National Tree planting Campaign Launched

International Day of Forests Celebrated

The Forest Investment Facility

First Community Based Carbon Offset Project; Mikoko Pamoja
From The Editor

In this issue of the Forester Magazine we cover various news, events that have taken place and forecast activities that will take place in the next quarter. The Ministry has acquired a new name now referred to as the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. There has also been a change of guard in the Ministry with Mr. Keriako Tobiko taking over as the new Cabinet Secretary and Mr. Charles Sunkuli as the Principal Secretary.

Kenya joined other United Nations member states in celebrating the International Day of Forests at the Wangari Maathai Corner, Karura Forests. The event was graced by the Cabinet Secretary, Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko among other guests. Additionally the Service has embarked on a countrywide tree planting campaign that seeks to increase the country’s tree cover to 10% by 2022. The Service is also partnering with other stakeholders in tree planting activities across the country.

Elsewhere the Service performed extremely well in the Eldoret National Show scooping notable awards namely; the 1st position in the Best Government Ministries stand category, 1st position in the Best Energy Saving and Conservation Sector Stand category, 2nd position in the Best Stand Demonstrating the Application of Environmental Quality Stand category.

For these and many more, I welcome you to read and enjoy your copy of the Forester Magazine. Please feel free to give us your feedback regarding the Magazine and any other issues touching on forestry.

Happy Reading

Charles Ngunjiri

Editorial Team

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This year, 2018, has seen a lot happening in the forestry sector. First there was the change of guard at the Ministry which had its name changed to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry following the restructuring of Ministries by His Excellency the President Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta. As well, a new Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Keriako Tobiko is now in place to lead the Ministry. Mr. Charles Sunkuli was also appointed the new Principal Secretary.

Also in the quarter, following public concerns on the prolonged and biting drought, the Government issued a moratorium which halts plantation forest harvesting in all public and community forests in the Country for a period of 90 days. Thereafter, a task force was put in place to look into forest resources management and logging activities in the Country. The Task force has so far presented its report to the Government.

Elsewhere, Kenya joined other United Nations member states in celebrating the International Day of Forests at the Wangari Maathai Corner, Karura Forests. The event was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary, Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko among other guests. Over 102,000 tree seedlings were planted on that day in the event that was replicated in all counties.

In other news, The Service has embarked on a countrywide tree planting campaign that seeks to increase the Country’s tree cover to 10% by 2022. The Service is also embracing various tree planting partnerships across the Country including forest clean up exercises to rid state forests of plastics.

Elsewhere, KFS participated in the Eldoret National Show where tremendous performance was witnessed with the Service clinching notable awards.

**Monica Kalenda**

**DISCLAIMER**
Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Kenya Forest Service Board or Management.
International Day of Forests Celebrations

By Royan Ndegwa

21st March was proclaimed the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012 by the United Nations General Assembly. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns and the theme for 2018 was Forests and Sustainable Cities.

This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands and trees, and celebrate the ways in which they sustain and protect us. Forests and trees store carbon which help mitigate the impacts of climate change in and around urban areas due to the major pollution in these areas.

Karura Forest is an urban upland forest within Nairobi. This remarkable geographical location is one of the largest gazetted forests within a city limits and due to this Kenya was this year chosen to host the International Day Forests within the African region in line with this year’s theme. The forest covers an area of about 1,000 hectares and offers eco-friendly opportunities for Kenyans and visitors to enjoy a leafy green environment to walk, to jog or simply sit and experience the serenity of nature in all its diversity.

This year’s event took place in Karura Forest at the Wangari Maathai Corner, named after the late Prof. Wangari Maathai the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, where she fought a big war in trying to conserve this particular forest. Over 10,000 seedlings were planted in the event that attracted dignitaries from different organizations from all over the continent with representatives from The United Nations, The African Union, World Wildlife Fund among others. Local groups present included universities, primary schools, youth groups, religious groups, community forest associations among others.

In his speech the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko thanked the United Nations for choosing Kenya to host this years celebrations and went ahead and challenged the Nairobi County government to ensure that Nairobi City is once again the “Green City In The Sun” as it was well known as in the past and making sure that garbage and solid waste is also managed well.

Urban green spaces including forests, encourage active and healthy lifestyles, improve mental health, prevent diseases and provide a place for people to socialize. Trees also reduce noise pollution as they shield homes from nearby roads and industrial areas while also local populations use the fruits, nut, leaves, insects found in urban trees to produce food and medicines for use in the home or as a source of income and this was the main reason for this year’s theme which was to encourage tree growing in urban settings.

During the same day soldiers of the Kenya Defense Forces also left the comfort of their barracks and visited Kibiku Forest where they planted over 5,000 trees. A National Tree Growing campaign was also launched during this day which would see 3 million seedlings planted all over the country during this year.

Cabinet Secretary Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko waters a tree during the 2018 International Day of Forest celebrations. Looking on is Principal Secretary Charles Sunkuli (right), KFS Board Chairman Peter Kinyua (left) among other government official. By Royan Ndegwa

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By Leakey Sonkoyo

“all Kenyans, young and old are encouraged to go out and plant as many trees as possible this year as we seek to reverse environmental degradation by doubling forest cover.”

