

**Animal Disaster Management Consortium of East Africa (aDMcea) hub launched at the Wangari Maathai Institute on January 20, 2017**



***On the right, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, University of Nairobi launches the aDMcea Hub. He is assisted by Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences***

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies hosts the launch of Animal Disaster Management Consortium of East Africa (aDMcea) Hub. The hub which will be domiciled at the Wangari Maathai Institute will provide the necessary academic research and background knowledge to help government institutions and stakeholders in the emergency and disaster management in design and development of disaster resilient programmes. The consortium brings together University of Nairobi through the Wangari Maathai Institute & Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Mekelle University- Ethiopia, World Animal Protection and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) who will work together to provide together academia to provide research based evidence to inform policy, implementation and challenges caused by disaster and climate change.

This comes at a time when East Africa is facing acute drought that has affected millions of animals. Over the last 30 years, East Africa has had a similar cyclic pattern of animal disasters. The challenge with disaster management is the existence of policies that do not match the implementation at the grass root level. This ultimately inhibits livestock farmers from reaping maximum benefits from these projects.

The launch was graced by Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, University of Nairobi, who represented the Chief Guest, Prof. Peter F. M. Mbithi, the Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi and delivered his speech. In his speech, Prof. Mbithi indicated that, "Integrating disaster

management into development processes secures the gains made in development against losses during a single event or chronic disasters resulting geo-hydro-metrological hazards. Hazards are inevitable but communities and countries with robust infrastructure recover from the exposure to hazards fast and with little impact.” Hence, “dealing with hazards cannot be treated as an afterthought; otherwise, it becomes a disaster,” he added. “The livestock sector in Kenya and Ethiopia is highly exposed to drought and floods disasters, making management of these disasters necessary to be integrated into the livestock support infrastructure at farm, county and national levels. This endeavor would result into disaster resilient livestock production systems with predictable outcomes.” The launch was also attended by Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Tennyson Williams, Director for Africa, World Animal Protection, Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Dr. Judy Kimaru, Disaster Manager, World Animal Protection, Dr. Berihu Gebrekidan, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mekelle University, Ethiopia, Dr. Gebrehiwot Tadesse, Mekelle University, Ethiopia and members of Upper Kabete Campus, College Management Board among others.

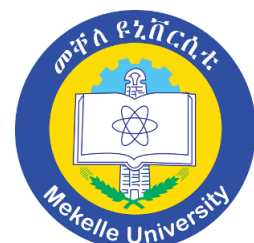
### **Quotes:**

“Over the years that countries have been affected by drought the academia has been largely missing in design and development of disaster resilient programmes. This Consortium will help bridge the gap between design, implementation and impact”

“Our global campaign in disaster management is to mainstream animal protection into national institutions responsible for disaster management. This we do by working closely with the relevant authorities through legislation & policy; responsible authorities through capacity building; and universities to integrate training into veterinary curriculums.” **Tennyson Williams, World Animal Protection.**

“aDMcea is an awakening to sustainable animal production systems resilient to disasters for livestock keeping communities. The consortium will equip farmers with tools which bring to shape disaster mitigation strategies.” **Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute**

“Every 5 years, Ethiopia experiences drought. The first point of attack is on animals quickly followed by human beings. I believe aDMcea will help in awareness creation within governments, professional scope and farming industry, to prevent the existing disasters in the country.” **Dr. Berihu Gebreridian- Dean and Associate Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mekelle University**



***By Lilian Namuma Sarah Kong'ani, Wangari Maathai Institute.***