



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND
FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FORESTRY

STATEMENT DELIVERED 3RD JULY, 2025 BY THE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR
FORESTRY, MR. GITONGA MUGAMBI, CBS DURING THE
FAO GREEN CITIES IN ACTION FOR AFRICA TECHNICAL
WORKSHOP IN KISUMU

*Distinguished Representatives from the Government of
Kenya,*

FAO Team

County Officials,

Development Partners,

Civil Society,

Academia,

Private Sector Stakeholders,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning

*It gives me a great honor to join you today at this technical workshop under **The Green Cities in Action for Africa Project**. The discussion today and tomorrow could not have come at the right time, it's long overdue.*

As a government, we are fully committed to securing and restoring green spaces across the country. Under the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (2023–2032), we have identified and mapped out 50,000 hectares of degraded urban and peri-urban land for restoration to enhance the quality of life in our cities and towns.

We are working to secure and protect the already greened sites through fencing, restoration works, and active management. For instance, Karura Forest, once under threat is now a thriving public space attracting over 70,000 visitors per month. This not only provide a practical evidence and a compelling to case for scaling up across the country.

However, the success of these initiatives is hinged on collective effort. A call upon the County Government of Kisumu to rise up to the challenge and step up their role in safeguarding and expanding green spaces within their jurisdictions.

Land use planning and zoning must consider green spaces not as an afterthought, but as an integral part of development. I also call on our development partners, civil society, and the private sector to rally behind this effort. Investment in urban green spaces yields multiple benefits: improved health, climate resilience, tourism, and stronger community cohesion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am aware in-depth technical assessments across key thematic areas within the green cities' initiative have

been undertaken. And therefore, this workshop provides is an opportunity to share those findings, gather feedback, and jointly identify priority investment areas.

Your active engagement is vital. Let us use this meeting to share knowledge, challenge ideas, and co-create solutions that will not only serve Kisumu, but also become models for green urban development across Africa. Let's us all our join efforts in the development of a very solid proposal.

Thank you. Asanteni sana.