

# SENGWER OF EMBOBUT FOREST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

P.O. Box 152-30204, Kapcherop  
Email: [sengwerofembobutfcl@gmail.com](mailto:sengwerofembobutfcl@gmail.com)

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11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Mr. Simon Mordue,  
Dunhill Towers, 19th Floor  
115 Waiyaki Way  
P. O. Box 45119  
00100 Nairobi  
Kenya

CC

DR Chris Kiptoo  
PS Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Dear Sir,

**Re: PROTECT EMBOBUT FOREST AND HUMAN RIGHTS BY ALLOWING SENGWER TO LIVE IN KAPKOK GLADE AND RESUME EU FUNDING FOR WaTER PROGRAMME**

We the undersigned below on behalf of Sengwer indigenous people of Embobut forest and Sengwer of Embobut Forest Community Leadership call upon EU to lift suspension of EU funds for WaTER Programme as soon as our government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry allows Sengwer to live in Kapkok glade and to use and care for Kaptirbai and Koropkwen glades, and enable Sengwer to equally work with KFS to protect and restore all of Embobut forest – hence, this will give EU and Kenya government to protect Embobut Forest and Human Rights. We shall participate in sustainable use and restoration of degraded parts of Kaptirbai and Koropkwen glades and Embobut forest with technical support from KFS, Kenya Water Towers Agency and other environmental agencies and institutions, as we work towards peaceful resolution of our land rights issues.

Further, government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and KFS should commit itself to stop evictions of members of Sengwer living within designated parts of Kapkok glade as outlined in the community by-laws and embrace a good working relationship with community leadership to implement our community by-laws in preventing encroachment and destruction of the forests, including through our community leadership carrying out census of community members, and other key activities outlined in our 12 August letter on a holistic way forward.

The EU suspended funding because of human rights abuses. These included burning of homes, eviction of people and killing of Robert Kirokich. Very recently KFS have again

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been burning our homes, even in the middle of the pandemic, homes that had only recently been rebuilt following earlier KFS burnings, The EU has been clear that continued human rights abuses like this will lead to EU Funds cancellation. If this decision is arrived at by EU – Kenya Government led by Ministry of Environment and Forestry and KFS should carry the blame, and we ask that the EU be clear with public that cancellation is because of human rights abuses and lack of progress in your talks with Government.

Finally, we shall appreciate and are ready to support our government and EU WaTER Programme if the suspension of EU funds is lifted after recognition of our rights to live in in Kapkok glade and we are supported in our efforts for the protection and restoration of Embobut forest.

Yours Faithfully,

On Behalf of Sengwer Indigenous People of Embobut Forest