

**TALKING POINTS FOR THE HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICE, HON FELIX KOSKEI,
THE CHIEF GUEST DURING NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY AT NAIROBI
NATIONAL PARK ON MONDAY 13TH, 2023**

1. I join you today with a great sense of purpose as the Head of Public Service. This tree planting exercise here in Nairobi National Park is a testament to our collective dedication to a course that transcends boundaries and resonates with the essence of our country's environmental values. Together we embark on a journey of tree planting, a step that aligns harmoniously with the visionary leadership of our President and with our constitution.
2. We embark on today's tree planting exercise in this exclusive and uniquely located park within the precincts of our capital city under the banner: **"Kenya's Green Horizon: Planting 15 Billion Trees by 2032, Nurturing Protected Areas, and Embracing Natural Solutions to Climate Change"**
3. In a visionary move under the leadership of His Excellency President William Ruto , Kenya has set a robust goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, showcasing a dedicated commitment to environmental sustainability. This initiative is not only an ambitious step towards combating climate change but also underscores the pivotal role of National Parks and Reserves as natural solutions to environmental challenges. Kenya's approach also embraces innovative solutions such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), recognizing the diverse benefits that tree growing brings to these protected areas.
4. Confronting a spectrum of challenges, Kenya's national parks and reserves are characterized by rich biodiversity, and stand on the frontline of environmental concerns. These pristine ecosystems face heightened threats due to the compounding effects of

climate change, marked by rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and an increased frequency of extreme weather patterns. Anthropogenic activities further exacerbate these challenges, with issues such as fires, encroachment, and the poaching of threatened tree species adding complexity to the conservation landscape. The deliberate destruction caused by these human actions amplifies the pressures on these critical conservation areas.

5. In the pursuit of comprehensive habitat restoration within Kenya's national parks and reserves, a multifaceted approach is essential. Emphasizing the importance of both active interventions and natural regeneration processes, initiatives include extensive programs for planting indigenous trees, allowing for the natural recovery of grasslands and wetlands, and managing invasive species while fostering the growth of native flora.
6. I want to emphasize community engagement as it is pivotal in promoting an understanding of ecological processes that support natural regeneration. Integrating climate-resilient vegetation planting with adaptive practices encourages the natural adaptation of native species to changing climatic conditions. Holistic conservation planning ensures that all strategies, whether active or passive, harmonize with the natural dynamics of each ecosystem. This comprehensive and integrated approach aims to fortify Kenya's commitment to preserving biodiversity, ecological balance, and the enduring health of its national parks and reserves.
7. Comprehensive efforts in tree planting within protected areas in Kenya yield a multitude of benefits. These encompass crucial contributions to global climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration, with Payment for Ecosystem Services models recognizing this vital role. The initiative also serves as a cornerstone in Kenya's conservation strategy

by fostering diverse ecosystems that provide habitats crucial for numerous plant and animal species.

8. Additionally, the presence of trees aids in soil conservation, enhancing fertility and overall soil health, while their root systems contribute to water quality enhancement and regulation of the water cycle, mitigating flood and drought risks. Preservation and restoration efforts further extend to climate regulation, air quality improvement, and disaster risk reduction.
9. As I conclude, I want to state that Kenya's commitment to planting 15 billion trees by 2032, coupled with innovative approaches like Payment for Ecosystem Services, demonstrates a holistic approach to environmental conservation. By recognizing national parks and reserves as natural solutions to climate change and implementing strategies that harmonize ecological preservation with community well-being, Kenya positions itself at the forefront of sustainable environmental stewardship, reaping a rich tapestry of benefits for both the environment and its people.

THANK YOU