The Kenya Forest Service in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry which is the parent Ministry has been carrying out tree planting buildup activities across the country to take advantage of the ongoing heavy rain to increase tree cover. Other agencies in the ministry including NEMA, Kenya Water Towers Agency and the Meteorological Department have also been taking part in what has become a multiagency effort to spearhead tree planting in the country.

Led by the Cabinet Secretary Mr. Keriako Tobiko, tree planting activities have been carried out in various counties including Kajiado, Busia, Nandi, Uasin-Gishu, Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Nanyuki Counties. These activities have seen the participation of various dignitaries including the Deputy President Hon. William Ruto, Governors Jackson Mandago of Uasin-Gishu and Nderitu Mureithi of Laikipia Counties respectively. During this financial year, over 23 million trees have already been planted and another 27 million will be planted before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the First Lady of the republic of Kenya Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta presided over a tree planting exercise organized by Kenya Defense Forces at Kibiku Forest Kajiado County where over 4,000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted. Speaking during the event, the First Lady hailed the military for planting over 20 million seedlings through their environmental soldier programme.

Addressing the same gathering, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko also lauded the military and the Ministry of Defense for their work in tree planting across the country. He noted that the Ministry of Defense through KDF had adopted a number of forests including Kibiku Forest for purposes of rehabilitating them. On her part, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Defense Amb. Rachel Omamo said that she appreciated the partnership between KFS and KDF in tree planting and forest conservation. She added that the partnership will continue until Kenya achieves the 10% forest cover and beyond.
Kenya Forest Service in partnership with various stakeholders has embarked on a countywide tree planting campaign to ensure the Country achieves 10% tree cover by 2022. County Governments have also pledged their support to this noble initiative. The County Government of Uasin Gishu for instance has embarked on a massive tree planting campaign in the County and its environs. The drive is being spearheaded by Uasin Gishu County Governor Hon. Jackson Mandago who has called on residents in the county to ensure that they plant more trees as a way of conserving the environment.

The campaign was launched recently during the Inaugural Eldoret City Marathon where over 50,000 trees were planted in the County. Also in attendance was His Excellency the Deputy President Hon. William Ruto, Kirinyaga Governor Hon. Anne Waiguru, Turkana Governor Hon. Josphat Nanok, Conservation Secretary Mr. William Kiprono, Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests Ms. Monica Kalenda among other government officials.

Speaking in Eldoret Golf Club during the launch Governor Mandago emphasized the importance of planting and nurturing trees as a way conserving the environment. He further thanked Ainabkoi Mp Hon. William Chepkut for sponsoring a bill in Parliament that compels all land owners and public institutions to place at least 10% of their land under trees. In his finally remarks he vowed to ensure the County surpasses the 10% tree cover in the next five years.

On his part Conservation Secretary Mr. William Kiprono who represented Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary commended Uasin Gishu County for the great initiative of greening the county. Mr Kiprono called upon all the counties to emulate Uasin Gishu County in planting trees as a sure way of increasing the Country’s tree cover to 10% by 2022.

Also in attendance was Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests Ms. Monica Kalenda who reiterated the Service’s commitment of working with all stakeholders to ensure the Country achieves 10% tree cover by 2022. She further called on members of the public to fully participate in forest conservation and management so as to enable the Country achieve sustainable development in the near future.
Mikoko Pamoja, First Community Based, Blue Carbon Project in the World

By Michael Muratha

Mikoko Pamoja is the first community based project in the world to use the sale of carbon credits to fund mangrove forest conservation and community development. The project which is based in Gazi Bay Kwale County, Kenya was started in 2012 through the support of a number of organizations including; Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Edinburgh Napier University UK, Bangor University UK and Gazi Bay community members.

The initiative aims to provide long term incentives for mangrove protection and restoration through community involvement. The project has adopted a good organization structure that involves various stakeholders with the community being at the center of overall decision making. This structure consists of major three groups namely; The MIKOKO PAMOJA Community Organization (MPCO) consisting of representatives of Gazi Bay, specifically Gazi and Makongeni villages; The Mikoko Pamoja Steering Group (MPSG) which provides voluntary technical support to the MPCO; and the project coordinator and lastly the Association for Coastal Ecosystem Services (ACES), a charity registered in Scotland.

The specific objectives of Mikoko Pamoja include; preserving the current quality and extent of the mangrove forests of Gazi Bay and the services they provide to local communities; restoring degraded areas of mangrove forest in Gazi Bay in conjunction with KFS; raising income from forest resources, including carbon credits, for community benefit; establishing alternative sources of timber and firewood in the Gazi area; establishing a pilot project demonstrating sustainable mangrove management that will influence mangrove
management nationally in Kenya; working with KFS and other government agencies to determine policy about engaging communities in land management.

