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# Water Sector Trust Fund, Kenya

*Financial support for improved access to water and sanitation*

## MEDIA ADVISORY/ BRIEF

Att. NEWS EDITOR

14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### RE: WATER SECTOR TRUST FUND CSR SUPPORT TOWARDS KAKAMEGA FOREST MARATHON ( INGO MARATHON)

Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) is the Kenyan State Corporation mandated to finance water and sanitation services for the poor and underserved communities in rural and urban areas. In the Water Act 2016, The Mandate /Objective of the Fund is to provide conditional and unconditional grants to the Counties and to assist in financing the development of and management of water services in the rural and urban marginalized and underserved areas.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is one of the voluntary activities undertaken by WSTF to enable the fund operate in an economic, social and environmentally sustainable manner. Environmental protection and sustainability are activities that WSTF takes into cognizance when choosing a CSR activity.

This year Water Sector Trust Fund has supported Kakamega Forest Marathon at a sum amount of **Ksh 1,000,000**. The marathon is organized and facilitated by the Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation in Kakamega County. Since the inception of the Marathon, the Fund has always participated in the Marathon but took it a notch higher by increasing its support.

The money donated by the Fund will go towards complimenting the efforts of the Kenya Government and the Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation in restoring and conserving Kakamega Forest, promotion of Research and Development activities as well as community empowerment through financing and skills transfer projects.

Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) invites representatives of the media to attend and cover the Cheque Handing Ceremony that will take place at the WSTF office premise in Upper hill from 10.00am to 10.30am on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**EVENT:** HANDING OF WSTF KSH 1 MILLION CHEQUE TO KAKAMEGA FOREST HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**WHERE:** WSTF OFFICES, FIRST FLOOR, CIC PLAZA, BUILDING ONE, MARA ROAD, UPPERHILL NAIROBI.

**WHEN:** 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017



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**TIME: 10.AM TO 10.30AM**

**PRESS BRIEF: 10.15AM**

## **In Attendance**

Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Hon. Musikari Kombo- Chair of Board of Trustees, Water Sector Trust Fund

Mr. Ismail Shaiye, Chief Executive Officer, Water Sector Trust Fund

Dr. Johnson Murila, Chairman, Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation

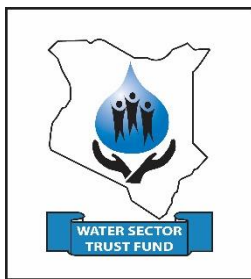
## **KINDLY PROVIDE COVERAGE**

### **CONTACT**

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<http://waterfund.go.ke/press>



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Water Sector Trust Fund

WSTF was first established under the Water Act 2002 as the Water Services Trust Fund with the mandate to provide financing assistance towards water and sanitation projects to underserved and low income rural and urban areas. The Fund has developed four main financing procedures for efficient implementation of its mandate as follows:

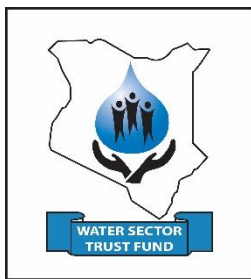
- a) **Rural Investment:** Support towards implementation of water supply and sanitation projects for underserved rural communities. The programme is implemented through water utilities serving rural areas.
- b) **Urban Investment:** Support towards water supply and sanitation projects for low income urban areas. This programme is implemented through the Water Services Providers (WSPs).
- c) **Water Resources Investment:** Support to communities to effectively manage and conserve their water resources within their sub-catchments. The programme is implemented through the Water Resources Users Associations.
- d) **Result Based Financing:** Support towards water and sanitation projects in urban low income areas, financed through loans from Kenyan commercial banks which are then subsidized by WSTF on achievement of agreed outcomes. The programme is financed through the Water Services Providers (WSPs).

### Water Sector Trust Fund Financial Support towards Kakamega Forest Marathon

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is one of the voluntary activities undertaken by WSTF to operate in an economic, social and environmentally sustainable manner. Environmental protection and sustainability are activities that WSTF takes into cognizance when choosing a CSR activity.

Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation is the brain child behind the Kakamega Forest Marathon, an upcoming yearly event held in Kakamega County that seeks to preserve and conserve the only Guinea Congolian Forest in Kenya.

This year Water Sector Trust Fund will support Kakamega Forest Marathon to a total sum of **Ksh 1,000,000**. The marathon is organized and facilitated by the Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation in Kakamega County. Since the inception of the Marathon,



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the Fund has always participated in the Marathon but took it a notch higher by increasing its support. This is key to WSTF's recognition as a **Key Industry Player** in environmental and water resources sustainability in Kenya. As the Water Sector Trust Fund, its core mandate lies **within providing financial support for improved access to water and sanitation, and by supporting this cause will ensure that one of Kenya's water storage and ground water recharge center is conserved and preserved.**

The money donated by the Fund will go towards complimenting the efforts of the Kenya Government and the Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation in restoring and conserving Kakamega Forest, promotion of Research and Development activities as well as community empowerment through financing and skills transfer projects.

## **Brief on the Marathon**

The Kakamega Forest Marathon is an annual event that is a brain child of the Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation, a charitable organization founded in 2014 by a group of professionals that were born in the Kakamega forest ecosystem and work elsewhere in Kenya.

The Foundation was primarily set up with the objective of complimenting the efforts of the Kenya government of restoring and conserving Kakamega Forest, the only Guinea Congolian type rain forest remaining in Kenya today (that continues to be exploited for resources for survival by the communities in the ecosystem) for the larger welfare of the ecosystem through various interventions. The Foundation set up two core intervention funds:-

## **The Conservation Fund**

The fund is to specifically carry out the following initiatives:-

- **Forest Restoration** – through tree planting in the depleted areas by schools, colleges and communities in the forest ecosystem.
- **Forest Conservation** – through tree planting on individual plots adjacent to the forest to provide alternative wood sources to the forest; through education and awareness campaigns on the benefits of forest conservation to schools, colleges and eco system communities.
- **Wise use of forest resources** - through education on the importance of traditional medicinal plants.
- **Research and Development** – to promote and encourage this through partnership with universities and other scientific research institutions globally.
- **Forest Scouts Initiatives** – to guard against forest encroachment and fires.



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- **Forest Agriculture** – to promote forest based agricultural activities like mushroom growing, silkworm rearing, medicinal herbs and bee keeping out of the forest.

## **The Marathon**

The Marathon is part of a wider project to sensitize the world on the need to protect indigenous forests. The Kakamega forest has over the years been exploited and if measures are not put in place to rein in this, there is a risk that we may soon lose the same. The Marathon brings world attention to the cause as well as incorporates the neighbouring community who can then appreciate the need to support and conserve the forest.

The event, dubbed Ingo Marathon, brings Kenya's finest athletes to the heart of East Africa, Kakamega. The Marathon is sanctioned by Athletics Kenya and is internationally recognised. Moreover, The Marathon is listed by IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federation) as a calendar event on their website.