



**National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)**



**STIR BULLETIN, 2023  
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STIR Bulletin is a Quarterly Publication of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

All correspondence should be sent to:

**The Editor, STIR Bulletin**

**Directorate of Corporate Services,**

**National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation**

**off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,**

**P. O. Box 30623, 00100**

**Nairobi, KENYA**

**Land line: 020 4007000, 020 2241349, 020 3310571, 020 8001077**

**Mobile: 0713 788 787 / 0735 404 245**

**E-mail: [customercare@nacosti.go.ke](mailto:customercare@nacosti.go.ke) / [info@nacosti.go.ke](mailto:info@nacosti.go.ke)**

**Website: <http://www.nacosti.go.ke>**

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## EDITORIAL

### “Science and Technology for Prosperity”



The period July to September 2023 covered the first quarter of the Financial Year 2023/2024. In this period, we took stock of the events of the last Financial Year while at the same time focusing on the plans for the new Financial Year. This involved evaluation of the Performance Contract performance for the FY 2022/2023 which was undertaken by the Performance Management Unit of the

Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. Highlights of this activity is covered in this bulletin. The performance evaluation and Government development priorities inform the focus of the Commission's programs in the FY 2023/2024.

The Commission has been engaged in various stakeholder engagements within and outside the Country in the period July to August 2023. Amongst these is the participation in the Devolution Conference held in Uasin Gishu County from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The Conference provided a valuable platform for engagement with the County Governments and sharing insights on the place of Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RSTI) in socio-economic development at the county government level.

The Commission also participated in the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Mombasa National Show from 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and the ASK Nairobi International Trade Fair from 25<sup>th</sup>

September to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. These two exhibitions enabled the Commission in collaboration with some of its partners to exhibit outputs of research and reach a wide span of stakeholders especially those involved in the agricultural value chain.

As part of promoting international linkages in RSTI, the Commission has participated in a number of international events. A key one which we focus on in this Bulletin was the Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) took place in person in Geneva, Switzerland between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023. This meeting was accompanied by various side events in which the Kenya delegation held discussions with specific focus groups. This Bulletin has shared some briefs from these meetings as well as pictorial presentations of some of the engagements.

This Bulletin also highlights topical issues in RSTI within and outside the country. Amongst these are strides made by Kenyan researchers in various spheres of science and the strides made by Kenyan innovators who have come up world class products and services.

As we wish you a happy reading of this issue of the NACOSTI STIR Bulletin, we also thank you for walking the journey with us in the FY 2022/2023 and look forward to your continued support in the FY 2023/2024.

**Mr. Gideon Kirui**  
**Bulletin Committee Chairman**

## REMARKS FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL/CEO

*“Science and Technology for Prosperity”*



I take this opportunity to welcome you to read the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the STIR Bulletin of 2023, a publication of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). STIR Bulletin captures the latest news and featured articles from the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) sector, and is therefore the voice of stakeholders in the STI

Ecosystem as communicated by the STI Regulator, NACOSTI. It serves as part of the avenues through which we endeavor to reach a wider network of our stakeholders. In the recent past, we have interacted with stakeholder in the STI ecosystem through hosting and participating in conference, seminars and meetings both physically and virtually. This has enabled NACOSTI to share ideas with local and international experts and stakeholders cutting across various science fields and as a result enriched our capacity to execute our mandate.

NACOSTI is established under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev. 2014) with a unique mandate of regulating and assuring quality in the research, science, technology and innovation sector, and advising the Government in matters related thereto. In so doing, the Commission shall Regulate, Coordinate, Advise and Promote Science, Technology, Innovation and Research activities in the country.

Among others, the functions of NACOSTI include; developing priorities in scientific, technological and innovation activities in Kenya, Registering and Accrediting Research Institutions, Licensing of Research and assuring relevance and quality of research programmes in research institutions, coordinating and evaluating activities relating to scientific research and technology development, annually reviewing the progress in scientific systems, and promoting the adoption and application of scientific and technological knowledge in attaining national development.

Further, the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Legal Notice No. 108 (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014 obligates all persons intending to undertake scientific research in Kenya to obtain a license in accordance with the Act. In this regard, we have made this process easy and convenient for you all by making it available online.

I trust that you will enjoy interacting with the information presented herein. Feel free to contact us through our telephone numbers, email and all our social media platforms. Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, PhD

**Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, PhD**  
**National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)**

## NACOSTI MANDATE, VISION, MISSION, CORE VALUES, & FUNCTIONS

### Mandate

The objective of the Commission shall be to regulate and assure quality in the science, technology and innovation sector and advise the Government in matters related thereto.

### Vision

Accelerate the Transformation of Kenya as a knowledge-based economy.

### Mission

To facilitate quality in the research, science, technology and innovation sector through regulation, promotion and provision of advisory services.

### Core Values

The Commission upholds Integrity, Customer Focus, Professionalism, Teamwork and Leadership in the discharge of its mandate.

### Functions

- a) Develop, in consultation with stakeholders, the priorities in scientific, technological and innovation activities in Kenya in relation to the economic and social policies of the Government, and the country's international commitments.
- b) Lead inter-agency efforts to implement sound policies and budgets, working in collaboration with the county governments, and organizations involved in science and technology and innovation within Kenya and outside Kenya.
- c) Advise the national and county governments on the science, technology and innovation policy, including general planning and assessment of the necessary financial resources.
- d) Liaise with the National Innovation Agency and the National Research Fund to ensure funding and implementation of prioritized research programmes.
- e) Ensure co-ordination and co-operation between the various agencies involved in science, technology and innovation.
- f) Accredite research institutes and approve all Scientific research in Kenya.
- g) Assure relevance and quality of science, technology and innovation programmers in research institutes.
- h) Advise on science education and innovation at both basic and advanced levels.
- i) In consultation with the National Research Fund Trustees, sponsor national scientific and academic conferences it considers appropriate.
- j) Advise the Government on policies and any issue relating to scientific research systems.
- k) Promote increased awareness, knowledge and information of research system.
- l) Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate, as appropriate, activities relating to scientific research and technology development.
- m) Promote and encourage private sector involvement in scientific research and innovation and development.
- n) Annually, review the progress in scientific research systems and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary.
- o) Promote the adoption and application of scientific and technological knowledge and information necessary in
- p) Develop and enforce codes, guidelines, and regulations in accordance with the policy determined under this Act for the governance, management and maintenance of standards and quality in research systems.
- q) Undertake, or cause to be undertaken, regular inspections, monitoring and evaluation of research institutions to ensure compliance with set standards and guidelines.



## THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC), 7TH - 18TH AUGUST 2023, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



Figure 1: Kenya's delegation at the Second Meeting of the BWC led by the PS. State Department for Higher Education Dr. Beatrice Muganda, when they paid a courtesy call on Kenya's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Amb. Cleopa Mailu.

The Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) took place in person in Geneva, Switzerland between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August

2023. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Amb. Flavio Damico, the Chair of the Working Group and the Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament. Mr.

Daniel Feakes, BWC Chief, Implementation Support Unit, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva, served as the Secretary of the Meeting, while Mr. Hermann Lampalzer, Political Affairs Officer, BWC Implementation Support Unit, served as the Deputy Secretary. One hundred and twenty-two (122) Delegations participated in the Second Meeting of the Working Group of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). The Agenda of the Second Meeting of the Working Group included; International cooperation and assistance, International cooperation and assistance mechanism, Scientific and technological developments, Science and technology review mechanism and National implementation.



Figure 2: The Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education & Research and Head of Kenya's delegation delivering Kenya's Statement during the Second Working Group of the BWC.

Kenya was represented by a multi-sectoral delegation led by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Dr. Beatrice Muganda, who was assisted by Dr. Cleopa Mailu and Prof. Walter O. Oyawa as Alternate Heads of Delegation. The Multisectoral Kenyan Delegation comprised representatives from the Ministries of: Education, Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, Trade and Industry, Defence, Agriculture, and Health. A full list of the Delegation is provided in the Annex.

The Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention (BWC) entered into force in 1975 and comprises of 15 articles with a sole aim of prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons for non-peaceful purposes. Biological weapons refer to disease-causing organisms or toxins that can be disseminated to harm or kill humans, plants or animals. Over 185 countries have signed membership to the convention in which Kenya is equally a member state. Kenya acceded to the Convention on 7th January 1976, and has been attending the review conferences since then. The review conferences have the sole purpose to review the operation of the convention, with the view to assure that the provisions of the convention are being realized. The review conferences are held periodically after 5 years, and the Ninth Review Conference was held between 28th November to 16th December 2022.

