

Leave wholesome planet better than you found it for our successors

THURSDAY JULY 11 2019



Elephants in Imenti Forest in Meru on January 9, 2016. We have to integrate the protection of wildlife and wild lands into national and regional planning so as to secure the economic, cultural and environmental value of Africa's unique natural heritage. PHOTO | KENNEDY KIMANTHI | NATION MEDIA GROUP

In Summary

- The government, the commercial sector and civil society all have a responsibility to create an environment of interacting forces for development.
- Kenya has shown continuous and unwavering efforts to protect the environment and preserve its natural resources
- The AKDN is a private network of 11 commercial as well as not-for-profit agencies that has a 100-year legacy in Kenya.
- Man is God's noblest creation to whom He has entrusted the stewardship of all that is on earth.



By AZIM LAKHANI

[More by this Author](#)

There is a photograph of a tree in my office, taken by Prince Hussain Aga Khan and used in a campaign where the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) planted more than 10 million trees in Kenya to support the government's pledge to increase forest cover.

70,000 FARMS

It often reminds me of my presentation at a World Bank consultative meeting in Johannesburg on its "World Development Report 2000/1" on values, norms and poverty themes. Among the AKDN ethics and values I covered was stewardship, collective responsibility to leave the planet better than we found it.

I came across many more examples of how this notion is reality, not rhetoric, within AKDN in Kenya. For example, 40 years ago, Serena Hotels pioneered a form of tourism combining meeting development objectives with economic sustainability, viability and conservation of the environment. Releasing over 50,000 hatchlings into the sea to protect turtles, maintaining a butterfly house to protect species and launching Kenya's first fully solar-powered, off-grid lodge at Kilaguni are testimony to this. Recently, the Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications produced four seasons of *Giving Nature a Voice*, a documentary series by eight-time Emmy Award winner Andrew Tkach that has been aired weekly on NTV.

A pioneering initiative by Property Development and Management, Vienna Court, is the first green building in the region, with Leadership and Environmental Design certification from the US Green Building Council.

The Industrial Promotion Services (IPS) ensure over 70,000 farms benefit from sustainable farming practices, for example, through over 10,000 water pans used to harvest and store rainwater for irrigation. IPS demonstrate the 'circular economy' — waste from one initiative becoming an input for another.

ALSO READ



Study: Varsities prefer electoral college vote



Uhuru mulls Cabinet reshuffle after Rotich's fall



Rise and tumble of the 'mumbling moneyman'



Bullets removed from Meru Speaker's driver

FRAGILE BEAUTY

Schools of the Aga Khan Education Service and the Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa ensure that future generations are prepared for stewardship, through engagement. Examples include a biodigester that processes gray water from showers

and toilets to maintain their gardens; research projects that address air pollution, water purification and global warming; sustainability initiatives like the study of hydroponics and affordable container housing; and science projects that address food-waste management and rainwater harvesting.

Kenya has shown continuous and unwavering efforts to protect the environment and preserve its natural resources, as exemplified by the Ban Plastics and the Clean Seas Campaigns; co-chairing of the UN General Assembly Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); and hosting the international Sustainable Blue Economy Conference.

AKDN and the Ismaili Community have shown solidarity with these efforts, for example by hosting Fragile Beauty, an exhibition of Prince Hussain's marine photographs depicting the hidden beauty that is at risk underwater; and the Aga Khan Council hosting Kenya's creative and innovative Flip Flopi dhow (a seaworthy vessel, made from waste plastic, that sailed from Lamu to Zanzibar) at its premises in Parklands.

Others include an expert panel discussion, "How do we preserve our natural assets while building the economy?", in the presence of the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry for the Environment and Forestry.

STEWARDSHIP

The government, the commercial sector and civil society all have a responsibility to create an environment of interacting forces for development.

The AKDN is a private network of 11 commercial as well as not-for-profit agencies that has a 100-year legacy in Kenya, reaching millions of Kenyans annually without regard to gender, race, ethnicity or religion. It has a presence in the health, education, social development, finance, economic development, media, hospitality, culture, heritage and research sectors in over 33 counties. It directly employs over 16,000 staff, with just under one per cent expatriates.

