

# THE KENYA FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## REPORT ON THE PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TOWARDS HOSTING THE 27<sup>TH</sup> IUFRO 2029 IN KENYA

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### 1.0 Purpose and context

The purpose of this report is to appraise the enlarged IUFRO Management Committee on the activities undertaken by the institute between June and October 2024 regarding hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress in Nairobi from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2029. The last report was presented to the enlarged IUFRO Board sitting in SLU 17-21<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

### 2.0. Summary of Kenya's Pre- Congress and Post Congress outcomes

1. The Kenyan Cabinet approved the Cabinet Memo for the country to host the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Congress in Nairobi in 2029 via the Cabinet Dispatch Issue No. 8 of 2024 of June 11 2024. The government re-affirmed its financial support of KES 150 million to the congress preparation process to be availed through the normal government budget process.
2. The 26th IUFRO World Congress, themed: **"Forests and Society Towards 2050"** was hosted from 23rd to 29th June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and 7 *Nordic-Baltic partners*: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway
3. The Kenyan government also approved the delegates to represent the country at the 26th IUFRO World Congress led by the former Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon Soipan Tuya who unfortunately did not make it to the event and was represented by the Kenya's Ambassador to the Nordic Countries, Ambassador Angeline Musili at the Congress opening and closing ceremonies.
4. The Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee, Ag. Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, and Congress Secretariat Coordinator, Dr. Mercy Gichora, attended the IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting preceding the 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Congress from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 and the IUFRO International Council meeting on 27 June.

5. During the Congress, pre-recorded welcome messages from the Kenyan partners were aired at the exhibition stand. The Kenyan exhibition stand received many visitors including the King of Sweden, His Majesty, Carl XVI Gustaf who appreciated Kenya's effort of achieving 30% tree cover by 2032 and urged Kenya to increase its ambition beyond 30%.
6. KEFRI representation at the congress was encouraging with 66 abstracts accepted although not all of them received financial assistance due to budgetary constraints. The congress received over 4,300 delegates, where 3,500 presentations were made and over 70 innovations were presented.
7. At the closing ceremony, Kenya was officially announced as the host of **27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress in 2029** with the theme **“Advancing Forestry Research and Development”**
8. Three institutions from Kenya which supported the KEFRI bid to host the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress in 2029 were also represented in Stockholm. These included,
  - a. ICRAF is IUFRO Member No. 0422.00.00
  - b. CIFOR is IUFRO Member No. 0737.00.00
  - c. African Forest Forum (AFF): Member No. 1002.00.00
  - d. Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the newest IUFRO member (Member No. 1084.00.00) from Kenya did not make it to the Congress due to unavoidable circumstances
9. Majority of KEFRI scientists who physically attended 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO were supported by IUFRO, JICA, KCB bank, FAO-GEF, UKCEH through Sunrise Project, TWENDE Project among others. Two Scientists, Dr. Riziki Mwandalu and Mr. Henry Komu were among the winning congress poster presenters.
10. Ms. Anne Syombua, the Ministry's Senior legal counsel represented the Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry at the 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Congress.
11. The 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO website was developed to the minimum viable product by the time of the congress
12. KEFRI and IUFRO signed formal agreement to host the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO 2029, when the IUFRO President counter-signed the agreement during the IUFRO President's Dinner on 25 June on the sidelines of the Congress 2024.
13. The Chairman KEFRI Board, Gen. (Rtd) Samson Mwachethe and KEFRI Board Director, Ntoros Ole Senteu represented the Board of KEFRI Directors at the 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Congress and the closing ceremony.
14. All institutions that supported the KEFRI bid to host the congress; CIFOR -ICRAF, AFF, TAFORI, NAFORI, JICA and many global partners participated in the flag acceptance ceremony and made it a memorable experience.
15. Other Kenyan Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Youth Groups, and Ministries were also at the Congress.

### **3.0 KEFRI Post 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Congress Activities**

The Chairperson of the 27<sup>th</sup> Congress Local organizing committee, that is the Ag. CEO KEFRI has undertaken the following steps.

1. Following the dissolution of Kenyan Cabinet, the Principal Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi who is the Chairperson of the Steering Committee was briefed on the outcomes of the 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024. He appreciated and encouraged the team to start planning meetings as soon as possible
2. It is to be noted that the theme of the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress in 2029 “*Advancing Global Partnerships in Forestry Research and Development*”, resonates very well with KEFRI’s fourth mandate on establishing strategic partnerships and collaborations for research and development. The institute will use the opportunity as host of the congress to establish long lasting partnerships and collaborations for research towards the 2029 congress and beyond.
3. Organized for thanksgiving prayers on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to thank God for the opportunity to host the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO World Congress in 2029 and to appreciate that Institute was awarded the best overall prestigious Innovation Award by the Africa Service Union Award on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 for developing the *JazaMiti* (English translation = Growing Trees) mobile and web application based on species to site matching under climate change mitigation category.
4. Presented the IUFRO flag to the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Aden Duale on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at KEFRI Headquarters. The flag is under safe custody in the KEFRI secret registry.
5. The Local Organizing Committee Secretariat Coordinator, Dr. Mercy Gichora opted for early retirement effective 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The institute embarked on a consultative process to nominate a suitable person to replace Dr. Gichora appreciating that coordination is intensively engaging and largely on volunteer basis.
6. Mrs Nelly Oduor was nominated through a three-stage process. These included the KEFRI Technical Executive Committee (TEC) that comprises of KEFRI senior scientists, on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024, KEFRI Executive Committee (EC) that comprises the TEC and members from the Corporate Services departments and the Directorate; and finally approved by the KEFRI Board of Directors on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
7. The handing over process commenced immediately and was finalized on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in a hybrid meeting. This was witnessed by members of the KEFRI Board of Directors, IUFRO WC 2029 Secretariat members and a host of KEFRI staff.
8. KEFRI has established 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO secretariat as a cost centre with an annual budget of KES three (3) million (€ 21,000) within its recurrent expenditure for 2024 /2025 financial year as part of Kenya government commitment to facilitate initial stakeholder planning meetings. This is to facilitate meetings and development of resource mobilization activities.
9. The institute has allocated a temporary physical office for the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO at KEFRI Headquarters.

#### **4.0 Planned Activities from October -December 2024**

10. The Chairperson Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Jane Njuguna and the Secretariat Coordinator Mrs. Nellie Oduor will attend the Enlarged IUFRO management Board meeting from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 virtually.

11. Hold a breakfast meeting with all stakeholders in November 2024 to announce the 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO and to create interest and start mobilizing resources in good time.
12. Appoint a dedicated ICT person to follow up and report on all IUFRO matters to the congress organizing committee and manage the website once it goes live to start early interactions with the scientific community.
13. Request support and mentorship from IUFRO Board towards a successful IUFRO congress in 2029.
14. Plan for quarterly activities in tandem with KEFRI reporting timelines after the IUFRO Management Committee Meeting in October.
15. Meet the balance of financial obligations from the 26<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Congress participation. The delay has been caused by unavoidable circumstances in the budget process.

***Reported signed by:***

**Dr. Jane W. Njuguna**  
**Director KEFRI and Chairperson, 27<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Local Organizing Committee**



**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024