In his opening remarks, Amb. Flavio Damico, the Chair of the Working Group and the Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament, welcomed all delegation to the meeting, reiterating the three items on the agenda of the meeting

i.e.: International Cooperation Assistance (ICA), Scientific Technological Advancements (ST), and National Implementation (NA).



Figure 3: Prof. Walter Oyawa, Director General NACOSTI delivering Kenya's Statement on Science and Technology during the Second Working Group of the BWC.

The opening session was also addressed by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN Under- Secretary-General of Disarmament Affairs, who noted the myriad of risks to global biosecurity in the 21st Century, and the inability of international rules to address the risk posed by biological weapons. Kenya joined other States Parties in the participation and discussions tabled on the floor and delivered her country statements through the head of the delegation, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, and the alternate head of

delegate, Prof Walter Oyawa. The Kenya country statements touched on all the agenda. Kenya equally contributed to the discussions of the floor by seeking clarifications on some of the presentations made by panellists, as well participating inside events organized by various delegations. To crown it all, Kenya and US Delegations jointly organized a side event titled 'Addressing the Misuse of Biology and Bio-m Through National Implementation.'

Taking advantage of the multi-sectoral composition her Delegation, Kenya, with the support of BWC Implementation Support Unit organized a number of bilateral side meetings. In the side meetings, Kenya furthered her agenda on matters of BWC and strengthening the legislative and implementation process within the country. Additional areas of interest included advancement in the cooperation and assistance of the international organizations and partners, advancement in science and technological capacity of Kenya and assistance in implementation of the BWC at the national level.



### Joint Side Event organized by Kenya, US and the Philippines

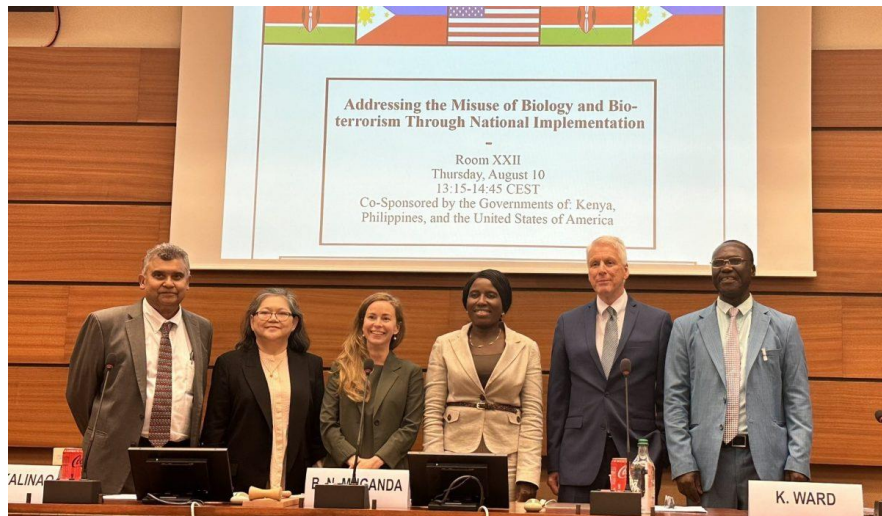


Figure 4. Group Photo during the Joint Side Event organized by Kenya, US and the Philippines

The U.S, the Philippines and Kenya hosted a side-meeting during the Second meeting of the BWC themed; 'Addressing the Misuse of Biology and Bio- Terrorism Through National Implementation'. During the sharing of National experiences, the U.S informed that its current regime on biosafety was informed by a background of biological attacks between 1983 and 2002. In 2002, the U.S enacted the Public Health, Security and Bioterrorism Act. As a result of the Act, it established the U.S Federal Select Agent Programme, which oversees possession of biological agents, conducts inspections as well as does enforcement. On international cooperation, the U.S reported it has assisted South Africa, Kenya and Egypt on various aspects of BWC. Philippines' regime on biosafety dates back to 6th Review Conference which

urged States with experience in legal and administrative measures on implementation of BWC to assist other States without. In collaboration with the U.S through the DOS Biological Engagement Program, Philippines created the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee. Later it created a National Action Plan which among other things, regulates access to CBRN elements and has developed a list of agents and toxins that guides their interventions. Kenya on its part based its biosafety regime to security threats and scares in 2014, 2016 and 2021. Kenya acceded to the BWC in 1976, and through the National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI) as the focal point, collects data from various MDAs on science and technology developments related to CBRN. It has equally initiated a legislation process on biosecurity and started a bachelor's degree programme on biosafety and Biosecurity at Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology.

### Bilateral Meeting between Kenya – INTERPOL

A section of the Kenyan delegation led by Col. Ronald Makori held a meeting with Mr. Adrien Sivignon from INTERPOL to discuss areas of possible collaboration. The Kenyan delegation expressed its security vulnerability due to the volatile region in which it is located, increasing the possibility of a biological attack especially from Al-Shabaab operating off Somalia. The Kenya delegation requested for collaboration on capacity building on identification of biological weapons, extradition in cases of international crimes, legal assistance, exposure of Kenya's security organs to contemporary biological threats, conducting inter-agency coordination, and Cyber-biosecurity.



Figure 5: Group Photo with Mr. Adrien Sivignon, INTERPOL

***Deliverable from the Meeting:*** Mr Sivignon informed that Kenya has been shortlisted among 9 possible countries to benefit from a five-year INTERPOL program of capacity building, through which most of these issues will be addressed. Kenya equally stands a good chance of being shortlisted as it enjoys a cordial relationship with the funding partner for the programme-the U.S. INTERPOL is also in the process of establishing a Bio-Tracker which Kenya will be invited to join once its launched in 2024. \*This needs to be followed up further during the Third Meeting of the Working Group (scheduled in December, 2023) as collaboration is heavily dependent on the shortlisting.

## Bilateral Meeting between Kenya – World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)



Figure 6: Group Photo with a delegation from WOA

Kenyan delegation led by Dr. Catherine Taracha from the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KARLO) held a meeting with a delegation from WOA. Kenya informed of its rich livestock sector which employs a large number of people. It took note of climate change which has increased outbreak of diseases such as Rift Valley Fever. Dr. Taracha, expressed Kenya's need including capacity building on disease outbreak, research data handling, capacity building of personnel working in



diagnostic labs, capacity awareness among farmer on zoonotic diseases, and development of a database for biological agents. In its response, WOAHA informed that it has an ongoing project in Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania (the Directorate of Veterinary Services-DVS, in the contact point in Kenya) around fortifying institutional resilience against bio-threats.

***Deliverable from the Meeting:*** WOAHA committed to link Kenya to its terrestrial database that regulates aquatic trade, as well as its database on microbial use. Equally, a link will be established between Kenya and WOAHA's surveillance centre in South Africa.

#### **Bilateral Meeting between Kenya – Canada**



Figure 7: Group Photo with Mr. Trevor Smith, Deputy Director, Biological Non-Proliferation at Global Affairs, Canada.

Part of the Kenya delegation led by Principal Secretary, Dr. Muganda held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Trevor Smith, Deputy Director, Biological Non-Proliferation at Global Affairs, Canada. The PS acknowledged the Cooperation and assistance offered by the Canadian state with gratitude and highlighted the recent move by Canada to fund the course on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Masinde Muliro university of science and technology. She expressed Kenya's need on the following: expanding the cooperation and assistance and partnership with Canada; expanding the Science, Technology and Partnership with Canada; and introduction of Science, Technology and Research in addressing issues in marginalized areas of Kenya such as drought and cattle rustling.

***Deliverables from the Meeting:*** Canada will continue to support the legislation process of the Bio-security bill in Kenya through the Global Partnership Initiative, especially advocacy with the law and policy makers process to smoothen the legislation process. Canada equally offered to provide an international platform for Kenya to express its needs with regards to research laboratories (a meeting in Wellston Park in the United Kingdom in November, 2023) Further, Canada is in the process of establishing a new women's network for biosecurity in Africa, and therefore requests Kenya to take the lead in championing the cause.

## Bilateral Meeting Kenya – French Republic



Figure 8: Group Photo with the French Republic.

The Kenya delegation led by Prof Walter Oyawa, the Director General NACOSTI, held a bilateral meeting with the French Republic. Kenya appreciated the longstanding diplomatic and developmental relationship between the two states and recalled the Kenya-France MOU on Scientific Research 2019-2024, seeking to realize science and biotechnology gains from it. Kenya equally sought France's assistance in building capacity of French as a taught language in higher institutions of learning (MMUST and Open University of Kenya). Further collaborative efforts in research between the two countries as well as joint funding opportunities were also sought by Kenya.