Mikoko Pamoja has had outstanding achievements propelling it to global recognition as one of the most successfully community led initiative in the world. The initiatives success is attributed to various reasons including the following: high government support through KFS, unprecedented local community support, comprehensive scientific information support from national and international research volunteers among others. Last year, the project was awarded the United Nations Equator prize 2017 (10,000 USD) in recognition of the outstanding success in providing local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. Currently the project is managing 117 hectares as well as restoring 0.4 ha of mangrove forests that store a total of 3,000 tones of CO2, which are sold every year to the international carbon market earning a total of Ksh 1.2 million. Through a benefit sharing scheme the finances from the sale of the carbon credits is used to benefit the communities in various ways. 32% is utilized for community development, 36% for community wages, 21% takes care of the coordinator’s allowances, 5% for office administration and the remaining is used for accreditation of the project.

Mikoko Pamoja project benefits close to 5,000 Gazi Bay community members through; supporting education, water and sanitation projects as well as mangroves environmental conservation. Additionally the project has established casuariana woodlots as alternatives source of harvestable wood products. Never the less the project has continued to face a number of challenges including lack of clear boundaries in project areas resulting to illegal logging, sedimentation among others. The project is however working with KFS and other stakeholders to ensure that these challenges are resolved.

Project Coordinator Mr. Josphat Mtwana is optimistic that the project will continue to support forest conservation and community development. He further indicated that efforts to replicate the pilot project in other mangrove areas along the Kenyan coast are underway with already a similar project being developed in a neighboring community at Vanga.
Farmers now Benefit from the Forest Investment Facility

The Forest Investment Facility (FIF) is a revolving fund set aside by Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to improve the livelihood of farmers as they engage in tree growing. To enhance effectiveness of the facility, the Service has partnered with Equity Bank Limited as the Financial Service Provider (FSP).

For a start, the Service is set to roll out the initiative in four counties namely; Kitui, Tharaka Nithi, Embu and Kericho. More counties will be brought on board as the implementation of the Facility progresses. The scheme is aimed at supporting farmers in tree growing activities as well as supporting them to achieve improved livelihoods. The investment facility is set to kick off this financial year (2017/18) in the four counties.

Identification of the farmers is done by KFS forest officers in the four counties. For farmers to qualify for the loans, one of the proposed project or enterprises must be in forestry which may include; woodlot establishment, fruit orchards, tree nursery, fodder banks, bee keeping among others. Farmers who qualify are then trained on project proposal development by KFS and financial literacy by Equity Bank Limited.

Upon qualification of the loan, the farmers are excepted to utilize at least 30% of the loan on the forestry enterprise and 70% on any other livelihood project including; intercropping trees with food crops, poultry farming, raring of dairy goat and cows among others. These livelihood projects are aimed at generating income for the farmer to enable them repay their loans given that trees are long term investments.

The loans are issued out in various categories including:
(i) Loans of between Ksh 10,000-100,000 with a repayment period of 12 months;
(ii) Loans of between Ksh 101,000-300,000 with a repayment period of 24 months; and
(iii) Loans of Ksh 301,000 and above with a repayment period of 36 months.

Already Ksh. 11 million has been approved for disbursement in the four counties which will benefit 277 farmers.

Jane N. Ndeti, KFS Manager, Forest Investment Facility is optimistic that the initiative will flourish and in the long run contribute to increasing the country’s tree cover to the stipulated 10% as well as assist in improving the living standards of the beneficiaries.

By Michael Muratha
Monica Nekoye Kalenda is the Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests a position she has held since March 2018

A career forester with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry, Moi University and a Masters Degree in Natural Resources Management, Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, ENSCHEDE, The Netherlands, Ms. Kalenda is charged with the broad responsibility, of overseeing the operations of the organization and is the highest ranking officer with the responsibility of the overall success of the entire organization in creating, planning, implementing and integrating the strategic direction of the organization. She joined the service formerly Forest Department in 1987 and has risen through the ranks of District Forest Officer, Head of Projects, Deputy Director, Senior Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests Support Services a position she held since 2012 until her recent appointment.

She is a member of the Forestry Society of Kenya

KFS excels at the Eldoret ASK National Show

By Lydiah Ogada

The Eldoret National Show is usually the first ASK Show event of the year and as much it comes with great expectations. This year’s Eldoret National ASK Show took place from 8th to 11th March 2018 at the Eldoret Show ground. As is the norm with all Shows, different organizations come out in large numbers to showcase their activities. Kenya Forest Service was not left behind and took part in the event as it has always participated every year.

The KFS North Rift office being led by the Head of Conservancy Dedan Nderitu and his assistant Ms Bernice Wanyonyi and the ECs and Foresters in the North Rift Conservancy put together a well organized stand that attracted a multitude of showgowers, dignitaries and other exhibitors. The KFS Stand was so well organized flowing from the entrance to the end that the judges were so impressed and the stand won 4 awards. The KFS stand thus started the ASK calendar on a high by scooping the 1st position in the Best Government Ministries stand category, 1st position in the Best Energy Saving and Conservation Sector Stand category, 2nd position in the Best Stand Demonstrating the Application of Environmental Quality Stand category and 3rd position in the Stand that best interprets current Show theme category.

It was song and dance when the trophies were being awarded and the Head of Conservancy Mr. Nderitu picked the trophies on behalf of KFS. Indeed it was a very excellent performance by the North Rift Conservancy to continue putting KFS in the map as KFS is known to perform well in ASK Shows across the country. KFS is thus looking to win more awards in the upcoming national show and trade fairs.

