



**STATEMENT BY KERIAKO TOBIKO, CBS, SC; CABINET  
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY  
DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
BIODIVERSITY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021**

1. Kenya Joins the global community in celebrating this year's International Day of Biodiversity (IDB) with the slogan "***we're part of the Solution***" under the over-arching theme "**Our solutions are in nature**". The world today is facing unprecedented challenges including biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and pollution and waste which have delayed the attainment of Global biodiversity targets (AICHI) that we set out in 2010 to be achieved by 2020. Yet we know very well that at least 40 % of the world's economy and 80% of the needs of the rural people are derived from biological resources.
2. The theme speaks volumes of the role we must collectively play as global community to allow the nature to heal, restore and recover in order for it to continue providing essential goods and services that support life on Earth.
3. Kenya being one of ten mega diverse countries in the world, recognizes the critical role and importance of biodiversity in supporting socio-economic development and sustainable development.
4. According to UNEP report on **Making peace with Nature**, it has been shown that humanity is exerting extreme pressures on

biodiversity. The report also shows the interconnectedness and threats of the climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution has have impacted negatively on our natural resources and left the planet broken. As a result of our reckless actions the Nature is bleeding leading to serious consequences on human wellbeing, economic loses and degradation/ loss habitats and decline in ecosystem goods and services

5. The interconnected crises of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and climate change requires urgent and immediate global action. Unless halted and reversed with immediate effect, nature loss will continue to threaten global economic, social and political resilience and stability and will render achieving the Sustainable Development Goals impossible.
6. Ecosystem degradation, human encroachment in ecosystems, loss of natural habitats and biodiversity and the illegal wildlife trade has increased the risk of emergence and spread of zoonotic infectious diseases. The current COVID-19 crisis shows that these diseases have dramatic impacts not only on loss of life and health but across all spheres of society.
7. As a mega diverse country our commitment to the biodiversity is unwavering. We acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 cannot be realized if we don't address the challenge of biodiversity loss. In this regard, Kenya has firmly anchored the sustainable biodiversity conservation and management into the country's blue print for development Kenya Vision 2030 and the current government big 4 development agenda. Some of the key milestones Kenya has realized include; -
  - a) **National Biodiversity Reports**; in the compliance with reporting obligation under convention, Kenya has prepared and submitted National Reports detailing the status and

progress including measures/actions to effectively implement the Convention. The latest being Sixth National Reports 2020;

- b) **National Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan;** Kenya has updated and reviewed year 2000 NBSAP and is currently finalizing the version 2020 version to align it to the proposed Global Biodiversity framework and the new CBD strategic Plan 2021-2030 and overall vision 2050 of the convention.
- c) **Biodiversity Atlas;** Kenya has undertaken a Natural resource accounting and has developed a Kenya Natural Capital atlas 2016 and online biodiversity Data base that collaboratively to make biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community;
- d) **Implementation of Nagoya protocol;** Developed regulation on Access and Benefit Sharing to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol;
- e) **Payment for Ecosystem's Service Framework;** Kenya has been one of the African countries to undertake a **(PES)** to protect Natural resources within premium ecosystems e.g Mt Kenya, Mau forest, Lake Naivasha Basin and susumua dam among others;
- f) **Use of Technology;** Kenya is deploying GIS to abate illegal wildlife and wildlife product trafficking; and
- g) Establishment of community conservancies to enhance management and protection of biodiversity outside protected areas

8. We have taken decisive actions to tackle the triple planetary crises.

- i. **The Constitution of Kenya;** article 69, obligates Government to "ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and ensure the

equitable sharing of the accruing benefits;

- ii. **The National Strategy** for Accelerating the Achievement and Maintenance of over 10% tree cover by 2022 and Increase forest cover through (re-)afforestation/agro forestry in existing forests; areas of scrublands/grasslands, wetlands and croplands by **5.1 million Ha** by 2030 also aligned to AFR 100 and Bonn Challenge;
- iii. **Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**; Kenya has set ambition target to abate greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 32% by 2030 relative to the business-as-usual scenario; In the revised and updated NDC Biodiversity conservation and Nature based solutions have been prioritized as key in addressing climate change.
- iv. **Policy Framework:** we have put in place policies to address biodiversity loss; pollution; protection of our forests and sustainable use of our environmental resources including our coastal and marine ecosystems.

9. Our efforts to address biodiversity loss and other planetary crisis are even more urgent as the world struggles with and will make efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The stimulus packages and investments must lead to a green recovery that does not undermine sustainable development and future generations.

10. Therefore, we must all work together with scaled-up ambition through partnerships, collaborations and cooperation with the inclusion of private sector, civil societies, academia, youth and communities for this to be a reality. We look forwards to

finalization and full implementation of the ambitious and transformational post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) that will be adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity later during the year.

11. As we commemorate this year's international day of Biodiversity under the slogan, **we're part of the solution**, it is clear that a strong and committed multilateral effort is required. We must collectively strive to reduce our negative environmental footprint and place people and nature at the center as we rebuild a better future, **"the future we want"** that is nature positive, socially inclusive, climate-wise, resource efficient and regenerative.
12. I wish us all a very happy and fruitful International Day for Biodiversity 2021.

THANK YOU.