***Deliverables from the Meeting:*** In regard to the MOU, France undertook to establish a French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Nairobi by September 2023. Academic exchanges, research funding, and joint research exercises on various disciplines including biotechnology, will be conducted under the CNRS. France will also cooperate with Kenya on legislation of the Biosecurity Bill in terms of capacity building, match-making and universalization. They committed to consult their capital and get back at a later date on requests for French language capacity building, education exchange programmes and supporting the Youth for Biosafety Programme.

## Bilateral Meeting Kenya – The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)



Figure 9: Group Photo



The Kenya delegation led by Prof Walter Oyawa, the Director General NACOSTI, held a bilateral meeting with VERTIC led by Mr. Larry MacFaul the Executive Director. The Kenyan delegation thanked VERTIC for collaborating on the process of putting together the Biosecurity Bill during the Naivasha Process. Kenya also alerted VERTIC of the proposed changes in Kenya's education sector as a result of the outcomes of the Presidential Taskforce on Education, which are likely to involve changes to the Science, Technology and Education Act. These could provide an opportunity to introduce the bill to parliament. Kenya requested VERTIC to financially support the sensitization process of the lawmakers and other Policy makers about the bill. Kenyan delegation equally requested for support in the establishment of Kenya's Biosecurity Policy. VERTIC informed that its current finances are finished as the funding cycle ends in November, 2023 but committed to seek alternative funding if possible for a sensitization workshop.

***Deliverable from the Meeting:*** VERTIC offered e-learning materials and courses on Biosafety and Biosecurity (self-taught courses) on its websites and databases which it will advance to Kenya. It also undertook to continue consulting with Kenya through online platforms on the Biosecurity Bill should Kenya need its expert support.

### Bilateral Meeting Kenya – U.S



Figure 10: Group Photo

The Kenya delegation led by Prof. Oyawa met a delegation of the United States led by Mr. Johnathan Beckett, Deputy to the U.S Special representative to the BWC. Kenya appreciated the long-standing cordial relationship between the two Countries and applauded the U.S for supporting various projects and programmes in Kenya through USAID and VERTIC. The Kenya delegation requested for the following support: Sensitization process for parliamentarians and other policy makers on the Biosecurity Bill; Exposure visits for BWC desk officers in different

MDAs; Collaboration on a food contamination project, equipment and capacity building for the COMESA regional laboratory in Nairobi; Collaboration with the National Defence University, Kenya (NDU-K) on its research and socio-economic development project of the North Rift region of Kenya affected by cattle rustling; Acquisition of a surveillance system for Biotechnology laboratories in Kenya to facilitate proper identification, coding, storage and disposal of biological agents; and collaborating with KEMSA in its ongoing process of harmonizing standards across the 7 EAC States on goods and services.

**Response:** The U.S requested to be serviced with the NDU-K project for the socio- economic development of the North Rift to consider support. They equally sought to know more about the striga-smart sorghum project ongoing at Kenyatta University plant transformation laboratory (PTL). They requested for a consolidated brief of all ongoing projects and programmes around biotechnology to harmonize efforts and enable them consider support. In conclusion, they requested Kenya to be more vocal about its journey and achievements on the BWC so far, and further sought political support for the U.S on the ongoing BWC process of creating an ICA mechanism.

### Bilateral Meeting Kenya – E.U



Figure 11: Group Photo

The Kenya delegation led by Prof. Oyawa, held a bilateral meeting with the EU delegation led by Ms. Igor Kucer, Counsellor, EU delegation to the UN in Geneva. Kenya appreciated the long-held cordial bilateral relations between the two countries and the numerous projects and programmes funded by EU over time. Kenya requested for the following support from the EU: partnership with the NDU-K in research and socio-economic transformation of Kenya's North Rift Region; cooperation in universalization of the BWC in Africa; cooperation sensitization and awareness creation of the Biosecurity bill among parliamentarians and policy makers; capacity building of KEPHIS staff on plant risk analysis, and general pest surveillance; and support in the development of the Kenya Biosecurity Bill.

**Deliverables:** The EU informed that it has identified a CBRN Centre of Excellence in Nairobi and Kenya is a partner State. The EU has also launched Project 99 which focuses on Biosafety and Biosecurity in East and Central Africa. As such, the Kenyan delegation was advised to submit proposals/project requests to both facilities to pursue funding for BWC activities. The EU also informed it has an established fund which is administered by UNODA in Geneva targeting Africa. They requested Kenya to consult contact points in Geneva (Ms. Yvette Issar) as they also consult on how Kenya can be included into the fund.

#### Kenya – UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)



Part of the Kenya delegation led by Mr. Anthony Mathenge, Counsellor, Kenya Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, held an informal meeting with Ms. Yvette Issar, Political Affairs Officer, UNODA's to consult on ways Kenya can tap into the various programs and funds run by UNODA. Kenya requested for

collaboration in the following areas; Sensitization and awareness creation among parliamentarians and other key policy makers on the Biosecurity Bill; universalization of BWC in the African continent; capacity building of the BWC desk officer; infusion of biosafety and biosecurity in the education system.

**Deliverables:** UNODA committed to take up the Biosecurity Bill legislation process once the current VERTIC support runs out. UNODA equally committed to capacity built the BWC desk officers from different MDAs on three major objectives. Lastly, they also committed to collaborate with Kenya through NACOSTI on strategizing Kenya's needs inform of proposals to align with current funding opportunities

**Additional Feedback:** UNODA requested Kenya to share its priority needs list on BWC matters to enable Ms. Issar try to match them with existing projects/programmes. Ms. Issar also committed to check on available opportunities for Kenya's Youth for Biosecurity programme



## FIRST VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY CHARTERED



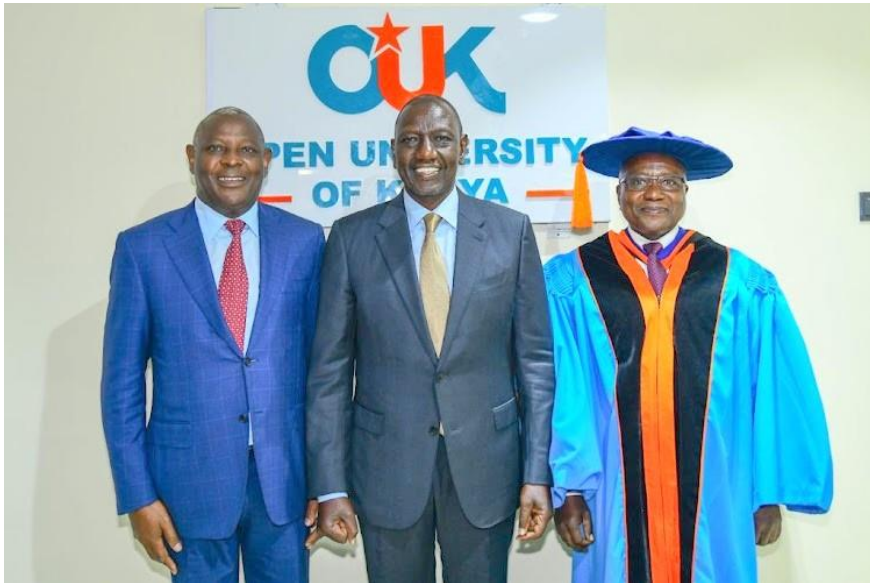
*Figure 12: H.E. President William Samoei Ruto awards Charter to the Open University of Kenya*

On the third of August, the head of state awarded a charter to the Open University of Kenya (OUK). The event held at Konza Technopolis, previously known as Konza Technology City saw the

newest university receive legal instrument to operate. The University seeks to remove traditional obstacles and provide more Kenyans access to higher-education, hence the concept of



an open university had been suggested. Through its virtual learning platform known as the eCampus, the Open University of Kenya's online learning entails accessing course materials, assignments, and other resources online rather than physically.



*Figure 13: Chancellor Dr. James Mwangi, H.E President William Ruto and Prof. Ezra Maritim during the event*

The Open University of Kenya (OUK) is set to provide students of all ages with convenient and affordable alternatives to pursue higher education without having to go to physical campuses. The courses that will be offered include: Bachelor of data science, Bachelor in cyber security and digital forensics, Bachelor of technology education, Bachelor of business and entrepreneurship, Bachelor of economics and statistics, Bachelor of Agri-Technology and food systems, Postgraduate diploma in

leadership and accountability and Postgraduate diploma in learning design and technology.

