



## Press Release

For immediate release

**Nairobi, Kenya Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017...** At 8:30 p.m. local time, skylines around the globe went dark as millions united to celebrate WWF's Earth Hour and shine a light on climate action.

In Kenya, WWF-Kenya with different partners in conservation joined the celebration by switching off lights at the Serena Hotels in Nairobi and Mombasa as a symbolic gesture to support action to change climate change. Real Towers in the Upper Hill District of Nairobi also switched off in solidarity with Earth Hour supporters across the globe.

2017 marked the tenth anniversary of Earth Hour, which started as a symbolic event in Sydney in 2007. WWF-Kenya has been working with various partners and organizations at both national and landscape levels in the areas of climate change and in particular on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

“At national level, WWF-Kenya has supported the government with the development of National Climate Action Plan. WWF–Kenya was part of the government negotiation team for the Paris Agreement for COP 21. We have also been a member of the National Steering Committee on the Development of the Green Economy Strategy and Implementation plan,” said Isaac Awuondo - Board Chair, WWF-Kenya

At the landscape level; WWF-Kenya through the Energy Project, have been promoting and advocating for use of renewable sources of energy through policy engagements and pilots at both national and county levels.



“As we celebrate Earth Hour, WWF-Kenya commits to continue its work on climate change to ensure we change climate change. We will continue to work with the government, civil societies, private sector and communities to influence policies that will bring about climate change and ***Shine a light on climate action,***” Awuondo added.

In her remarks Chief Guest Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Ph.D- CS, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources said, “Standing here today, we switch off lights at this iconic Serena Hotel and many other places as a demonstration of our awareness of Climate Change and its devastating effects that we already begin to see across the country. Today I stand here to show the government’s commitment to playing a leadership role to tackle climate change. As such, Earth Hour commemoration is a very important event and we are glad to be part of it.”

The CS further announced that her ministry has implemented various long-term initiatives across the country through various agencies to enhance environmental sustainability in Kenya.

“My Ministry of Environment has instituted policies and programmes that will protect our natural environment against degradation,” she declared.

Despite gains made toward climate action, the CS affirmed that there is still more work to be done. “In a recent report by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), expert evidence shows that our coastal habitats and small islands are facing an aggravated threat from rising seas as a result of climate change. As we celebrate Earth Hour, let us remember the myriad environmental challenges that we face today and the potential effects of degradation that we must overcome,” the CS posed.

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**Editors Note**

**About WWF**

WWF is one of the world’s largest independent conservation organizations, with more than five million supporters and a global network active in more than one hundred countries. Through our engagement with the public, businesses and government, we focus on safeguarding the natural world, creating solutions to the most serious environmental issues facing our planet, so that people and nature thrive together in harmony. Find out more about our work, <http://www.wwfkenya.org/>

**About Earth Hour**

Earth Hour is a global environmental movement of WWF, inspiring and empowering individuals, businesses, organizations and governments to take tangible climate action. As one of the first open-sourced climate change campaigns it has grown from a symbolic event in one city (Sydney in 2007) to the world’s largest grassroots movement for the environment spanning over 7,000 cities and 175 countries. The creation of Earth Hour was a step to bridge the gap between the conference rooms and living rooms to ensure the efforts to tackle our planet’s biggest environmental challenge yet include those at the very center and frontlines of the issue; people themselves.

The 2017 Earth Hour is calling on individuals and collective groups around the world to **‘shine a light on climate action’**. Find more about Earth Hour here: [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

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