



STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND
FORESTRY, DR. DEBORAH M. BARASA ON THE LAUNCH
OF THE KENYA REDD+ REGISTRY AND KENYA REDD+
NESTING GUIDELINES AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL (UPPER
HILL) ON 28TH JULY, 2025

*Your Excellency Neil Wigan, British High Commissioner to Kenya,
Principal Secretary for Forestry,
Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change,
Country Director, Conservation International Kenya,*

*Esteemed Senior Government Officials, Development Partners,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Representatives of County Governments, Civil Society, the
Private Sector, and Community-Based Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen;*

Good morning

It is my distinct honor to welcome you all to this significant event—the official launch of the Kenya REDD+ Registry and REDD+ Nesting Guidelines. Today, we commemorate not only a technical milestone but also a pivotal advancement in our national commitment to climate action, forest integrity, and sustainable development.

The forests of Kenya remain integral to our national well-being. They play a critical role in regulating the climate, sustaining biodiversity, securing essential water resources, and supporting the livelihoods of millions.

However, these vital natural assets are increasingly under threat from degradation and deforestation. In response to these challenges, the Government of Kenya has adopted a proactive, legally grounded, and community-centric strategy to safeguard and enhance our forest landscapes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The launch of the REDD+ Registry represents a direct implementation of the Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulations, 2024, and is consistent with the Climate Change Act (Amendment), 2023.

This Registry serves as a foundational element of Kenya's National Carbon Market Infrastructure, functioning as the official national system for recording, tracking, and verifying emission reductions and forest-based carbon credits. Through this initiative, Kenya enhances its capacity to engage in international carbon markets with integrity, transparency, and accountability, thereby

fulfilling its obligations under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

This significant milestone is not an isolated accomplishment. It is built upon more than a decade of preparatory work. Since 2010, Kenya has developed a comprehensive suite of REDD+ readiness documents and

systems. These include the National REDD+ Strategy, the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) submitted to the UNFCCC, the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), the Safeguards Information System (SIS), and the REDD+ Benefit Sharing Framework. Collectively, these frameworks ensure that the implementation of REDD+ is

robust, participatory, and anchored in scientific principles, legal standards, and social equity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conjunction with the Registry, we are also launching the REDD+ Nesting Guidelines, which facilitate the integration of site-level REDD+ projects—led by

communities, NGOs, or the private sector—into the national carbon accounting system. These guidelines delineate baseline alignment, carbon rights, safeguards, and benefit-sharing mechanisms. Importantly, they reaffirm Kenya's commitment to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the empowerment of

communities in forest conservation and carbon trading initiatives.

Our vision is clear: to cultivate a forestry sector that is climate-smart, innovation-driven, people-centered, and economically vibrant. The tools we unveil today—the Registry and the Nesting Guidelines—will support the

full realization of the Presidential Programme on Growing 15 Billion Trees by 2032, accelerate landscape restoration efforts, and unlock climate finance for communities adjacent to forests.

As we proceed towards full implementation, I encourage all stakeholders—national and county governments,

project developers, community forest associations, the private sector, and civil society—to embrace and operationalize these tools. Let these instruments serve as the means through which we achieve environmental integrity, inclusive growth, and a sustainable legacy for future generations.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom and to Conservation International for their invaluable technical and financial support. I also acknowledge the leadership and dedication of the Principal Secretaries in guiding this process within our Ministry.

Together, let us commit to protecting our forests, empowering our communities, and leading the continent in forest-based climate solutions.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless Kenya.