The students can manage their learning alongside other responsibilities more easily since they may set their own pace and timetable for their studies. Students may interact with their professors and fellow classmates through online discussion boards, video conferences, and other forms of virtual communication.

This would make it possible for people to receive education and training for work and nation-building who have previously been unable to do so or who face obstacles such as formal grades, age, financial capability, gender, or geographic location. Particularly for individuals who are preoccupied with jobs, the flexibility of distance learning, which allows students to learn at their own time and location, comes in handy. The government of Kenya is dedicated to expanding access to inexpensive and high-quality education in the nation, and this is the first completely virtual public university in the country. It will also create a strong pool of graduates with the necessary qualifications and skills for our market and beyond. The university gives common Kenyans the opportunity to pursue their preferred professional training whenever or wherever they are.

## WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IN KENYA



*Figure 14: Group Photo*

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) in collaboration with VERTIC and CRDF Global hold two BWC workshops on implementation of the Biological

Weapons Convention (BWC) in Naivasha, Kenya Kenya. A legislative drafting workshop was held from 17-19 July, with an awareness raising event following on 20-21 July.



The workshops formed part of the assistance provided under a project funded by the United States Department of State Office of the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) on Advancing BWC National Implementation in Kenya which was launched in October 2022. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and its BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) were also key partners in these events, jointly hosting the awareness raising workshop and participating in the legislative drafting workshop

### Legislative Drafting Workshop



Figure 15: Group Photo

#### Lead: VERTIC and CRDF

The legislative drafting workshop gathered relevant experts from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior and Administration, Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice, NACOSTI, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenyatta University, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology,

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, Ministry of Health, as well observers from UNODA and NDF.

The objective of the workshop was to support Kenya in the process of drafting legislation to strengthen the existing framework for BWC implementation in the country. In order to provide the conceptual basis for the discussions, the first day provided general presentations on the BWC and its national implementation. Participants also discussed the status of BWC implementation in the country and the best approaches to strengthen the existing legislative and regulatory frameworks. The second and third day focussed on reviewing and drafting legislative proposals. At the end of the workshop, next steps were discussed towards facilitating the process of inter-ministerial review and the ultimate adoption of BWC implementing legislation.

### Awareness Raising Workshop

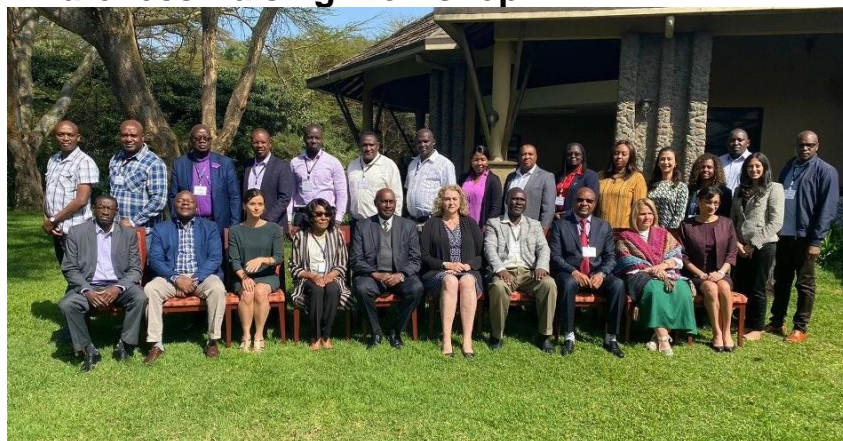


Figure 16: Group Photo

### Lead: VERTIC and CRDF Global and UNODA

The objective of the awareness raising workshop was to inform and raise awareness of policymakers and stakeholders in the Country regarding the importance and benefits of comprehensive and effective implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, with a focus on BWC implementing legislation, in support of ongoing efforts to develop and adopt such legislation in Kenya.



Figure 17: Frederick Ndambuki, Secretary of Administration, Ministry of Education Opening the Workshop

The event gathered senior officials from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior and Administration, Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice, Ministry of Health, NACOSTI, National Biosafety Authority, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, National Defense University of Kenya, National Research Fund, National Museum of Kenya, Kenya Agriculture Livestock

Research Organization, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, Commission for University Education, as well as relevant experts from VERTIC, CRDF Global and NDF. Opening remarks were delivered by the BWC ISU, VERTIC, NDF, NACOSTI and the Kenyan Ministry of Education.



Figure 18: Awareness Raising Workshop

Through tailored presentations, group discussions and interactive exercises, the workshop provided participants with an opportunity to gain knowledge and exchange on the policy and institutional issues underlying the development of BWC implementing legislation and their potential roles in supporting the adoption of such legislation in Kenya. During the workshop, participants were also briefed on the outcome of the legislative drafting workshop and planned next steps towards strengthening BWC legislation in Kenya.



## VICE CHANCELLOR AND CEO'S RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND LAUNCHED WITH A SEED CAPITAL OF SH 10 MILLION

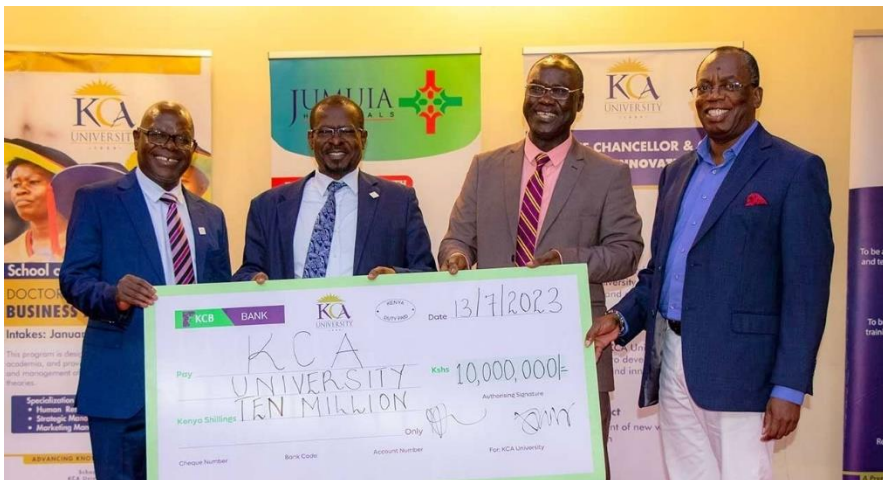


Figure 19: NACOSTI Director General, Walter Oyawa, Prof Vincent Onywera and others during the launch of the Vice Chancellor and CEO's Research and Innovation Fund at the KCA University

The VC & CEO Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki has launched the KCA University Research and Innovation fund with a seed capital of Sh 10 million. The launch, which took place at Ruaraka Campus was presided over by CEOs and thought leaders of organizations from both the public and private sectors, led by Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, the CEO of National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI).

The fund aims to catalyse research and innovation at KCA University while transforming and empowering the society. This

will be achieved through mentoring and supporting the University community in developing working prototypes and innovative solutions.

Through this fund, the University envisions the development of new ventures and job opportunities as it continues to empower students to not only be employment seekers but also job creators.

The University also launched a Telemedicine App, an innovation by Maryanne Njeri, a KCAU student pursuing Master of Science in Data Science. The app will make access to quality healthcare services more convenient through facilitating tracking and referring of patients with chronic diseases to health facilities. The development of the mobile application was conducted in conjunction with Jumuia Group of Hospitals.

Source: <https://www.kcau.ac.ke/vice-chancellor-and-ceos-research-and-innovation-fund-launched-with-a-seed-capital-of-sh-10-million/>

## PICTORIAL





## NACOSTI PERFORMANCE CONTRACT EVALUATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023



Figure 20: Group Photo

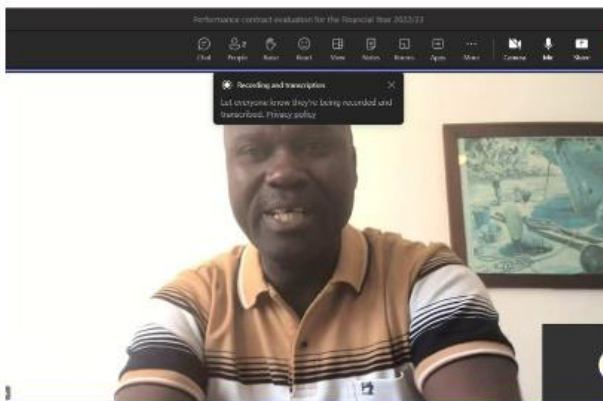
The Performance Management Unit of the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, led by Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti, evaluated NACOSTI on the Performance Contract for FY 2022-2023 today.