The awarding ceremony was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock, Mwangi Kiunjuri. During this ceremony, he urged the public to conduct tree planting exercises with an aim of increasing the tree cover in the county and not only for business purposes.
General Stories

Signing of Forest Management Agreement for Kilifi Mangrove Forest

By Benedetta Wasonga

There was pomp and jubilation at Kilifi mangrove forest station when the local community forest association signed a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) for the protection, management and sustainable use of the forest on February 22, 2018. The purpose of the FMA is to conserve biodiversity while enhancing people's livelihoods. The signing ceremony was presided over by the Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests, Charity Munyasia whereby the community expressed optimism and satisfaction with KFS in the management of the forest and adjacent forests.

Present during the ceremony was the KFS Board Chairman Mr. Peter Kinyua, KFS Board Member Capt. John Miriti, the Eco-system Conservator of Forests Nafasi Mfahaya, Executive Committee members of Mtakimau Community Forest Association and representatives of the Kilifi County Government.

The specific user rights that were agreed on by the two parties during negotiations include firewood collection, grazing, collection of forest produce for community based industries and collection of medicinal herbs. Other user rights include eco-tourism and recreational activities; bee keeping and honey harvesting; and seedling production for rehabilitation and replanting of forest areas. Besides the user rights that the Community Forest Associations negotiated with the Service, the CFA also agreed on their obligations to ensure that the forest is protected from illegal harvesting and destruction by fire. On its part, the Service will provide training for community scouts who will work alongside the KFS security team to ensure protection of their respective forest reserves.

Forest Management Agreement (FMA) is an agreement between the Service and a Community Forest Association (CFA) or any person or organization for the purpose of managing a State, county or private forest, while a CFA is a group of persons who are registered as an association under the Societies Act (Cap 108) and who are resident in an area close to the specified forest.
The second edition of the annual tree planting exercise in the Israel Forest at the Uplands Forest Station in Kiambu County took place on the 31st of January, 2018. The event which brings together the Kenya Forest Service, the Israel Embassy in Kenya, the Jewish National Fund and the Kiambu County Community Forest Association was presided over by the Chief Conservator of Forests Emilio Mugo, H.E Amb. Noah Gal Gendler, Deputy Amb. Michael Baror and officials from the Kiambu County.

This year’s event was special as it did coincide with “Tu BiShvat” which is a Jewish national holiday and in contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day which is marked by planting of trees. The day was marked by planting 300 trees and thereafter the EC of Kiambu George Njenga opened the event by pledging that his office will water the trees twice a week.

The deputy ambassador Michael Baror highlighted the importance of involving the young generation in the conservation of the environment. He went ahead to quote a popular Jewish proverb that, “people with future for days pick fruits, while those with future for years plant trees.”

Speaking during the event, the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr Emilio Mugo thanked the Israel Embassy for involving the Kenya Forest Service and Uplands Forest Station community in their national holiday celebration as this highlighted the convergence of ideologies between Kenya and Israel. He pledged to work together with the Israel embassy on environmental issues including the tree nursery initiative in Nyambari Centre in Nakuru. He went ahead to state that the Kenya Forest Service signed an MOU with the Jewish National Fund for the development of dry land and that the KFS was going to host a delegation from the Jewish National Fund later in the course of the year to learn the development of dry land forest technology. He finished by quoting that the “the partnership with Israel will help us in mitigation and resilience in climate change”.

Amb. Noah Gal Gendler, urged Kenyans to plant trees day and night for their own benefit. He went ahead to state that cutting a tree with no good reason is a crime similar to killing with no good reason.
KFS Partnering with Big Ship CBO to Conserve Chuda Creek

By Royan Ndegwa

In order to achieve its mandate, Kenya Forest Service works hand in hand with different stakeholders in conserving and promoting livelihoods. KFS is partnering with BigShip Community Based Organization (CBO) to rehabilitate and conserve Chuda Creek in Mikindani, Coast Conservancy. So far over 80,000 mangrove seedlings and propagules have been planted since 2011 in the 40 hectares Creek and this Mangrove Forest is the only gazetted forest in Mombasa County.

Big Ship is a community driven organization working with the youths, and their communities in conserving the environment and promoting their sustainable development through empowerment programs. The organization strive at creating a healthy and sustainable environment for social-economic development in Mombasa County. Their mission is to promote sustainable development by empowering local communities in environmental conservation.

The issue of carbon trade is encouraging more communities to undertake mangrove planting in anticipation of trading on the carbon stock. Mangroves absorb CO2 5 times more than any other terrestrial trees hence reduces global warming. They act as buffer zones by protecting land from sea flooding and storms while also providing a conducive environment for the development of cottages and restaurants where people can relax and this is one of the many positive impacts that motivated the creation of this group.

The organization has engaged over 10 learning institutions through conducting Attitude and behavior change programs on environmental conservation, mentored over 20 groups within Jomvu sub county on solid waste management and on mangrove ecosystem services. They have partnered with other civil society organizations in advocating for environmental and other related policies in Mombasa County while offering entrepreneurship skills, career skills, mentorship, financial linkages, market linkages, and vocational skills to over 600 youth and women.

