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Prof. Judy Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Regional Development Authorities

Prof. Judy Wakhungu, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Regional Development Authorities, was the chief guest at the 2016 Nairobi Conference on Earth System Governance hosted by the University of Nairobi. The conference was the seventh in the series and was taking place in Africa for the first time.

In her speech, Prof. Wakhungu highlighted various initiatives carried out by her ministry towards environmental sustainability. She said that through the Kenya Forest Service and National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), the Ministry of Environment has instituted policies that protect the environmental degradation and has worked with the 47 counties to plant trees and to ensure that the forest cover is increased to 10%.

Currently, Kenya has a forest cover of 7%. In line with the Paris Agreement, the environmental law was enacted to help deal with the effects of climate change and global warming.

The Ministry also provides leadership and guidance on international treaties on global environmental initiatives. Together with Japan, the Ministry is planning hazardous waste management for Nairobi. Through the Kenya Wildlife Service, the ministry has ensured that poaching is reduced by 80% and human wildlife conflict is reduced as well.