NACOSTI got an evaluation score of “Very Good.” This evaluation outcome indicates that NACOSTI has been effective in achieving

its performance targets and working towards its goals in carrying out its mandate.

Prof. Raphael Munavu, Board Member and DG, Prof. Walter Oyawa led the NACOSTI team during the Exercise.

## PICTORIAL





## DG NACOSTI ENGAGES H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN IN KENYA ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Figure 21: Group Photo

The Director General of NACOSTI, Prof. Walter Oyawa, met with H.E. the Ambassador of Japan in Kenya, Mr. Ken Okaniwa, on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to discuss on possible areas of collaboration in science, technology and innovation. The meeting appreciated the fruitful partnerships between Kenyan and Japanese researchers in the past as evidenced by the exemplary performance of JKUAT and expressed desire to intensify collaboration taking cognizance of emerging issues and needs. H.E. Amb. Ken Okaniwa stressed the importance of science and technology in uplifting Kenya to the next level, as well as the need for private sector involvement in research and innovation activities so as to expedite uptake of research outcomes.

On his part, the Director General, Prof. Walter Oyawa, sought bilateral collaboration and partnerships in the development and application of green technologies to spur sustainable economic growth in tune with the government's people-centric transformation agenda. He further expressed on the need to establish joint Research Chair programmes in remembrance of eminent Kenyan trailblazers in science and technology.

## ST. THOMAS GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT TO SHOWCASE BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION AT MOMBASA ASK SHOW



Figure 22: Group Photo

NACOSTI Senior Staff recently paid a visit to St. Thomas Girls Secondary School, where they were received by the Deputy Principal and Mr. Odero, the school's science teacher. During their visit, the NACOSTI team had the opportunity to witness Kazungu's unique innovation designed for the detection and testing of respiratory infections. Impressed by her dedication and the potential impact of her creation, NACOSTI extended an invitation for her to participate in the Mombasa ASK Show's exhibition.

Marrieta Kazungu's biomedical device is a testament to the power of young, innovative minds. In a world where respiratory infections have become a pressing concern, her invention could revolutionize the way we diagnose and address these health challenges. The device combines cutting-edge technology with a deep understanding of the healthcare needs of our time, making it a significant contribution to both the field of medicine and climate-smart solutions.

The significance of Kazungu's participation in the Mombasa ASK Show cannot be overstated. It provides her with a platform to demonstrate the importance of her work and its relevance to this year's theme, which emphasizes sustainable economic growth in the face of climate change. By showcasing her innovation, she not only represents her school but also inspires other young minds to pursue innovative solutions to the world's most pressing problems.





*Figure 23: Mr. Cyrus Kamau, a representative from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI), presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Odera, school Deputy Principal*



*Figure 24: Dr. David Njubi, a representative from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI), presented a token of appreciation to Mrs. Eunice Mwiseghe, school principal. Mr. received the gift on behalf*

While the school principal, Mrs. Eunice Mwiseghe, was away on official assignment during NACOSTI's visit, the school administration has expressed its support for Kazungu's participation in the exhibition. This collaborative effort between the school and NACOSTI exemplifies the importance of nurturing young talent and fostering an environment that encourages innovation in our educational institutions.



## PS, HER, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AT NACOSTI HEADQUARTERS TO SUPERVISE THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHARTERING OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF KENYA



Figure 25: Group Photo

On Saturday, July 8th, 2023, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, the Principal Secretary of the State Department of Higher Education and Research at the Ministry of Education, paid a visit to the Open University of Kenya (OUK).. The purpose of the visit was to provide supervision and oversight of the preparations for the chartering of the OUK. Accompanying her on the visit was Prof. Walter Oyawa, the Director General of NACOSTI

During the visit, Dr. Inyangala and Prof. Oyawa observed the progress of the preparations for the chartering of OUK. This includes ensuring that all necessary requirements are being met, such as compliance with educational standards, curriculum development, infrastructure planning, and the establishment of quality assurance mechanisms. The visit also provided an opportunity for Dr. Inyangala and Prof. Oyawa to engage with the OUK team, gather information, and offer guidance and support to ensure a successful chartering process.



Notably, it was mentioned that the approval for the award of the Charter for OUK was granted by the Commission for University Education (CUE) in a letter dated June 7th 2023. This milestone was further reinforced when the draft charter for the OUK was approved by Members of Parliament, allowing for the establishment of the first fully-fledged virtual university in the country.

The visit by Dr. Beatrice Inyangala and Prof. Walter Oyawa also highlighted the importance and attention given to the chartering of the OUK by the Government. It underscores the commitment to

advancing accessible and flexible higher education in Kenya and ensuring that the OUK becomes a reputable institution that meets the needs of learners and contributes to the development of the country's educational landscape.

## EXPLORING EFFECTIVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IN KENYA



Figure 26: Meeting Photo

On the 7th of July 2023, NACOSTI and the Directorate of Higher Education and Research held meeting with the Centre for Ecosystem Restoration-Kenya (CER-K) on fostering effective public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Kenya under the Chairmanship of NACOSTI-Director General. The meeting also

brought together key stakeholders from public universities and centers of excellence to discuss the role of collaboration in addressing global challenges through research and innovation. In recognition of the critical and central role played by NACOSTI in Science, Technology and Innovation in the Country, Prof Walter Oyawa was appointed by the PS, HER Ministry of Education to Chair the session.

### Recognizing the Importance of Collaborative Partnerships

During the meeting, Mr. Darius Ogutu, the Director of the State Department of Higher Education and Research, welcomed the participants and stressed the significance of advancing research in the face of ongoing global challenges. Prof. Oyawa, the Director General of NACOSTI, delivered the opening remarks and emphasized the need for public-private collaborations to address ecosystem threats effectively. Mr. Jonathan Jenkins, Director of the Centre for Ecosystem Restoration-Kenya, introduced the organization and discussed potential areas of collaboration with public institutions.

The directors acknowledged the expertise and seniority of the participants and emphasized the possibility of achieving the overall goals of Science, Technology, and Innovation through collaborative partnerships. They highlighted the importance of incorporating a business angle into research projects to enhance their impact and stressed the need for institutions to embrace green technology, improve communication of research output, and consider the next-generation workforce.

## Key Themes and Collaborative Opportunities

Several key themes emerged during the meeting, including sustainability, research, livelihoods, grants, partnerships, and scaling up. Representatives from various institutions discussed potential areas of partnership with CER-K and other organizations with similar interests. The following points were raised:

1. Commercialization of ecosystem restoration: Exploring ways to convince governments and contribute to the national economy through ecosystem restoration initiatives.
2. Establishing freshwater hubs: Focusing on the lake region and leveraging the blue economy to compare ecosystems' health status and ecosystem services through transects.
3. Seed science research and propagation: Accelerating seed propagation techniques in the wild, domesticating essential plants, and advancing crop breeding technologies.
4. Ex-situ conservation: Establishing botanic gardens for the conservation of plant species.
5. Targeted conservation efforts: Implementing conservation initiatives to protect fauna alongside ecosystem restoration activities.
6. Curriculum development: Enhancing the curriculum to address the interdisciplinary nature of ecosystem restoration and conservation.

Two significant takeaways from the meeting were the need for streamlined processes to obtain research permits and licenses, potentially through a one-stop point for necessary permits, and the establishment of a single national research repository, focusing on ecosystem restoration, in collaboration with the relevant agencies.





## **NACOSTI PARTICIPATED IN THE 2023 DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE HELD AT THE ELDORET SPORTS GROUND, UASIN GISHU COUNTY**

The Devolution conference was held at the Eldoret Sports club in Uasin Gishu County from 15th to 19th August, 2023. The theme was “10 years of Devolution: The Present and the Future” and the sub-theme was “Driving Transformation from the local level: County governments as the Centre of economic development.” The event was organized by Council of Governors, Parliament of Kenya and the Office of the Deputy President, State Department for Devolution as well as different partners.

The main objective of the Conference was to reflect on the 10 years of devolution and explore locally and internationally recognized methodologies for strengthening systems to enhance transformational service delivery in Counties.

Top guests who attended the conference included President William Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, opposition chief Raila Amollo Odinga, speakers of both Parliament and the Senate, Governors, Members of Parliament among other Keynote speakers.

The Conference kicked off with a curtain-raiser event in which governors in attendance joined veteran athletes in a 5-kilometre race at the Kipchoge Stadium. The Sports Cabinet Secretary, Ababu Namwamba, who launched the track races at the stadium currently under construction, affirmed the government's

commitment to upgrade the facility to international standards in order to support and promote youth talents through sports.