The CBO in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service is now targeting to plant over 100,000 mangrove trees annually and in the future plan on building a board walk where tourists can walk and enjoy the scenic view of the mangroves and the ocean and also setting up a hotel within the mangroves where the guests can enjoy a drink or a meal as they rest to promote eco-tourism and to boost the adjacent communities economically.
Mangrove Forests along the Kenyan coast cover approximately 60,645ha along the 536 km coastline extending from the Kenya-Tanzania border in the south, and into the Kenya-Somalia border in the north. These mangrove forests are found in tidal estuaries, creeks, and protected bays in five counties of Lamu (37,350 ha), Tana River (2,636 ha), Kilifi (8,535 ha), Mombasa (3,770 ha) and Kwale (8,354 ha).

Mangroves were declared government reserve forests by the Proclamation No. 44 of 30th April 1932, and later by Legal Notice No. 174 of 20th May 1964. Under this “Gazette Notification for Mangrove Forests in Kenya” all land between high water and low water marks (ordinary spring tides) are described as mangrove areas. The responsibility to manage mangroves is bestowed on the Kenya Forest Service.

There are nine mangrove species in Kenya, with Rhizophora mucronata (or mkoko) and Ceriops tagal (mkandaa) being the most dominant. Mangrove ecosystems offer a range of benefits and opportunities for local and national economic development. Additionally they also play a critical role in shoreline protection and carbon sequestration.

This ecosystem however faces serious threats associated with their deforestation and degradation. Root causes of mangrove loss and transformations have been identified as; increased population, weak governance, inadequate awareness of the true value of mangrove ecosystems, high levels of poverty, lack of alternative livelihoods and inadequate management prescriptions. Mangrove losses in turn have negative impacts on fisheries, shoreline stability, and resource sustainability.

To mitigate against these threats, the Service has placed considerable attention on management of mangrove forests as evidenced by recent procurement of two modern patrol boats. Additionally the Service in partnership with other stakeholders has developed a ten years (2015-2025) National Mangrove Management Plan as well as launched of some site specific mangrove management plans. This will go a long way in ensuring the resources is protected for future generations to come.
To be a law enforcer, you must first know the law. Once the law has been enacted by Parliament, it is upon and individual, first, as a citizen of this country and secondly as a law enforcement officer to be abreast with the new laws of the land. Same existing legislations are amended while others are repealed depending on the new challenges brought by social economic and political developments. It would be ignorance on the part of a law enforcement officer not to be aware of the prevailing changes.

The environment, in which the modern officer is operating in, is starkly different from those of his counterparts in the past decades. In the past, an officer could be as brutal and inhumane to his liking and chances of getting away with his actions were very high. Maybe it was because there was insulation of juniors who hide behind ‘I was following orders’ phrase. The society of today is very open and robust in its awareness to constitutional rights and legal privilege. Today every officer is held individually accountable to his actions. Disobeying illegal orders is lawful.

Education and knowledge acquisition is a process. Recruitment of officers might have minimum entry requirement. The system of education allows continuous improvement. With many open door colleges and universities in place including online and distance learning, there is no reason to maintain status quo. This is even underpinned by the fact that crimes evolve and requires more sophisticated solutions. Consequently, every officer must strive to acquire new knowledge lest the criminals be two steps ahead.

The digital space is one that has turned the world into a small village. A modern officer should not be left behind when the society along with the criminals have shifted platform from analogue to digital. The social media platform has an avalanche of information in both current and past. It is a fertile ground of understanding the nature and trends of events. Information travels fast on social media platform and as a law enforcement officer, you must keep tabs. While it is important to be on a social media platform, it should not be misused. Use it to your advantage.

A modern officer should be able to discern and choose what is ethical over what is unethical. Values are guiding principles every human being should have let alone an officer. It is important to have personal values coupled with that of an organization. Understanding Service’s values, vision and mission is an integral part of knowing ones organization. Old habits die hard is a phrase that was coined to mean that habits are hard to quit. It is true. Good values and morals can be impacted at the college but once an officer is deployed to the field, the bearers of organization culture would remark “hapa ni field si college, hapa sasa tunakufunza kazi”. The tone behind these remarks is meant to claw back the good and instill values some of which are unethical.

A modern officer prefers being respected other than being feared. He doesn’t use his position and implements of work to intimidate and harass the innocent. He does not use his rank to attain pleasure, profit or personal safety. A modern officer sees fellow citizens as clients not as enemy. He picks out the criminal from the society like chaff in a bundle of wheat. He knows that he is not law unto himself and that the law is an ass. Sometimes the hunter ends up being the hunted. He does his job without fear or favour.
Her Excellency the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta waters a tree she planted at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Looking on is Ecosystem Conservator Nairobi County Joyce Thuku (left) among other Government officials.

KFS Board Members in a group photo at the KFS Information Center during their final meeting.

The Greenzones Development Support Project Appraisal Mission pose for a photo with the Nakuru County CEC for Environment, Water and Irrigation, Festus Ng’eno.