His Highness the Aga Khan is the Imam (spiritual leader) of the world's Shia Ismaili Muslims, and the Founder and Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network. In Washington, D.C., in January 2005, on receiving the National Building Museum's Vincent Scully Prize, he said: "In Islam, the Holy Quran says that man is God's noblest creation to whom He has entrusted the stewardship of all that is on earth. Each generation must leave for its successors a wholesome and sustainable social and physical environment."

As we mark the 62nd year in office, the Ismaili Imam, by His Highness today, these examples highlight stewardship by AKDN's 175 initiatives in Kenya.

Dr Lakhani is the Diplomatic Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network in Kenya.



ADVERTISEMENT

In the headlines

Popular Lwang'ni eateries demolished - PHOTOS, VIDEO



Kenya Railways bulldozers moved in to clear the land for port expansion on Tuesday night.

Oparanya: County employees may go without salaries



Council of Governors chairman has warned of tough times ahead for county workers.

Why courts treat evidence from a dead person with a lot of caution

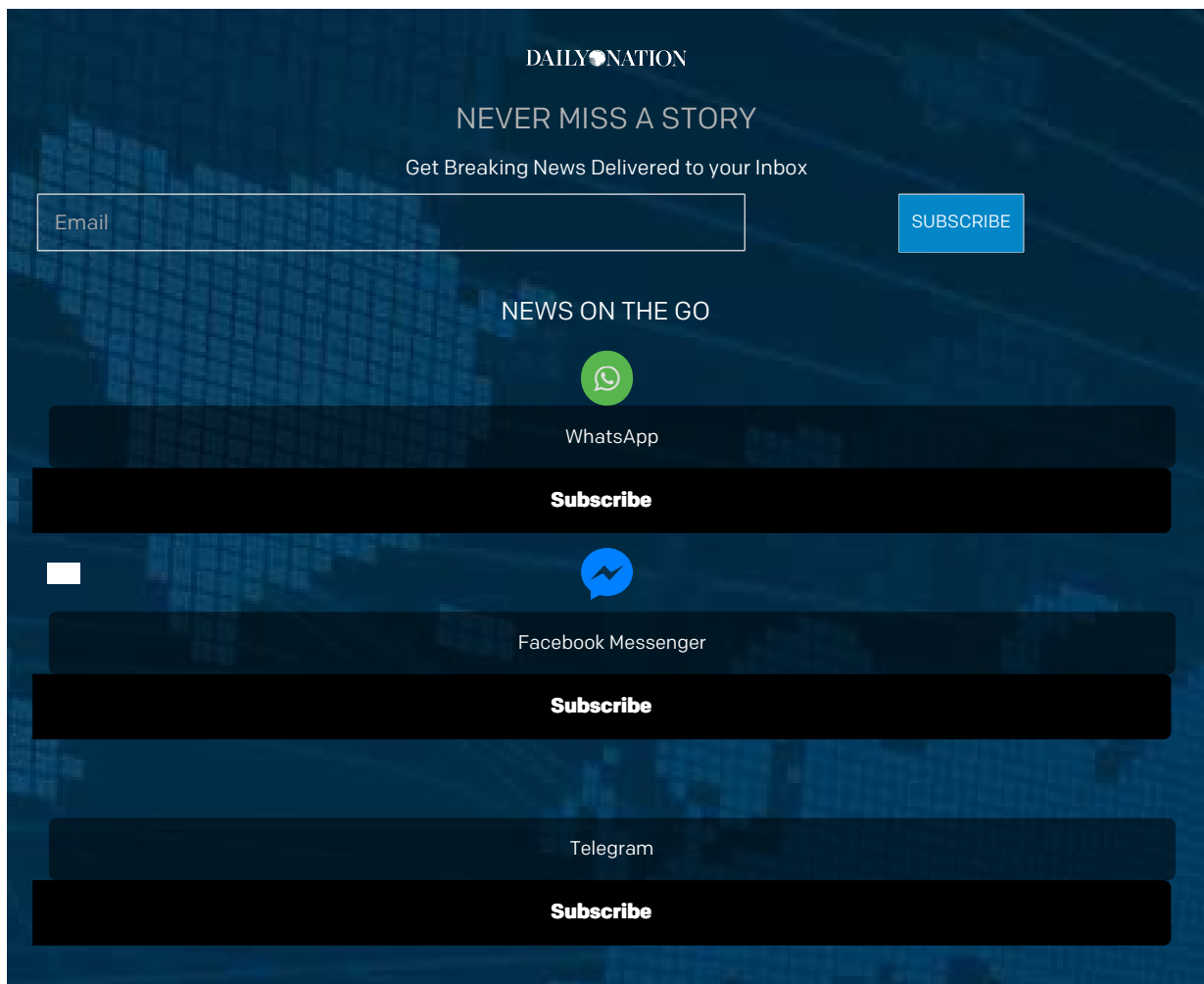
Uhuru mulls Cabinet reshuffle after Rotich's fall