### **Key Messages**

His Excellency the President acknowledged the role played by development partners, local and international investors, philanthropies, civil society and other action groups as well as well as volunteers and well-wishers who continue to support devolution and devolved governments.

His made a firm commitment to the people of Kenya to strengthen devolution by implementing specific interventions. First, by undertaking transfer of all outstanding functions constitutionally earmarked to be performed by counties.

He also pledged to implement a framework that ensures that national agencies carrying out devolved or shared mandates operating under a funding-followed-functions principle with respect to devolved functions and then promised to support county governments in improving their capacity to generate their own income and reduce over-reliance of transfers from national government.

Most importantly, he vowed to ensure that shareable revenue is transferred to counties in a timely and predictable manner and in accordance with the law. Finally, he undertook to transfer funds owed to beneficiary communities under the mining act 2016 and the Petroleum act 2019, and to collaborate with counties to increase the capacity of such communities to benefit from extractive resources.

## Exhibitions

The inclusion of exhibitions running concurrently with panel sessions featuring various public and private institutions is a great way to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among different stakeholders. NACOSTI joined efforts with National Research Fund to participate in exhibitions from 15th August to 19th August, 2023. The collaboration provided NACOSTI with an excellent opportunity to showcase its services, projects, and programs while effectively communicating its key messages to a receptive audience of esteemed stakeholders.

Furthermore, the fact that NACOSTI also provided space for Moi University, CEMASTEIA, and Kabarak University to display their innovations demonstrates a spirit of cooperation and knowledge exchange among educational and research institutions.

Overall, the conference appears to have been a valuable platform for networking, learning, and sharing insights related to devolution and local-level economic development. It's commendable that NACOSTI played an active role in enhancing the visibility of both its organization and partner institutions. We took advantage to initiate discussions with potential partners from Private Sector and County Governments towards advancing our core mandate of Resource Mobilization.

## Photo gallery for the Exhibitions.



Figure 27: At the Devolution Conference, we hosted the County Government of Nyeri Governor, Hon. Mutahi Kahiga at our stand to showcase some of our work in RST&I.



Figure 28: Dr. Mercy Wahome CEO - KUCCPS at our Stand



## OTHER PICTORIALS



Figure 29: : Dr. Joseph Wahome - Chief Officer Health Meru County and other members of the county, inquired on the process of establishing their Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committees at our stand



Figure 30: A brief chat with representatives from the Ministry of Health discussing regulations on Health research



Figure 31: With the MCAs from Kiambu County



Figure 32: With Dr. Vundi of State department of Devolution



## NACOSTI EXHIBITS AT THE 2023 ASK SHOW IN MOMBASA



Figure 33: Group Photo

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) made a significant presence at the prestigious Annual Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show in Mombasa from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The theme of this year's show was "Promoting climate smart agriculture and trade initiatives for long-term economic growth."

NACOSTI, being a key player in promoting science and technology in Kenya, was eager to participate in this event to highlight its role in fostering innovation and research. The organization set up an

impressive exhibit that showcased its commitment to advancing science and technology for the betterment of Kenyan society. The exhibit featured various displays and interactive demonstrations. It included cutting-edge research projects, innovations, and technological advancements in fields such as food security, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

### Food Security

- Eco -Starch innovation converting grass to human food.

### Healthcare

- Respiratory Infection – Breath Analyzer Testing Kit

### Environmental Sustainability

- Importance of Carbon Sequestration in Aquatic Systems for Climate change Mitigation, Environment Conservation and Economic Purposes

NACOSTI representatives were on hand to engage with visitors, answer questions, and provide information about the importance of scientific research and technological innovation in addressing critical challenges facing the country.

The 2023 ASK Show in Mombasa provided an excellent platform for NACOSTI to connect with researchers, entrepreneurs, and the general public, fostering a greater appreciation for the vital role that science and technology play in Kenya's development.



## PICTORIAL





## NACOSTI EXHIBITS AT THE 2023 ASK NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR



Figure 34: Group Photo

The 2023 Nairobi International Trade Fair N.I.T.F took place from September 25th to October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Jamhuri Show Ground, Nairobi. Among the key participants was the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). Under the theme "Promoting climate smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable economic growth," the 2023 N.I.T.F underscored the pressing need for addressing climate change and promoting sustainable economic development, particularly in the context of agriculture and trade. The theme served as a rallying point for all participants to collaborate and contribute to a more resilient and environmentally conscious future.

NACOSTI disseminated its valuable outcomes of research in the field of climate-smart agriculture for long-term economic growth. Among the programmes were the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the African Academy of Sciences (AFRA). NACOSTI also showcased local innovations in food security, highlighting the "Eco-Starch - grass for food" innovation invented by Kabarak University.

Furthermore, NACOSTI advocated for the importance of Institutional Scientific and Ethics Committees (ISERCs) in ensuring that research on public safety and health ethics is disseminated in a timely and beneficial manner to the citizens. NACOSTI showcased knowledge dissemination outputs related to research licensing, registration of research institutions, monitoring and evaluation, and e-Repository of research reports.

NACOSTI recognizes the immense value of collaboration in advancing Research, Science, Technology, and Innovation (RSTI) priorities. NACOSTI was keen to identify and engage organizations that share aligned RSTI priority areas. One notable initiative was the advocacy for bilateral engagement in research, science, technology, and innovation between Kenya and Japan through the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

The 2023 Nairobi International Trade Fair offered a unique platform for NACOSTI to demonstrate its dedication to promoting science, technology, and innovation for the sustainable development of Kenya.



## PICTORIAL



### KENYA IS THE BEST INVESTMENT HUB IN AFRICA, US ENVOY MEG WHITMAN SAYS



The US government has outlined some of the issues that the government needs to implement to woo more investments and strengthen the devolved system of governance, even as its ambassador to Kenya, Ms. Meg Whitman, spoke highly of Kenya's investment opportunities, terming it as the best investment destination in Africa.

Among the raft of measures include a review of its tax policy, a strengthened fight against corruption, and attractive trade policies. The envoy said that, although there are some strides in the fight against corruption, the government needs to put in more effort in containing the vice, noting that it undermines equal participation and erodes public investment trust.

"President Willian Ruto has cracked down on corruption by calling our government agencies that engage in unscrupulous practices and firing government officials involved in corruption but there is a lot to be done to contain the vice," she noted.

According to Ms. Whitman, Kenya's tax policy needs to be reviewed to make it attractive for local and international investors.

"Kenya must have consistent and transparent and fairly administered national tax policy to attract and retain direct investments and accelerate economic development," She stated.

"Tax rates don't need to be lowest but need to be most consistent... the recent finance bill had many changes that will take the country 10 years to make tax bankable," she said in her address at the official opening of the devolution conference in Eldoret.

She described Kenya as an investment and technology hub, revealing that the two countries are involved in developing a



bilateral agreement which is likely to be concluded by the end of the year.

“Kenya is the main export market for the US and there are several opportunities for investment for the US considering that Kenya is a regional financial, logistics and technology hub for the East Africa region,” Ms. Whitman said.

She noted that Kenya’s stable democracy, efficient infrastructural development in transport including the standard gauge railway and the vibrant air transport, was key in attracting investors. She reiterated her earlier stated stance that last year’s General Election passed the credibility test.

“The 2022 General Election was the most credible election in Kenya history and results were upheld by the Supreme Court and Kenya power was transferred peacefully at the time,” said Whitman.

Safaricom CEO Alex Ndegwa said that the firm had partnered with county government on digital transformation to enhance delivery of services in various sectors, including health and technology.

“Recently, we launched the MyCounty App to accelerate access to information and technological transfer and 14 counties are on board,” said Mr. Ndegwa.

Source: <https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/uasin-gishu/kenya-best-investment-hub-africa-us-envoy-meg-whitman-4338056>

## MMUST LAUNCHES NEW BSC. BIOSAFETY & BIOSECURITY




The International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) is pleased to announce the launch of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology’s (MMUST) new undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Biosafety & Biosecurity program. Developed in collaboration with the IFBA, and with technical expertise from the University of British Columbia’s Department of Safety & Risk Services, this unique degree program represents a milestone towards a future sustainable workforce by formalizing the biosafety & biosecurity career path within the higher education system. Strategically placed in Kenya, MMUST’s BSc. in Biosafety & Biosecurity not only serves youth interested in pursuing a



professional biosafety career across the African region but globally as well.


