



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch 6, 2024

Monday 29th April – 3rd May, 2024

STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS GATHER FOR CONSERVATION CAREER SYMPOSIUM

On Tuesday 30th April 2024, Karatina University held a career symposium. The symposium was held by the School of Natural Resources in partnership with Save the Elephants among other partners in Conservation. The event was held at the Multipurpose Resource Center, RCH 6. In attendance were the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor P,F&A Prof. Richard Kiai, Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor AR&SA Prof. Hellen Kamiri, the Dean SNRES Dr. Flora Namu, Lecturers and students from Karatina University and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology among others.

Aspiring conservationists and seasoned professionals in conservation came together at the Career symposium. The event provided a platform for the attendees to explore career opportunities, gain insights from industry experts and network with like-minded individuals passionate about conservation.

Speaking during the event the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor P,F&A Prof. Richard Kiai expressed his gratitude to the sponsors and partners of the event. He further stated that the fund received from the partners is spent as expected. He called upon the collaborators to keep engaging with the University for more events. He urged the attendees to actively engage with their future employers.

On the other hand the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor AR&SA Prof. Hellen Kamiri welcomed the guests on behalf of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga. She urged the partners to work together with the University to make an annual event.

She further stated that the university has a vision to establish a center for the students in the School of Natural Resources and called upon the partners to support the institution to achieve the mandate. On behalf of the VC she expressed appreciation for the partnerships and launched the event. .



The audience keenly following on the presentations from the various presenters during the event

The Conservation Career Symposium under the theme “Navigating towards a successful career in conservation” featured a diverse range of activities tailored to cater to the interests and aspirations of participants. Attendees had the opportunity to attend panel discussions, and networking sessions focused on various aspects of conservation work, including wildlife conservation. The young professionals were encouraged to engage in community activities and volunteer to take part in conservation activities. Throughout the day, participants engaged in interactive discussions with experts in the field, exchanged ideas, and learned about developments in conservation work. The symposium also featured a career fair, where attendees had the opportunity to connect with representatives from leading conservation organizations, research institutions such as the Mpala Research Center.



Ms. Mercy Serem an Alumnus of Karatina University from the School Of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies currently at Save the Elephants addressing the students.

Among the partners at the event were: Save The Elephants, Ewaso Lions, Amboselli Trust for the Elephants, The Born Free Foundation, Space for Giants, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Grevy's Zebra Trust, Mpala Research Center and The East African Wild Life Society each offering internship opportunities, job openings, and volunteer positions for aspiring conservationists. Attendees had the chance to learn about the organizations' missions, projects, and initiatives aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

In addition to networking and career exploration, the Conservation Career Symposium provided a platform for participants to gain practical skills and insights through hands-on workshops and training sessions. Topics covered included CV and Cover



The Deputy Vice Chancellors and the Dean SNRES pose for a group with the partners of the event.

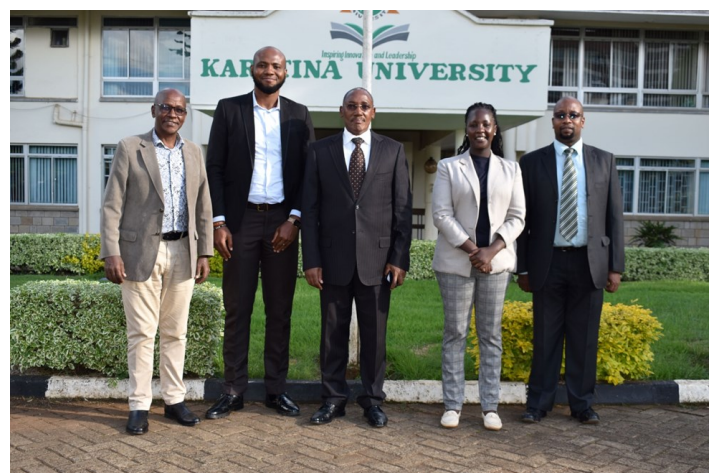
Overall, the Conservation Career Symposium proved to be a valuable opportunity for students and professionals alike to come together, exchange ideas, and chart their paths towards meaningful careers in conservation. As the need for environmental stewardship continues to grow, events like these play a crucial role in nurturing the next generation of conservation leaders and driving positive change for our planet.



PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS GROUP INSPIRES STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Students at Karatina University were treated to a special visit from the Director of International Awards Nigeria and the Presidential Awards chair in Kenya. The group visited the university to mentor and interact with the members of the Presidential Award Club. The visit provided students with a unique opportunity to learn from accomplished leaders and gain valuable insights.