KFS Board Chairman Peter Kinyua (right) issues 20 laptops to Environment CEC, Elgeyo Marakwet County Abraham Barsosio (left) to support environmental education in the County. Looking on is Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests Monica Kalenda.

Head of Conservancy, North Rift Dedan Ndiritu in a group photo with other KFS North Rift officials during the 2018 Eldoret National Show where the Service performed exemplary well.

KFS Official, Francis Mathinji (centre) in a group photo with other stakeholders during an aerial tour of the Mt. Kenya Forest.
Senior Deputy Chief Conservator, Field Operations Esau Omollo waters a tree he planted during management plans launch in Kajiado County. Looking on is Head of Conservancy Nairobi James Gitonga (right) among other KFS officials.

Students of Olmaro Primary Schools planting trees during a tree planting exercise at the school officiated by Cabinet Secretary Environment and Forestry Keriako Tobiko.

KFS Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests, Farm and Dryland Forestry Programme Patrick Kariuki is joined by a community member in planting trees at Kakamega Forest during the National Tree Planting Campaign.

KFS Staff among other guests planting trees at the Wangari Maathai corner, Karura Forest during the 2018 International Day of Forest Celebrations.
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SDG 1: No Poverty
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- Employment
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- Agro-forestry
- Wild Fruits

SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being
- Medicinal Plants

SDG 13: Climate Action
- Carbon capture and storage

SDG 15: Life on Land Biodiversity

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Fresh water for drinking and irrigation

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**HOW FORESTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS).**

By Benedetta Wasonga

Have you ever asked yourself why the hullabaloo about forests? It is crucial that you do so. This is because forests have been undervalued in the effort to attain Sustainable Development goals (SDG’s).

To some extent less treasured are the mostly imperceptible ways that forest-based ecosystem services add value to developmental objectives, and how deforestation can undermine their realization.

Although efforts have been made to mobilize the importance of forests as an approach out of poverty for both rural and urban communities, not enough attention has been given to deforestation as a negative pathway to poverty. Alteration of forests to other land uses eliminates income from wild products such as honey, mushrooms, and leaves landscapes less resilient to landslides, floods and other natural disasters that can damage infrastructure (SDG 11) and set back income growth for years (SDG 1).

Deforestation has negative impacts on agricultural productivity which is a key weapon in the fight to end hunger (SDG 2). Forest-based birds and bees provide essential pollination and pest control within the eco-system. Forested watersheds provide water for irrigation, and help maintain the water habitat for the inland fisheries that is a source of food supply for millions. Loss of tree cover also affects the water cycle, threatening to dry up rivers and water vapor from forest transpiration which fall as rain on agricultural fields (SDG 6).

Forests are a critical renewable natural resource. Growing trees, or cutting down forests, has major consequences. If forests are managed well they will provide us with goods and services that we cannot live without. They will also contribute significantly to the GDP of a country. If forests disappear we lose any prospect of sustainable development. Forests and trees are rooted in life and livelihoods. They can be grown, improved, and looked after. They are renewable. A manageable and a universal way of changing the world for the better is by growing and managing trees.

A universal and integrated sustainable development goals were developed during the Rio+20 summit whereby member states agreed to develop (SDGs) that will guarantee the promotion of an socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable future, in the context of the “Future we want”. It articulated support for eradicating poverty and mainstreaming sustainable development to deal with other major challenges such as hunger, and climate change, as well as a green, inclusive economy. Also recognized during the summit is the role ecosystems play in development. The role played by forests and trees was also acknowledged in the document, where members emphasized, “We highlight the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and the contributions of sustainable forest management.” Efforts to reverse deforestation and degradation were called for and the need to encourage trade in legitimately harvested forest products.

Source:
Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, sustainabledevelopment.un.org
The project under phase 1 concluded in 2014 and impacted on the communities living around the forests. It helped in improving the livelihoods and income of the communities that live around the forests in the country at the same time improving biodiversity in the country. The project left behind notable and important infrastructure for operation by the Kenya Forest Service. Among these are resource centers that are currently housing several KFS offices in the counties, vehicles for the field officers and trucks for the KFS road units.

In collaboration with the African Development Bank and Treasury, Kenya Forest Service is currently working on the phase 2 of the project with intent of making more impact on more countries across the counties. In the proposed project, there is going to be a focus on 15 counties that lie within Kenya’s water towers.

Kenya Forest Service which is the lead implementing agency is already putting in progress in actualizing the project by having in place the project concept note and carrying out consultations with various stakeholders. The project manager Jerome Mwanzia and a team of KFS officials for instance, have made several consultation meetings with the AfDB and Treasury to work out the modules of the project funding. This formed the appraisal mission which moved around the counties meeting stakeholders and hearing their input into ensuring the conservation agenda is spread. The appraisal mission met several community forest associations, ecosystem conservators and county government environment CECs and Environment Chief Officers. In this mission the aim was to get the stakeholders to understand what the AfDB require from them in giving their input during this preparation stage of the project. The team leader Onesmas Maina told the various county executives met that this project will contribute to forest conservation, food security and the community’s livelihood.

