



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL TREASURY & PLANNING

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 10th February, 2021, Nairobi, Kenya

TREASURY LAUNCHES KES 3.4 BN GREEN CLIMATE PROJECT

TWENDE Project Will Benefit 620,000 People Across 11 Counties

NAIROBI, 10th February, 2021 – National Treasury & Planning Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Ambassador Ukur Yatani, today launched the 5-year, USD 34 million TWENDE project under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help reduce the cost of climate change-induced drought on the national economy.

In his remarks, read by the National Treasury & Planning Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS), Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie, Ambassador Yatani noted:

“The TWENDE project will indeed reduce the cost of climate change induced drought on Kenya’s economy by increasing resilience of the livestock and other land use sectors in restored and effectively governed rangeland ecosystems, as identified in our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and development priorities”.

The TWENDE – Towards Ending Drought Emergencies project is an ecosystem based adaptation in Kenya’s Arid and Semi Arid rangelands that will run for five years funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), The National Treasury and other implementing partners. It will be executed in three components by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Irrigation and Conservation International (CI), respectively.

Ambassador Yatani, further reiterated the government’s commitment to green climate finance, through the Green Climate Fund:

“The Government of Kenya believes that the innovative mechanism presented by the GCF will enable the country access climate finance and facilitate the implementation of the **Big Four Agenda** and **Vision 2030**, with a *climate lens*, that will in turn ensure effective climate mitigation and adaptation of the economy”.

Also speaking during the high-level launch, the IUCN Regional Director for Eastern & Southern Africa, Luther Anukur, emphasized the impact of drought due to climate change, while reaffirming the IUCN’s commitment to support the government work and those of its partners:



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK,
FISHERIES & IRRIGATION



GREEN CLIMATE FUND



CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL TREASURY & PLANNING

“With the continued impact of climate change, Africa is facing more frequent droughts and floods. This new project TWENDE seeks to contribute to Kenya’s improved adaptation to climate change by working with the people and stakeholders of the arid and semi-arid regions of Kenya. We are extremely pleased to see this project begin and IUCN is committed to work together with various government, private sector and NGO partners for its successful implementation”.

On his part, Conservation International’s Senior Vice President for Africa Field Division, Michael O’Brien-Onyeka noted:

“By leveraging local knowledge, science, favourable policy and private sector engagement, people and nature can thrive in these dryland ecosystems despite a changing climate”.

In their remarks, the representative from various government sectors, private sector and NGO partners acknowledged that the frequency and intensity of drought is increasing as a result of climate change. They reiterated their commitment for joint action to strengthen adaptation and build the country’s resilience to the impact of climate change.

About TWENDE

TWENDE is a five-year project co-funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Government of Kenya and other partners. Total project budget is: USD 34,542,982 (GCF funding: USD 23,152,082; Co-financing by Government of Kenya and partners: USD 11,390,900).

The project will be implemented in 11 counties: Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Kajiado, Kitui, Makueni, Tharaka-Nithi, Meru and Taita Taveta and will benefit 620,000 people in 104,000 households while protecting or restore 500,000 hectares of rangelands in a landscape of 2.5 million hectares.

Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) occupy 89% of Kenya’s landscape and are home to about 36% of the total human population and 70% of the national livestock herd. Livestock contributions account for 80% of household incomes in arid lands and 65% in semi-arid lands. Drought has been shown to reduce economic growth in Kenya by 2.8% per year, with 72% of the losses concentrated in the livestock sector.

