

Side event on forests and life on land

Venue:	Karura Forest, Kenya Forest Service Headquarters, (Along Kiambu Road, Nairobi, Kenya)
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1. Importance of forests in achievement of SDGs

In September 2015, the Member States to the United Nations, negotiated and agreed on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help the world move to a more sustainable future. During the processes of developing the SDGs, the importance of forests stood out in a very significant manner due to their (forests) overwhelming provision of forest goods and services including forest products, environmental services, reservoir for biodiversity, mitigating against the adverse effects of climate change and in their enormous contribution to the stabilisation of primary production systems and food security. Indeed, the importance of forests is evidenced by the multiplicity of their presence in the indicators for tracking achievement of many SDG targets. In particular, SDG 15, “**Forests and life on land**” exemplifies the importance that UN attaches to forests.

2. Objective of the side event

This side event on Forests and Life on Land offers an opportunity for initiating discussions which are meant to amplify and capture the importance of forests as the world heads to the 13th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in May 2018 and to the July 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

3. Key areas of focus for the side event

This side event comes at a good time when member countries to the United Nations are paying particular attention to our environment under the 2017 UN Environment Assembly. Special topics for discussants to reflect on regarding forests include: (i) Forests in the economic context of countries; (ii) conservation and protection of nature and biodiversity for posterity; (iii) Importance of forests as a key source of energy for millions of households globally particularly the developing countries; (iv) Forests and climate change; and (v) sustainable forest management.

4. Order of activities for the side event

- (i) The cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Kenya), Prof. Judi W. Wakhungu accompanied by The President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. MiroslavLajčák leads dignitaries to Karura Forest, Kenya Forest Service Headquarters. The President and other dignitaries plants four (4) indigenous trees; Followed by walking through an exhibition mounted by the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources and Kenya Forest Service;
- (ii) Opening and welcome remarks by Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya;
- (iii) Remarks by President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. MiroslavLajčák;
- (iv) Statements by invited dignitaries as per programme (overleaf);
- (v) Plenary;
- (vi) Closing remarks by Amb. (Dr) Amina C. Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Kenya.

SIDE EVENT

FORESTS AND LIFE ON LAND DURING THE THIRD SESSION UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-3)

3rd December 2017, Karura Forest

PROGRAMME

	Time	Activity	Speaker
1.	10.30am	Participants arrive in Karura Forest	
2.	10.30-10.40am	Tree planting by: (i) President of the UN General Assembly; (ii) Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; (iii) Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Chief Conservator of Forests
3.	10.40-11.00am	Dignitaries visit the exhibition and then proceed to plenary	Chief Conservator of Forests
4.	11.00-11.05am	Master of Ceremony welcomes participants and invites Prof. Judi Wakhungu for opening remarks	Amb. Rose Makena Muchiri Amb. Macharia Kamau
5.	11.05-11.20am	Opening and welcome remarks	Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya
6.	11.20-11.25am	Remarks by the President of the UN General Assembly	H.E. Mr. MiroslavLajčák
7.	11.25-11.30am	Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Kenya	H.E. Dr. LIU Xianfa
8.	11.30-11.35am	Ambassador of Norway in Kenya	H.E. Amb. Victor Rønneberg
9.	11.35-11.40am	Ambassador of Brazil in Kenya	H.E. Amb. Fernando Coimbra
10.	11.40-11.45am	Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)	H. E Mr. Liu Zhenmin (TBC)
11.	11.45-11.50am	Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Environment Programme	H.E Mr. Erik Solheim (TBC)
12.	11.50-12.40pm	Participation/contribution by participants	Open to participants
13.	12.40-12.50pm	Closing remarks	Amb. (Dr) Monica Juma Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya
14.	12.50-01.30pm	Refreshments and Departure	All