

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.

