

UNEA-5

Groups: Rich nations must pay \$60bn to save environment in poor countries

Funds will address the disproportionate impact of wealthy countries' consumption habits on biodiversity



A trader sells tomatoes near a mountain of garbage at Muthurwa market in Nairobi on January 30, 2020 /ANDREW KASUKU



Delegates at the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly at Unep headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi, on Monday /ANDREW KASUKU

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Environmental groups have demanded that rich nations should pay \$60 billion (Sh6.83 trillion) to help restore biodiversity in poor countries.

The recommended \$60 billion figure was released during the ongoing United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

The groups specifically said the targeted nations are members of the European Union, the UK, Japan, Canada and other wealthy countries.

Research shows that 30 per cent of global threats to biodiversity are generated by international trade, particularly trade in commodities produced in developing countries for use in developed countries.

Calculated in consultation with leading economists and based on a growing body of economic studies about the benefits of investing in nature protection, the \$60 billion figure, the groups said, would help address the disproportionate im-

pact of wealthy country consumption habits on biodiversity.

“The consumption of resources in the developed world is a main driver of biodiversity loss, but its consequences are borne mostly by communities in developing countries who live in biodiversity hotspots,” said Dr Bruno Oberle, director general of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

“Providing local and indigenous communities with the necessary means to conserve nature is not only a moral obligation, but also a sound investment that will generate high returns for all of us.”

Wealthy countries—including the EU countries, the UK, France and Canada—and philanthropists have recently announced increased funding for biodiversity.

But the environmental groups said this must be increased to reach the \$60 billion target.

The overall need to address the biodiversity crisis is estimated to be \$844 billion annually, which is \$711 billion more than is currently

being spent. Less than \$10 billion of current spending is international biodiversity finance.

“This funding is an investment in the future we all want – and will help address the many challenges facing the planet, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, pandemic prevention and the conservation of the nature we all need for food and fresh water. The time to act is now – there is not a moment to waste,” James Roth from Conservation International said.

The groups that made the joint call include BirdLife International, Conservation International, Campaign for Nature, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Trust, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF and World Resources Institute.

They spoke as the UN Environment Assembly comes to a close in Nairobi. UNEA meets biennially to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop inter-

national environmental law; decisions and resolutions then taken by Member States at the Assembly also define the work of Unep.

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BRUNO OBERLE

The consumption of resources in the developed world is a main driver of biodiversity loss, but its consequences are borne mostly by communities in developing countries who live in biodiversity hotspots



STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should Raila be Kalonzo's running mate?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Will Azimio stick together?

YES 60%

NO 40%

FOR THE RECORD – FORMER TETU MP HON NDUNG'U GETHENJI

1. On 4 July 2019 the Star published a story headlined **Ex-MP Gethenji denies causing disorder in estate** in which it was inadvertently reported that Chacha Mabanga was the secretary of former Tetu MP Hon Ndung'u Gethenji. It has since come to our attention that Mr Mabanga was not Hon Gethenji's secretary.

It was also inadvertently reported in the story that Hon Gethenji had been charged with creating disturbance and assault. The Star would like to clarify that the former MP was not charged with assault. He was only charged with creating disturbance, a charge which he was acquitted of later on 6th January 2022 and the Star reported in a story titled **Former Tetu MP Gethenji acquitted in disturbance case**.

We take this opportunity to apologise to Hon Gethenji for any harm or confusion caused by the errors. The online version of the July 2019 story has been updated to reflect the correct position.

2. On 16 December 2020 the Star published an editorial with

the title **Magistrate should insist that Hon Gethenji plead**. In the editorial it was stated that false minutes were created to allow former Tetu MP Hon Ndung'u Gethenji to take control of Kihingo estate in Kitisuru. The Star inadvertently forgot to add the word “allegedly” before the word “created”. We take this opportunity to clarify that the case as alleged against Hon Gethenji is still in court and it has not been decided upon. We take this opportunity to apologise to Hon Gethenji for any confusion caused by the unintentional error. The online version of the editorial has been updated to reflect the correct position.

3. On 9 February 2021 the Star published a story, **Ex-Tetu MP Ndung'u Gethenji assaults Kihingo security guard**. The story was based on CCTV footage and was of public interest. That being noted Hon Gethenji was not afforded a right of reply regarding what was contained in the CCTV footage. The Star takes this opportunity to offer the former Tetu MP a right of reply that shall be published with similar prominence as the 9 February 2021 story.