On completion of the mission the team from AfDB is to present the proposed project to the bank Board of Directors for review and approval. On the last meeting of the mission they met The Priciple Secretary for Environment and Forestry Charles Sunkuli who assured that the government will support the project implementation where required.
Kabaru Forest forms part of South West forest of the Mount Kenya forest reserve. It is situated in Nyeri County within Central Highlands Conservancy. The forest is about 45Km from Nyeri town along Nyeri – Chaka – Thegu road, at latitude 0.2833° and longitude 37.1667°. It borders Naromoru Forest on the North and Hombe forest on the South and borders Mt.Kenya National park to the East. The forest was gazetted as Kabaru Forest Reserves vide legal notice No.48 of 1943 under the forest department with the aim of forest conservation and development.

The station covers an area of 13,394.62 Ha comprising of the following:-

- Indigenous forest – 5,963.55 Ha
- Plantation forest – 2,407.33 Ha
- Grassland – 125.00 Ha
- Bush land – 386.10 Ha
- Bamboo – 4,454.14 Ha
- Swamp – 58.00 Ha

TOTAL - 13,394.62 HA

The station has a plantation management plan (2014 – 2024)

COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION

The station has a Community Forest Association by the name Kabaru Community Forest Conservation and Protection Association with a management plan approved in 2009 and revised in 2016. The total number of CFA members is 4,582 under 18 user rights. The most important user rights which are being implemented are:-

1. PELIS- Plantation Enterprise and Livelihood Improvement Scheme
2. Fish farming
3. Forest Protection
4. Firewood collection
5. Rehabilitation
6. Grazing
7. Silviculture operations
8. Ecotourism

Plantation Establishment and Livelihood Improvement Scheme (PELIS)

PELIS was started in the station in the year 2012 and to date a total area of 400 Ha of forest plantation has been established by the CFA and KFS staff. This financial year, the station had a total of 240,000 seedlings of exotic species and the areas planted is 110 Ha. At the same period (2012-2018) a total area of 210 Ha has been rehabilitated.
PELIS Benefits

The PELIS members are currently 1200 and each member is normally allocated 0.5 acre of land. Last season half an acre produced an average of 30 bags of potatoes. The average cost for a bag was KSH 1,500. Therefore the benefit which went to communities was approximately Ksh.54,000,000.00.

FISH FARMING

There are four licensed user groups dealing with fish farming, the most successive one is called Jitunze self help group and has established itself in the entire Mt.Kenya region and its environment.

FISH FARMING BENEFITS

Last year, the group sold fish and fingerlings worth Ksh.200,000.00 and all that benefit went to the community.

ECOTOURISM

Kabaru forest has a lot of recreational and ecotourism opportunities, and amongst those developed includes Thegu River Gardens along River Thegu. There are a number of religious, cultural and historical sites within the forest amongst them are queen's chamber and king cedar. The forest cover provides spectacular scenery and sites for recreation which are suited for bird watching, picnic, and camping. Therefore, ecotourism ventures in the forests reserve will provide opportunities for local communities to participate actively in forest conservation if well established.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The station has collaborated very well with other stakeholders like ministry of agriculture, ministry of interior and Co-ordination, ministry of water, ministry of energy, county government of Nyeri, Rhino ark, ministry of tourism among others.

CHALLENGES

- Pro langed Drought
- Wild life menace
In almost every profession, a certain degree of cleanliness and appearance is necessary, as presentation is a key factor in the provision of service. As individuals, it is in our nature to judge others or places based on our first impressions. This makes proper grooming and presentation in the workplace important for both men and women and a lack of which will result in misinterpretation negative feedback from clients and workmates.

Due to the importance of presentation, some standard grooming guidelines are necessary in order to keep up in today’s competitive work environment. These include:

- Keeping neat and clean including ones hair, fingernails, teeth, and face
- Dressing for the occasion, meaning wearing appropriately and conservatively in the workplace
- Ensure clothing is ironed
- Wearing basic/neutral colors that do not scream out, avoid bright colors such as yellow and luminous green…
- Keep pocket empty, avoid key bulges and tinkling coins
- Wear light colognes and perfumes in consideration of others
- Avoid eating candy, chewing gum, and other sweets in the office. Make use of the staff/break room

In an environment that is clean and presentable, studies shown that employees exhibit increased productivity, increased professionalism and mutual respect amongst coworkers, and improved health of employees just to name a few. No matter an individual’s position in a company, the importance of self-grooming and presentation is important. Cleanliness is next to Godliness so they say.
The Mau Egerton cross country is annually held to raise funds for rehabilitation of Mau ecosystem and Njoro River and to create environmental awareness. Over the past five years Kenya Forest Service alongside other key stakeholders partnered with Egerton University to plant indigenous trees at the Ngongeri park as part of restoring the Riparian forest vegetation along the middle section of Njoro River.

On the 10th February 2018, the 5th annual Mau Egerton Marathon took place a partnership between Egerton University and Athletics Kenya and sponsored by a number of corporate institutions including Nation Media Group, Kenya Commercial Bank, Egerton Cooperate Sacco, APA Insurance, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Water Tower Agency and Kenya Vision 2030 among others. Among those in attendance was the 2-time world champion and world record holder in the 800 metres race David Rudisha and Olympic champion in 1500 metres race Faith Kipyegon who were this year’s Brand Ambassadors for the event.