CAR CLINIC: If your Toyota Fielder is not broken, don't fix it

Rise and tumble of the 'mumbling moneyman'

Rotich's corruption case a first in Kenya

Tokyo confident of hosting the best ever Olympics



DAILY NATION


NEVER MISS A STORY

Get Breaking News Delivered to your Inbox


Email

SUBSCRIBE


NEWS ON THE GO

 WhatsApp

Subscribe

 Facebook Messenger

Subscribe

 Telegram

Subscribe

 LATEST
OPED

-
- 1 [EDITORIAL](#) EDITORIAL: Prepare early for Olympics
 - 2 [COMMENTARIES](#) SHAW: It's how Uhuru scores in corruption fight that will determine his legacy
 - 3 [COMMENTARIES](#) GACHIRE: Conservation need not curtail industrial growth

- 4 [EDITORIAL](#) EDITORIAL: Stop dubious pending bills in the counties
- 5 [COMMENTARIES](#) KISERO: Arror and Kimwarer dams scam shows Treasury has lost control
- 6 [CUTTING EDGE](#) THE CUTTING EDGE-24-7-2019
- 7 [WALUBENGO](#) WALUBENGO: Are Punguza Mizigo signatures valid?
- 8 [COMMENTARIES](#) AKOTH: Development, governance are linked
- 9 [EDITORIAL](#) EDITORIAL: Act decisively on graft, the citizens are tired
- 10 [COMMENTARIES](#) NGATIA: Economic diplomacy key to business

LATEST
VIDEOS



Kenya Airway increases number of flight to Mombasa, Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro



Council of Governors in court over division of revenue bill : FULL COURT PROCEEDING



CS Rotich and other arraigned suspects deny all charges on Arror, Kimwarer dams scandal



Children with special needs using sports discipline, taekwondo || Beacon of hope



Kawangware United 0-4 Meltah Kabiria || Super 8 Premier League



Vapour FC beat Escalator in 7th edition of the Dagoretti North Simba Sрати Cup



LATEST NEWS



Sonko threatens 'non-performing' cabinet members with the sack, again



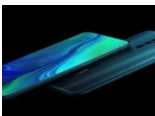
Why KNH is seeking these patients' relatives



Lupita's dad reveals why Oscar winner always 'sneaks' into the country



Jubilee MP apologises to Tuju over degrading remark against Luo community



Oppo launches Reno series smartphone in Kenyan market



Dams scandal: Treasury CS Rotich, Thugge released on bail

NEWS

Politics

Africa

World

BUSINESS

Seeds Of Gold

COUNTIES

Coast

Northern

Eastern

Mt Kenya

North Rift

South Rift

Western

Nyanza-Kisii

Nairobi

SPORTS

Football

Athletics

Rugby

Golf

Others

TalkUp

BLOGS & OPINION

Blogs

Commentaries

Editorial

Cartoons

LIFE & STYLE

Art & Culture

Family

Health

Showbiz

Travel

Women & Style

Magazines

VIDEOS

Email

SUBSCRIBE

DAILY  NATION

Apps



Information

- Contact Us
- FAQ
- E-papers
- Privacy Policy
- Terms

NMG Sites

- Pishi
- Lit360
- Nation Transitions
- Nairobi News
- Business Daily
- NTV
- NTV Uganda
- Daily Monitor
- The Citizen
- Mwananchi
- Mwanaspoti
- Taifa Leo
- Swahili Hub
- The EastAfrican
- Nation Media Group