature zygotic embryos of *Melia volkensii* for accelerated breeding.



Patrick Mutungi

First Class Honours Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture; University of Embu.

Patrick a Technologist based at CHERP has an extensive experience in horticulture, tree improvement, agribusiness, land development and marketing.



Fredrick Ajuala

Bachelors of Science in Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources Managemnt (University of Nairobi).

Fredrick who is serving at KEFRI RVERP - Londiani has also written a research project: Characterization of *Calliandra calothyrsus* meish for root rot nematodes.

CONGRATULATIONS



KEFRI team and stakeholders participating in a tree growing activity in Mumoni and Mutitu hills

Kitui County Conserving Mumoni and Mutitu Hills

Kitui County Government, in partnership with Nature Kenya, officially launched the Strengthening Policy, Capacity, and Climate Resilience to Conserve Mumoni and Mutitu Hills project. Kitui County Ag. Director of Environment and Climate Change, Richard John Mwendandu, launched the project during a ceremony held at KEFRI - Kitui on September 4, 2024.

This initiative, funded through the Darwin Initiative a UK government grant established in 1992 to support global biodiversity, focuses on conserving the Mumoni and Mutitu Hills Forests and empowering local communities. Through this project, Kitui County is tackling the twin challenges of climate change and environmental degradation and providing local communities with the tools to protect their natural heritage.

"We are grateful to partners: UNDP, Nature Kenya, ADRA, and MERMA, for the invaluable support which has led to large-scale tree-planting activities in the past two years," said Dominic Mumbu, representing the County Minister.

The Mumoni Hills Forest, covering 10,522 hectares, is the largest of 16 forest blocks in Kitui County, while the Mutitu Hills Forest, spanning 1,958 hectares. Both forests play a critical role in local water systems and are classified as Important Bird Areas (IBAs), with Mumoni being IBA 66 and Mutitu IBA 67, contributing to over 13,000 IBAs worldwide.

"The preservation of these areas is key to biodiversity and climate resilience," .

Mumbu expressed hope for the future: "With strong partnerships and active community involvement, we can build a more sustainable and resilient future for Kitui." he stated

"The two hill Forests are vital water sources for the surrounding communities and their livestock. We must continue planting trees and conserving these areas to fight climate change," said the Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest in Kitui County, Ms Beatrice Mbula.

According to KEFRI Senior Deputy Research Director Dr. Titus Mbuvi, findings from a survey of 2022 and 2024 on socio-economic baseline, plant checklists, and a land-use trend analysis has given a clear roadmap for the future conservation of Mumoni and Mutitu Hills of the forests

The project has also rallied Community Forest Associations (CFAs), with Mumbu commending their exceptional efforts in protecting the forests. Their dedication to conservation is critical to the project's success.

Nature Kenya has led communities in conservation efforts in Eastern Africa since 1909.

"This project is a continuation of our long-standing commitment to conserving nature and promoting sustainable development," said Nature Kenya's Local Action Manager, James Mutunga.

Combating Invasive Mathenge Tree

On 29th August 2024 the Ag Director KEFRI Dr. Jane Njuguna hosted former Principal Secretary of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed, at KEFRI headquarters, Muguga.

Their meeting focused on strengthening collaborations between KEFRI and other stakeholders to address critical environmental challenges, particularly the invasion of the Mathenge tree (*Prosopis juliflora*).

Dr. Mohammed expressed a keen interest for his community group to collaborate with KEFRI to tackle the growing problem of the invasive Mathenge tree. The tree is causing significant environmental degradation and economic hardship, especially in Garissa and Tana River Counties.



Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna pose for a group photo with the former PS, Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed (front middle) with KEFRI staff

"The tree is linked to 'indignified poverty' as its spread has degraded farmlands, reducing agricultural productivity and negatively impacting local livelihoods," said Dr. Mohammed.

