

An important message from  
Karura Forest



Dear Friend of Karura,

**The Friends of Karura  
call for immediate  
end to tree clearance and  
halt of site preparations for  
proposed accommodation  
within Karura Forest**

**Notice No. 2**

As you know, Karura Forest stands as a global beacon of community-led conservation. Since 2010, our partnership with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has seen indigenous cover grow from 25% to over 60%, creating a unique urban sanctuary that now receives 75,000 visits per month.

However, this hard-won progress is currently facing a serious threat.



Without any consultation with FKF as co-managers of the Forest, KFS recently cleared over an acre of tree and shrub cover within the jointly managed forest area, claiming the area is intended for containers to house National Youth Service (NYS) workers looking after seedlings in the expanded KFS tree nursery. The nursery itself is inside the 136-acre KFS Headquarters (as you can see from GoogleEarth imagery, below).

While FKF fully supports the President's 15 Billion Tree Initiative and the expansion of the KFS nursery, it does *not* support a new settlement within the forest.

*Why? Because:*

- **The HQ Alternatives:** The KFS Headquarters enclave has ample space and infrastructure for this temporary housing. The NYS also has its headquarters nearby.
- **Policy Contradiction:** The current *Karura Participatory Forest Management Plan (2021-2026)* specifically stipulates that action shall be taken "...to move the rangers' village from inside the forest to HQ" (p.47). Constructing a *new* settlement flies in the face of this agreed-upon strategy.

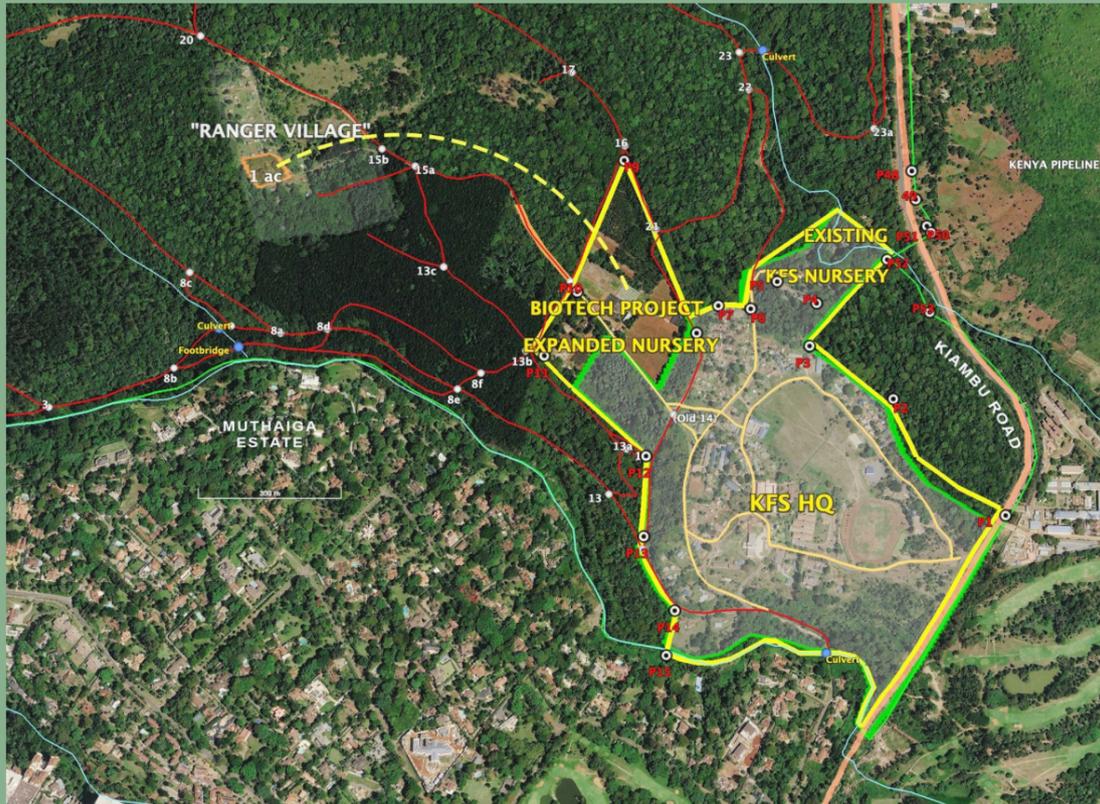
## ***FKF's Position:***

Creating an urban settlement within a sensitive ecological zone jeopardises the ecological integrity and visitor experience we have spent 17 years building. We are currently exploring legal action concerning the proposed new settlement.

## ***How You Can Help:***

We ask our members to back us up. We are calling for:

- An immediate halt to all construction within the forest boundary.
- The relocation of the proposed NYS housing to the established 136-acre KFS Headquarters enclave.



Karura remains "the people's forest" because you have always been willing to speak for it. We will continue to keep you updated as we pursue every legal avenue to protect this priceless sanctuary.

Watch for further updates via email and @karurafriends for FaceBook, InstaGram, and X.

Sincerely,

*The FKF Board*



Friends of Karura is the country's leading Community Forest Association (CFA) operating under the Forest Conservation and Management Act of 2016 establishing CFAs as legal entities that can enter joint management agreements with the state and share management roles.

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