This year’s event had over 700 registered runners and all the top 4 spots in the corporate category went to Kenya Forest Service representatives. Patrick Namagwa finished first in the men’s full marathon category with Zebedee Kiprono coming in second, Wilson Mwangi was third and Joseph Sanare came in fourth place to put Kenya Forest Service at the top of their category.

During the event, the various representatives from each took time to address the congregation on the importance of looking after our natural resources. Funds were collected there after for the purpose of saving Njoro River which is one of the most reliable catchments of the Mau Escarpment.

The award presentation session marked the end of event with Kenya Forest Service taking the lion share of the trophy count.
Crossword Puzzle

Down:
1. Created by refining petroleum oil. Burning of this substance often produces greenhouse gasses
2. When natural or pristine forest is removed for development or for the harvesting of lumber
3. substance that is released or discharged
4. The mixture of gasses that trap heat in Earth’s atmosphere
5. A dark colored substance that is mined and burned for a form of “dirty” energy
6. The most abundant greenhouse gas. It is naturally produced when organic matter decays
7. Created by trapping dead plant and animal matter between layers of rock for hundreds of thousands to millions of years
8. The current conditions of the atmosphere. It can be effected by the water cycle, temperature, pressure, location, and human activity.
9. Ground that is permanently frozen. Now being seen thawing due to climate change
10. It is a gas made up of three atoms of oxygen bonded together that protects our planet from the sun’s ultraviolet rays
11. The mixture of gasses that envelope the earth
12. The pattern of weather over a long period of time
13. A contaminating substance

Across:
5. A colorless and odorless gas that is produced when fossil fuels are burnt.

Clues:
1. Created by refining petroleum oil. Burning of this substance often produces greenhouse gasses
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12. The pattern of weather over a long period of time
13. A contaminating substance
I wish we were all in for forests conservation and do it with all our hearts and might,
Commit to it even if it will take us lose of sight,
I wish we knew we won’t eat tomorrow
Simply because all our trees are in great sorrow,
because they know their fate lies on our hands; our bone marrows.

We have cleared the forests,
Our lands left bare, and because bears cannot withstand the pain of fallen trees,
And the entire condition, they have also left,
We have forgotten we are the next on the frying pan,
The heat will be so intense,
The ozone layer will already be in ruins,
The comfort zone we enjoy now will be in ruins,
We will leave this beautiful land in desperation,
We will all die!

We will regret for not planting more trees,
We will regret all our inhuman acts on the trees,
Our betrayal to this beautiful nature and ecosystem, But it will be too late.

So this is my call to everyone reading this piece,
Please keep my heart in peace,
I want our next generation to be in pleased,
I want them to look at their surrounding and appreciate us for what we’ve done,
Though we will be called the late,
Our forests will still be alive,
And with that in mind….we will rest in peace.

By: Siaban Damaris
Nairobi Arboretum
Nairobi’s richest living collection of trees
Established as a trial site for exotic tree species in 1907, the 30-hectare Nairobi Arboretum now hosts the richest collection of exotic and indigenous tree species in Nairobi. The Arboretum also has over 100 species of migrant and resident bird species in addition to sykes and vervet monkeys.

Located off State House Road, approximately 2km from the city centre, the Arboretum is good for individuals seeking to learn about trees, watch birds, enjoy serene moments within the forest or walk along its trails. The Arboretum’s central lawn is good for large group activities like picnics and games. Special areas are also available for hire for weddings, concerts and other special events.
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Delonix elata [L.] Gamble

Description
Delonix elata is a deciduous tree usually grows up to 7m high but occasionally it can reach 15m high with dropping branches. Bark is yellowish brown to grey-white, smooth and shiny but sometimes flaking. Leaves are compound with 10-25 pairs of leaflets. Flowers are white with uppermost petal yellow to orange with 10 red stamens protrusion. Mature pods are red-brown, about 13-20cm long. Pointed at both ends with numerous smooth brown seeds.

Ecological Conditions
The species occurs in Acacia-commiphora dry bushland between 100-1200m usually on a rocky or loamy soils or lava, occasionally riverine. Common in Magadi, Turkana, Taita and Tsavo West.

Flowering and fruit development.
Flowering and seedlings periods of Delonix aleta are not in uniform. Pollination is by insects. Flowers and green fruits can be found on the tree at the same time. Sometimes flowering occurs before rains. Seeds are brown when making mature. In Kibwezi and Voi, seeds can be collected between February/march and October.

Seed collection.
The mature red-brown pods are collected from the crown by spreading a net, canvas etc, under the tree and limb the tree to handpick the pods or shaking the branches to release the pods.

End Use
The wood of the specials can be used as timber for construction or furniture and fuelwood. Other uses include bee forage, food[seed], medicine[pods, gums,] and tanning.

Delonix elata [L.] Gamble
Indigenous.
Family: Caesalpinioideae

English Name: white gul mohur, creamy peacock flower, tiger bean, flamboyant Tree.

Local Names: Mwange [Kamba], Sukalle [Boran], Lebbi [Somali], Sukele [Orma], Ekurinchait [Turkana]