Dr. Mohammed emphasized the urgency of the situation, particularly in light of the recent heavy rains experienced across Kenya, the Mathenge tree will proliferate rapidly, posing an even greater threat to vulnerable communities.

"Research expertise is urgently required to develop effective strategies to mitigate the spread of this invasive species."

KEFRI, through Woody Weed Management Projects, is supporting communities affected by the Mathenge tree invasion in Baringo, Isiolo, and Tana River Counties to control the spread of the tree and reclaim their lands for agricultural use.

Empowering Communities in Garissa on Value-addition to Prosopis

KEFRI conducted a transformative 3-day community training for communities in Garissa and Tana River counties to impart skills for restoring landscape invaded by *Prosopis juliflora*, commonly known as the mesquite tree.

The training focused on value-addition to *Prosopis* as an opportunity for creating green jobs and enhancing livelihoods. *Prosopis* was introduced in Kenya early 1970s as a drought-resistant species suitable for restoring arid and semi-arid areas.

While it was initially planted for shade and control of desertification, it has become invasive, encroaching upon local ecosystems, reducing biodiversity, and contributing to land degradation. On the other hand, the tree offers opportunities for economic benefits through its harvestables including biomass that are transformed into valuable products.

During the training held at the Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) Garissa between August 2nd and 4th 2024 participants learned how to convert *Prosopis* into charcoal, briquettes, biochar, and process animal feed from pods, along with techniques for operating power saws.



KEFRI staff Nathaniel Nyamai demonstrating the use of portable grinding machine to convert *Prosopis* pods to flour

The project is a collaboration between several organizations funded by the Government of the Netherlands and backed by the ILO PROSPECTS Programme Kenya. KEFRI leads this initiative in partnership with local county governments, the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), and Garissa University.

KEFRI in collaboration with Narok County Government to save Mau Forest

The County Government of Narok and KEFRI signed an MoU to establish a farmers resource centre as part of consolidated efforts towards restoration of Maasai Mau Forest.



Ag. Director KEFRI Dr. Njuguna signing the MoU with Narok County officials

The collaboration will further see the establishment of a model tree nursery, tree gene bank to conserve the rich biodiversity in Maasai Mau Forest Ecosystem comprising Serengeti landscape which is of international significance.

The collaboration was made possible through the leadership of Director of KEFRI Board, Ntoros Ole Senteu and His Excellency Narok Governor, Hon. Patrick Ole Ntutu who take credit for enormous support of ensuring that South Rift Counties access technologies, information and innovations for the restoration of this critical transboundary landscape that supports millions of households.

Special thanks to H. E. the Deputy Governor Hon. Kiprono Koech, County officials including CECM for Lands and Urban Development Vivian Mpeti Sereti, county Secretary Mayiani ole Tuya, Chief of staff Francis Wanyeki, Chief Officer Lands and Urban Planning Leshan Torkosh, Chief Forest Ranger Emmanuel Kinayia, Forester Daisy Kiu, Director Administrative Services Brian Sang and EALA MP. Hon. David Ole Sankok, KEFRI staff present during the signing ceremony.

KNBS and KEFRI agree to Enhance Tree-Planting Data Collection

The Director of Production Statistics at the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Mr. Robert Nderitu, meeting with Dr. Jane Njuguna on September 11th 2024 explored potential collaboration opportunities between the two institutions, particularly in the area of data collection and environmental conservation efforts.

This collaboration seeks to improve the efficiency and accuracy of tracking reforestation efforts. One key tool in this initiative is the Jaza Miti App, a mobile application designed to record tree-planting activities by both individuals and organizations.

By collaborating with KNBS, we can ensure that communities are not only planting trees but also contributing data to monitor their progress."

In addition to improving data collection, the collaboration is expected to have broader impacts on Kenya's environmental conservation efforts.



Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna pose for a group photo with the Executive Secretary of African Forest Forum and KEFRI Staff

Africa Forest Forum Partnership with KEFRI

The Executive Secretary-CEO of African Forest Forum (AFF) Prof. Labode Popoola (photo: Front Centre) paid a courtesy call to KEFRI to strengthen the strategic relationship for corporate goals.

Professor Popoola who was accompanied by Senior Programme Officer, Dr. Doris Mutta, stated the Forum and KEFRI have a long standing partnership for over 30 years.

We are focusing on *Casuarina equisetifolia* which has become an endangered species in the Coastal region and hosting the IUFRO 2029 in Kenya, Africa, said Prof. Popoola.

KEFRI Partners with Base Titanium to Rehabilitate Mined Lands in Kwale County



Ag. KEFRI Director planting a commemorative tree at Base Titanium in Kwale as resemblance of land restoration

KEFRI and Base Titanium has agreed to rehabilitate 17 hectares of land adversely affected by mining activities. This significant initiative aims to utilize phytoremediation technology, which is the process of using plants to clean up soil, air, and water contaminated with hazardous substances.

Phytoremediation is widely accepted as a cost-effective environmental restoration technology that helps address contamination issues.

Additionally, the parties will grow 20,000 indigenous seedlings, marking a vital step in the journey toward restoring the local ecosystem.

Since 2013, KEFRI and Base Titanium have been researching technologies for the phytoremediation of mined areas.

The ongoing partnership has already yielded remarkable results, having rehabilitated over 50,000 hectares of land with around 300 indigenous tree species.

KEFRI Board Director Hamara Aden, who also chairs the Research and Development Committee, led a recent meeting to review the achievements of this long-term collaboration.

“Our partnership with Base Titanium is to restore mined lands; creating sustainable ecosystems that benefit both the environment and the local communities,” Aden stated during the meeting.

Among these species are the renowned *Milicia excelsa* (Mvule), *Azelia quanzensis* (Mpingo), and *Euphorbia tanaensis*. Their conservation is crucial, not only to preserve biodiversity but also to contribute to the national goal of planting 15 billion trees as part of Kenya's ambitious reforestation strategy.

These efforts align with the government's vision to enhance environmental sustainability and combat climate change, which poses significant risks to both ecosystems and human populations.

*KEFRI,
along with other institutions,
will be involved in post-mining
monitoring and evaluation of
the restored areas, once mining
activities are complete.*

This will include regular soil testing to determine suitability for various agricultural activities, improving species richness, and implementing nature-based solutions aimed at enhancing livelihoods in surrounding communities.

As KEFRI and Base Titanium pave the way for a greener future, the partnership exemplifies how strategic collaborations can lead to meaningful change.

By combining scientific research with practical application, they are not only restoring degraded landscapes but also inspiring a broader commitment to environmental stewardship across Kenya.

This initiative stands as a testament to the power of partnerships in addressing some of the most pressing environmental challenges paving the way for a greener future, they exemplify how strategic partnerships can lead to meaningful change.

New Horizons: KEFRI Welcomes Its Latest Crop of Talent



Newly engaged staff completed the induction at the Headquarters to join service at various stations

KEFRI Headquarters in Muguga came alive with fresh energy as it welcomed fifteen new members of staff in September 2024. The Institute buzzed with activity as the new recruits embarked on an intensive 3-day induction program, designed to root them firmly in KEFRI's rich soil of innovation and knowledge.

Human Resource Officer Ms. Joselyne Nabangala, kicked off the programme by encouraging the new staff to share their backgrounds and aspirations.

Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna, in her remarks during the official opening of the program said,

“You are here because you stood out among thousands of applicants. Your skills and potential have brought you to KEFRI, and we are excited to see how you will contribute to mission, vision and goal of the Institute.”

“Majority of staff have been around for over 30 years, and the only way to achieve such a record is to uphold institute's core values of integrity commitment and open to continuous learning.

Let's join hands in making KEFRI a research centre of excellence in forestry and allied natural resources for sustainable development,”she said.