The distinguished guests, including the National Director International Awards Nigeria Mr. Oshoke Joseph Bello and Presidents Awards Kenya Deputy Director Ms. Mary Birgen shared their experiences and wisdom with the eager audience, inspiring them to strive for excellence in their endeavors.



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga poses for a photo with the Presidential Awards Team on his right is the Director International awards Nigeria and on his left Ms. Mary Birgen Deputy Director Presidential awards Kenya.

During the interactive session, the Presidential awards club members had the chance to engage in meaningful discussions with the visiting group, asking questions and seeking advice on a wide range of topics, including leadership, community service, and personal development.

The visit of the Presidential Awards team to Karatina University was a resounding success, providing students with a unique opportunity to learn from accomplished leaders and role models. The interaction with the mentors has not only inspired students to strive for excellence but has also strengthened the bonds between the university and the broader community of leaders committed to making a positive difference in the world.



The visiting team poses for a group photo after the meeting with the members of the Presidential Awards Club at Karatina University.



KARATINA UNIVERSITY EXPLORES COLLABORATION WITH TEA BOARD OF KENYA TO ENHANCE TEA SECTOR

Representatives from Karatina University recently met with officials from the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) to discuss potential collaboration opportunities aimed at enhancing the tea sector in Kenya. Chaired by TBK CEO Mr. Willy Mutai, the meeting saw fruitful discussions on various areas of partnership between the university and the regulatory body.

The meeting, which took place at the Tea Board of Kenya headquarters in Nairobi, was convened at the request of Karatina University's Tea Institute to explore avenues for collaboration with TBK across the tea value chain. Karatina University was represented by Dr. Denis Maina, Director of the Tea Institute, along with Dr. Flora Runji, Dr. Kinya Miriti, and Mr. Phares Ragwa, who highlighted the institution's academic programs, research initiatives, and community outreach efforts.



The CEO Mr. Willy Mutai addressing the members

During the meeting, the Karatina University team delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the university's strengths and capabilities, including human resources and physical infrastructure that could be leveraged for partnership with TBK.

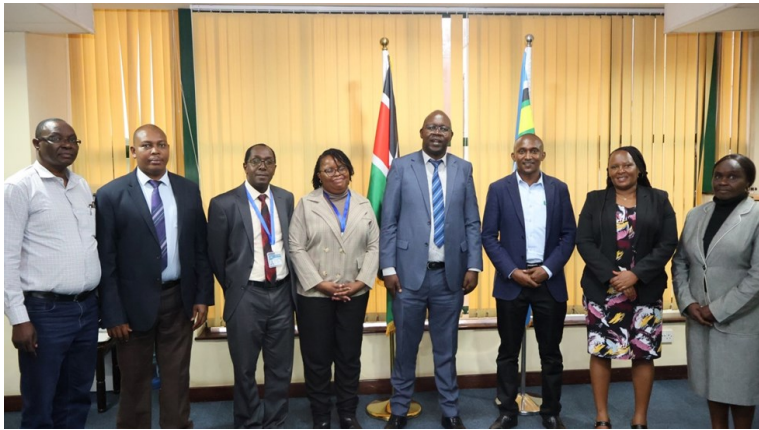
The presentation also shed light on the Tea Institute's programs and activities aimed at addressing challenges and promoting innovation in the tea sector.

Several potential areas for collaboration were identified and discussed during the deliberations. These included capacity building initiatives for stakeholders across the tea value chain, hosting symposia and conferences in the tea sector, and participation in Karatina University's career week to showcase the work of tea sector players to students. Additionally, research collaborations were proposed to address pressing challenges facing the tea sector, such as



The team for Karatina University keenly following the meeting proceedings

TBK officials expressed appreciation for Karatina University's commitment to strengthening the partnership and acknowledged the existing memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two institutions. They emphasized the importance of revisiting the MOU to enhance collaboration for the benefit of stakeholders in the tea sector. TBK reiterated its readiness and willingness to work closely with Karatina University to drive positive change and innovation in the industry



The team from Karatina University and Tea board of Kenya pose for a group photo after the meeting.

The meeting between Karatina University and the Tea Board of Kenya marks a significant step towards fostering collaboration and partnership in the tea sector. As both institutions continue to explore opportunities for joint initiatives, stakeholders can look forward to innovative solutions and enhanced capacity building efforts that will contribute to the sustainable growth and development of the tea industry in Kenya.

