



Kenya Airways becomes the first African Airline to fly possibly the Most Sustainable long haul commercial Flight from Africa to Europe

Nairobi, 25th May 2023 – Kenya’s national carrier Kenya Airways (KQ) has become the first African airline to fly possibly the most sustainable commercial long-haul flight from Africa to Europe. The flight that is part of the Sustainable Flight Challenge (TSFC), between SkyTeam member airlines brings together 22 airlines for a friendly competition to achieve the most sustainable flight possible.

For this sustainable flight, KQ is operating a Boeing B787-8 Dreamliner for the return flight between Nairobi and Amsterdam. KQ has partnered with Eni Sustainable Mobility, a leading SAF producer, to obtain SAF for this flight and locally with Flamex Petroleum Ltd in the blending of the fuel. KQ becomes the first African airline to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) from Eni Sustainable Fuel for a long-haul commercial flight from Africa to Europe.

Apart from the use of SAF, the preparations for the flight were done to ensure that it was as sustainable as possible. A number of initiatives, covering light travel for guests on the flight, route planning, onboard meals and its packaging, transportation of guests and crew, and gifts were all sustainably prepared as part of the flight KQ116 and KQ117.

Speaking during the departure of the flight at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Group MD and CEO Allan Kilavuka, said that such moments are a testament to the airline as Africa’s flag bearer in championing Africa and the African aviation industry to generate the most significant innovations to reduce aviation’s impact on the environment.

“As we reconnect and rediscover our world, we are committed to living our purpose - for our people and planet. On the planet sustainability we are focusing on helping to decarbonize the aerospace through fleet types that have the least amount of carbon emission, reducing our fuel burn through routing, managing our waste through recycling, and deploying the use of solar and SAF as alternative energy.” says Mr. Kilavuka.

“The piloting of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) for the first time on a KQ long-haul commercial flight will generate valuable data and insights that can inform policy decisions, regulatory frameworks, and industry best practices related to SAF,” adds Mr. Kilavuka.

Mr. Kilavuka further notes that the success of the sustainable flight is not just about the airline, but it is about the aviation ecosystem, and everybody involved working together to drive sustainable approaches in the aviation industry.

"As part of the aviation industry, it is our duty to take proactive measures and actively contribute to finding sustainable solutions and adopting best practices. We recognise the importance of collective learning and collaboration to drive positive change in our industry. For this flight, sustainable approaches have been implemented on flight operations, ground operations, in-flight menu, a carbon offsetting programme for



customers, e-mobility options for guests, and implementation of a travel light policy, and waste management initiatives.” says Mr. Kilavuka.

Some of the areas KQ will submit for consideration include:

- Sustainable flight and ground operations initiatives.
- A sustainably curated in-flight menu.
- A carbon offsetting program for customers.
- E-mobility for guests.
- Travel light policy.
- Eco-friendly blankets made of recycled R-Pet Polyester
- Eco-conscious packaging for the onboard meals
- Waste management initiatives, amongst others.

The winners of the 2023 Sustainable Flight Challenge will be honoured at an awards ceremony scheduled for October 2023.

ENDS

About [Kenya Airways](#)

Kenya Airways, a member of the Sky Team Alliance, is a leading African airline flying to 42 destinations worldwide, 35 of which are in Africa. Prior to the COVID pandemic, the airline carried a record number of over five million passengers in 2019. Its fleet comprises of wide body Boeing aircrafts, this includes its flagship B787 Dreamliner and narrow body Embraer E190 aircrafts. The on-board service is renowned and the lie-flat business class seat on the wide-body aircraft is consistently voted among the world’s top 10. Kenya Airways takes pride in being at the forefront of connecting Africa to the World and the World to Africa through its hub at the new ultra-modern Terminal 1A at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi.

About [The Sustainable Flight Challenge \(TSFC\)](#)

The Sustainable Flight Challenge (TSFC) exists to challenge the aviation industry by stimulating and accelerating innovation towards a sustainable future. TSFC is presented by SkyTeam, a leading airline alliance with member carriers around the world. It centres around a challenge scheduled between 1-14 May 2022 in which 16 participating airlines will implement their most sustainable solutions and compete for awards in 14 categories. This challenge is another step in the aviation industry’s path towards a more sustainable future.

For media queries please contact:

Kanyingi Kuria

Corporate Communications, Kenya Airways:

Kanyingi.Kuria@kenya-airways.com

Grace Wahu

Edelman:

Grace.Wahu@edelman.com