Various departmental heads also introduced their areas of expertise ranging from supply Chain Management.

“Procurement isn't just about buying things,” said Tingosya Kiprotich "It's about ensuring we have the right tools, at the right time, to do groundbreaking research.”

“Trees are the lungs of our planet, the guardians of our ecosystems,”. Understanding how to maximize their growth and health is crucial for Kenya's future.” said Dr. James Ndufa Deputy Director Forest Biodiversity Climate Change Environment Management.

KEFRI Clinical Officer Dr. James Mwaniki, presentation on drug and substance abuse emphasizing the Institute's commitment to a healthy work environment.

“Even the smallest indulgence can have far-reaching consequences,” he warned

Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance representative. Ms. Sarah Mogaka reinforced KEFRI's commitment to excellence, urging the new staff to be brand ambassadors and fly KEFRI flag high.

Pension/Staff movement

In recent years, more staff have been retiring from KEFRI than ever before. Leaving the workforce is a significant milestone. Retirement is wonderful. It's doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it."- Gene Perret "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."- Dan Wilson. "Retire from work, but not from life."- M.K. Soni

P/No.	Name	Date of Exit	Mode of Exit
5777	Jacinta N. Muchiri	24/4/2024	Retirement
6945	Joshua Kenneth Kyalo	1/5/2024	Retirement
5959	Patrick Tendwah Makatian	1/4/2024	Early Retirement
5729	David Kimani Muchiri	4/4/2024	Retirement
6860	Rosemary Achieng Owich	15/05/2024	Retirement
6719	Peter Oduor	13/06/2024	Retirement
6448	Janet Wambui	7/6/2024	Early Retirement
6675	Walter Ngotho Njenga	1/7/2024	Retirement
5692	David Njagi Munene	1/7/2024	Retirement
6242	Lilian Wanjiku Wambugu	1/7/2024	Retirement
5826	Michael Muganda Meso	1/7/2024	Retirement
6771	Patrick Godya Odhiambo	1/7/2024	Retirement
6317	Correty Kipkosgei Kigen	1/7/2024	Retirement
6728	Richard Musili Musyaka	1/7/2024	Retirement
6836	Ezekiel Musava Kyalo	1/7/2024	Retirement
5935	Mercy Mukuhi Cumburi	1/7/2024	Retirement
6651	Jane Mutindi Nzango	1/7/2024	Retirement
6234	Patrick Karuma Wainaina	1/7/2024	Retirement
6708	Janepher N. Khaemba	1/7/2024	Retirement
6297	Jane Wairimu Kiboro	1/7/2024	Retirement
5947	Margaret Wambui Muiga	1/7/2024	Retirement
6340	Charles Gitau Kigomo	1/7/2024	Retirement
6892	Philip Kipng'eno Kirui	1/7/2024	Retirement
5815	Samuel Kiplangat Kirui	1/7/2024	Retirement
5922	Florence Wambui Muriithi	1/7/2024	Retirement
5518	Caleb Ochieng Oduge	1/7/2024	Retirement
6081	John Kamau Thuo	1/7/2024	Retirement
5930	Daniel Chituyi Sachita	1/7/2024	Retirement
6563	Joseph Mungai	1/7/2024	Retirement
6576	Peter Rimui Kamau	1/7/2024	Retirement
5688	Simon Ndegwa Wakaba	1/7/2024	Retirement
6229	Jane Wairimu Kariuki	1/7/2024	Retirement
6437	Robert Chepyegon	1/7/2024	Retirement
5567	Jonathan Chege Njuguna	1/7/2024	Retirement
6662	John Waweru Kibe	12/7/2024	Retirement
6012	Philip Kiprotich Changwony	14/7/2024	Retirement
5596	Patrick Emongor Ongaria	1/7/2024	Retirement
5997	Mathews Peter Mauya	1/7/2024	Retirement
5808	Abdallah Mutali Juma	31/7/2024	Resignation

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