## Undergraduate BSc. Degree in Biosafety & Biosecurity

Making a Difference in Global Health Security



### Lead the way with a degree in Biosafety and Biosecurity from MMUST

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's (MMUST) new undergraduate BSc. program in Biosafety & Biosecurity is a collaborative effort with the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) and the only one of its kind globally. The program is designed to meet the growing demand for qualified biosafety & biosecurity professionals to support national and global health preparedness and response.



#### Program Highlights



This degree program combines theoretical with practical learning to give you an in-depth understanding, extensive knowledge and skills in biosafety and biosecurity. Students are provided with a diverse range of courses covering topics such as biological risk assessment & mitigation, laboratory design & biocontainment, biological non-proliferation, and cyberbiosecurity. You will also have the opportunity to learn from international biosafety experts from around the world.

#### What is Biosafety & Biosecurity?



Biosafety and biosecurity refer to the safe and secure handling of infectious disease agents and other biological materials in order to protect the laboratory workforce and wider community. These principles and procedures not only protect people, but also protect animals and the environment as well from harmful pathogenic biological agents.

#### What can I do with this degree?

Pursuing a career in biosafety and biosecurity gives you the chance to have a meaningful impact on global health security. After earning your bachelor in biosafety and biosecurity, you may go on to pursue career options in diagnostic or research laboratories, disease outbreak response, synthetic biology, public & animal health policy, and other related fields.

Scan the QR code for further details on the program admission requirements and how to apply

In partnership with

Source: <https://internationalbiosafety.org/mmust-launches-new-bsc-biosafety-biosecurity/>

## AFRICA'S SUSTAINABLE GROWTH HINGES ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION: EXPERTS 2023



ADDIS ABABA, March 4 (Xinhua) — Achieving Africa's sustainable growth requires leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight multidimensional vulnerabilities, experts have emphasized.

They made the call during a session on science, technology, and innovation (STI) on the margins of the Ninth session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development that was held in a hybrid format in Niamey, the capital of Niger on Thursday, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) said in a statement issued Friday.

According to the UNECA, the experts emphasized the crucial role of STI as a key driver and enabler for ensuring economic growth, improving well-being, mitigating the effects of climate change, and safeguarding the environment.

They underscored the need to strengthen national and regional STI ecosystems by fostering innovation, promoting entrepreneurship, and investing in research and development.

The experts agreed that Africa can harness the potential of STI to accelerate its socioeconomic progress and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and the African Union's Agenda 2063.



Figure 35: The file photo shows people taking part in the Technology Fair and Forum for the Middle East and Africa in Cairo, Egypt, on Nov. 7, 2021. (Xinhua/Wang Dongzhen)

“We need a clear political will from governments to ensure science, technology, and innovation is a reality. By doing so, our education systems will be capacitated to deliver knowledge that is vital to solving Africa’s sustainability challenges,” the statement quoted Niger’s Minister of Higher Education and Research Mamoudou Djibo.

The experts highlighted that despite advances in STI, significant gaps remain in bridging the scientific and technological divide between developed countries and Africa.

The highly uneven global distribution of scientific capacity and access to knowledge threatens to derail the goal of leaving no one behind, which is the central and transformative promise of Agenda 2030, the experts noted.

Namibia’s Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technologies Emma Theophilus, on her part, underscored the need that national systems need to be strengthened.

“Strengthening our national systems for STI is a key game changer for rapid structural transformation in Africa. Leveraging digital transformation can achieve a stronger, smarter, and more inclusive recovery,” she said.

According to the UNECA, over the last decade, Africa has embarked on a trajectory to strengthen its science, technology, and innovation capacity.

Source:

<https://english.news.cn/20230304/acd2d81d36954d88b407b5f7ace073ef/c.html>



**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (NACOSTI)**

Upper Kabete, Off Waiyaki Way, P.O. Box 30623 – 00100, Nairobi, Kenya

TEL: 020 400 7000, 0713 788787, 0735 404245; Email: [info@nacosti.go.ke](mailto:info@nacosti.go.ke) ; Website: [www.nacosti.go.ke](http://www.nacosti.go.ke)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Licensing of Research in Kenya**

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation is established by the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Act, No. 28 of 2013, Revised in 2014 (the Act) as a State Corporation. The Commission **regulates and assures quality in Science, Technology and Innovation Sector and advises the Government in matters related thereto**. In this regard, the Act stipulates seventeen (17) functions of the Commission. Among the functions of the Commission, Section 6(1)(f) of the STI Act 2014 [2013] specifies that the **Commission shall accredit research institutes and approve all Scientific research in Kenya**.

Consequently, Section 12(3) of the Act requires that **any person undertaking or intending to undertake research in science and technology in the country, or who accesses, handles, or transfers any material or technology or moves it within, from or into the country, shall apply to the Commission for the grant of a licence in accordance with the Act**.

Section 12(5) of the Act further **directs that no licence shall be granted** by the Commission for any research involving activities which;

- (a) may **adversely affect the culture of any community** in Kenya;
- (b) may **adversely affect the environment**;
- (c) may **result in the exploitation of intellectual property rights of communities** to their traditional knowledge.

- (d) may, in the view of the Commission, **adversely affect the lives of Kenyans**.

Section 13(1) of the Act reinforces Section 12(5) by directing that the Commission shall, upon receipt of an application under section 12, evaluate the application, and if **satisfied that the conduct of the research is beneficial to the country, and that the research shall not adversely affect any aspect of the nature, environment or the security of the country**, issue to the applicant a licence in the prescribed form.

Pursuant thereto, members of the public are hereby notified that according to the Science, Technology and Innovation Act 2014 [2013], Scientific Research in Kenya must be approved and licensed by the Commission.

As stipulated in Section 15 of the Act, any person who accesses, handles, transacts, transfers or moves any specified technology or any material necessary for scientific research within, into or from Kenya without a licence issued under this Act; or contravenes the provisions of Section 12 of the Act, **commits an offence** and shall, in addition to any other penalty which may be provided for in this Act or any other written law, be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years, or both.

For further clarification kindly contact the Commission, or visit online services at <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke/>

**PROF. WALTER O. OYAWA, PhD**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**NACOSTI is ISO 9001:2015 Certified**



## SERVICE CHARGES

### Fees/Charges for Research Licensing

**Table 1: Current fees/charges for Research Licensing**

| No | Category of Research License                                       | Fees/charges |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1) | Kenya Citizens: Diploma / Undergraduate                            | Ksh. 100     |
|    | Kenya Citizens: MA/MSc   | Ksh. 1,000   |
|    | Kenya Citizens: PhD  | Ksh. 2,000   |
|    | Kenya Citizens: Individual / Post Doctoral                         | Ksh. 5,000   |
|    | Public Institutions  | Ksh. 10,000  |
|    | Private Institutions   | Ksh. 20,000  |
|    |  |              |
| 2) | EAC Citizens: Diploma / Undergraduate                              | Ksh. 100     |
|    | EAC Citizens: MA/MSc   | Ksh. 1,000   |
|    | EAC Citizens: PhD  | Ksh. 2,000   |
|    | EAC Citizens: Individual / Post Doctoral                           | Ksh. 5,000   |
|    |  |              |
| 3) | Rest of Africa: Diploma / Undergraduate                            | Ksh. 200     |
|    | Rest of Africa: MA/MSc   | Ksh. 2,000   |
|    | Rest of Africa: PhD  | Ksh. 4,000   |
|    | Rest of Africa: Individual / Post Doctoral / Non-academic Doctoral | Ksh. 10,000  |
|    |  |              |
| 4) | Non-Africans: Diploma / Undergraduate                              | US\$ 150     |
|    | Non-Africans: MA/MSc   | US\$ 350     |
|    | Non-Africans: PhD  | US\$ 400     |
|    | Non-Africans: Individual / Post Doctoral / Non-academic            | US\$ 500     |

### Notes:

1. Non-Kenyans in local institutions with work permits and/or Permanent Resident Permits to pay same as Kenya citizens.
2. Students in local institutions of higher learning pay same as citizens.
3. The Supervisor may apply on behalf of a class undertaking Diploma or Degree course, however the service cost will be dependent on the number of students

### Fees/Charges pertaining to Research Institutions

**Table 2: Current fees/charges for Registration of Research Institutions, Accreditation of Research Programmes, and Monitoring and Evaluation of Research Institutions**

| No. | Services   | Current fee in KES  |
|-----|--|---|
| 1)  | Registration of Research Institutions                          | 250,000   |
| 2)  | Accreditation of Research Programmes                           | 250,000   |
| 3)  | Inspection, Monitoring and Evaluation of Research Institutions | A basic fee of 275,000 will be levied per inspection in addition to any other additional costs that will be related to the inspection |

## DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR STAKEHOLDER INPUT, COMMENTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) is established by STI Act 2013(Rev. 2014) with the objective of regulating and assuring quality in the science, technology and innovation sector and advise the Government in matters related thereto. Further, Section 6(1)(p) of the STI Act mandates the Commission to develop and enforce codes, guidelines and regulations in accordance with the policy determined under this Act for the governance, management and maintenance of standards and quality in research systems. In this regard, the Commission has developed draft guidelines as listed below, and hereby invites stakeholders for their written input, comments, suggestions and recommendations by September 2021. In this regard, the Commission has developed draft STI Priorities, and Guidelines as listed below, and has circulated the same to stakeholders for their input, comments, suggestions, and recommendations. The Commission therefore reminds stakeholders who have not yet submitted their written input, suggestions and recommendations to the Commission for consideration to do so by latest 30th November, 2021. The documents may be downloaded at NACOSTI Website [www.nacosti.go.ke](http://www.nacosti.go.ke)

- **DRAFT “NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND REGULATION OF RESEARCHERS IN KENYA”.**  
The Guideline is in line with Section 15 of the Legal Notice 106 of 2014, of the STI Act 2013, titled “STI (Registration and Accreditation of Research Institutions) Regulations, 2014”, which mandates the Commission [to register, license and regulate researchers in the Scheduled Science areas](#).
- **DRAFT “NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITATION OF ACADEMIC JOURNALS IN KENYA”.**  
The Guideline is in line with Section 26 of the STI Act which specifies that “[Research findings and information regarding research systems shall be stored or disseminated, utilized or applied in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Commission from time to time](#)”.



## NACOSTI STAFF NEWS

### NACOSTI BIDS FAREWELL TO STAFF



*Mr. Komen Chepkonga,  
Senior Analyst, Physical & Industrial  
Sciences*

Mr. Komen Chepkonga, a member of the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI), retired from service.

Mr Chepkonga had been an invaluable member of the NACOSTI team as a Senior Analyst in the Physical & Industrial Sciences department, making significant contributions to the field during his tenure. His retirement marked the end of an era and the beginning of the next stage of his life.

## CURRENT NACOSTI STAFF



*Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, PhD  
Director General/CEO*



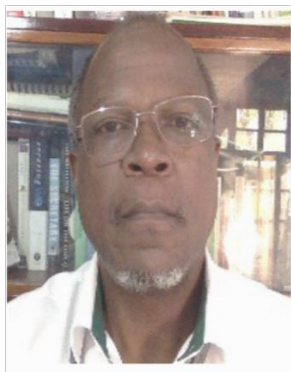
*Dr. David Njubi  
Ag. Director, Advisory,  
Standards, and Licensing*



*Mr. Gideon Kirui  
Ag. Director Corporate Services*



*Mr. Godfrey Kalerwa  
Deputy Director Research  
Standards and Licensing,*



*Dr. David Otwoma  
Chief Analyst,  
Physical & Industrial Sciences*



*Ms. Jennifer Murgor  
Deputy Director,  
Human Resource*



*Dr. Benson Kinyagia  
Ag. Chief Analyst,  
Biological and Health Sciences*



*Ms. Margaret Muthee  
Chief Analyst, Humanities and  
Social Sciences*



*Mr. Abdallah Bii  
Deputy Director,  
Legal Services*



*Mr. Cyrus Kamau  
Chief Analyst, Infrastructure  
Communication, and  
Information Sciences*





*Ms. Yasmin Hussein  
Deputy Director,  
Supply Chain Management*



*Dr. David Ngigi  
Ag. Deputy Director,  
Institution Registration and  
Accreditation*



*Ms. Evelyn Mbaabu  
Principal Analyst, Humanities  
& Social Sciences*



*Mr. Julius Mwangi  
Senior Analyst,  
Earth and Space Sciences*



*Ms. Charity Muchoki  
Senior Analyst,  
Agriculture and Natural  
Resources Sciences*



*Ms. Teresia Nyawira  
Senior Analyst,  
Biological and Health Sciences*



*Dr. Mary Onsarigo  
Senior Analyst,  
Biological and Health Sciences*



*Mr. Stephen Situma  
Senior Analyst,  
Physical & Industrial Sciences*



*Mr. Muhanji Ambani  
Senior Administration Officer*



*Ms. Eunita Ogindo  
Senior Accountant*



*Ms. Mildred Mugambi  
Senior Corporate  
Communications Officer*



*Ms. Ruth Were  
Senior Supply Chain  
Management Officer*



*Mr. Denis Yegon  
Senior ICT Officer*



*Ms. Lilian Awala  
Licencing, Monitoring &  
Evaluation Officer*



*Mr. David Amiani  
Licencing, Monitoring &  
Evaluation Officer*



*Ms. Joan Chepleting  
Research Quality Assurance  
Officer*



*Mr. Steven Indimuli  
Research Quality Assurance  
Officer*



*Ms. Rael Adhiambo  
Analyst,  
Earth and Space Sciences*



*Ms. Pauline Kuyan  
Accountant*



*Mr. Ezekiah Gatheru  
Analyst,  
Infrastructure, Information &  
Communication Sciences*



*Mr. Rollex Opondo  
Records Management Officer*



*Mr. Phelix Awuor  
Records Management Officer*



*Mr. Timothy Mutanda  
Internal Auditor*



*Mr. Cyprian Karithi  
Records Management Officer*





*Ms. Alice Otworu  
Senior Office Administrator*



*Ms. Wairimu Ikua  
Senior Officer Administrator*



*Ms. Christine Kayesi  
Senior Officer Administrator*



*Ms. Millicent Okuku  
Officer Administrator*



*Ms. Nahida Annar  
Officer Administrator*



*Ms. Ruth Asati  
Senior Customer Care Assistant*



*Ms. Lourine Auma  
Accounts Assistant*



*Ms. Kulah Abdikadir  
Account Assistant*



*Mr. Paul Anuro  
Senior Driver*



*Mr. Pius Samoei  
Senior Driver*



*Mr. Abdi Ibrahim  
Senior Driver*

## KENYA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM

### Kiswahili

1

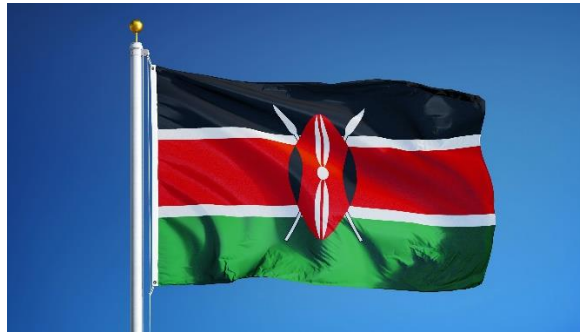
Ee Mungu nguvu yetu  
Ilete baraka kwetu  
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi  
Natukae na undugu  
Amani na uhuru  
Raha tupate na ustawi.

2

Amkeni ndugu zetu  
Tufanye sote bidi  
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu  
Nchi yetu ya Kenya  
Tunayoipenda  
Tuwe tayari kuilinda

3

Natujenge taifa letu  
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu  
Kenya istahili heshima  
Tuungane mikono  
Pamoja kazini  
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani



### English

1

O God of all creation  
Bless this our land and nation  
Justice be our shield and defender  
May we dwell in unity  
Peace and liberty  
Plenty be found within our borders.

2

Let one and all arise  
With hearts both strong and true  
Service be our earnest endeavour  
And our homeland of Kenya  
Heritage of splendour  
Firm may we stand to defend

3

Let all with one accord  
In common bond united  
Build this our nation together  
And the glory of Kenya  
The fruit of our labour  
Fill every heart with

## THE EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY ANTHEM



**1.** Ee Mungu twaomba ulinde  
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki  
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani  
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

### Chorus

*Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde  
Tuwajibike tuimarike  
Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu  
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.*

**2.** Uzalendo pia mshikamano  
Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu  
Natulinde Uhuru na Amani  
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

**3.** Viwandani na hata mashambani  
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini  
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali  
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.





***NACOSTI HOTEL AND CONFERENCE***

**National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI),**  
Upper Kabete, Off Waiyaki Way  
P.O. Box 30623 – 00100, Nairobi, Kenya  
TEL: 020 400 7000, 0713 788787, 0735 404245  
Email: [info@nacosti.go.ke](mailto:info@nacosti.go.ke)  
Website: [www.nacosti.go.ke](http://www.nacosti.go.ke)