



Press release

Kenya Airways Emerges Top in Global Aviation Challenge

January 16, 2025 – Kenya Airways (KQ) has emerged as a top performer at the 2024 SkyTeam Aviation Challenge, earning accolades for its groundbreaking sustainability initiatives.

The national carrier won two prestigious awards: Best Scaled Catering Solution and Best Approach to Scaling Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). In the Best Scaled Catering Solution category, KQ was recognized for its innovative efforts to reduce single-use plastics onboard. By introducing traditional African bread baskets and aluminum food containers in economy class, the airline is set to eliminate 24 tonnes of plastic waste annually. In the Best Approach to Scaling SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) category, KQ's was commended for its partnership with a local SAF producer to establish Kenya's first SAF production plant.

This initiative will deliver affordable SAF to Kenya and the region, create jobs for the Kwale County community, and boost Kenya's tree cover by cultivating energy seed plants on arid and degraded lands.

Additionally, KQ received recognition as a finalist in several categories: Best Team Collaboration for its Sustainability Champions program, which fosters cross-departmental collaboration; Best Climate Literacy for its multi-level sustainability training programs; and special recognition in Scaling SAF, Best Catering Solution, and Airline Participation. The winners of the SkyTeam Aviation Challenge 2024 were announced at an awards ceremony held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Reflecting on the achievement, Kenya Airways CEO, Allan Kilavuka remarked, "This recognition at the 2024 Aviation Challenge is a testament to our commitment to sustainability and innovation. By embracing sustainable aviation fuel, reducing single-use plastics, and fostering collaboration across teams, we are driving meaningful change for the aviation industry and our planet."

This year's competition marked the third edition of the prestigious SkyTeam Aviation Challenge, an annual event organized by the SkyTeam Alliance to recognize innovative solutions that address critical challenges in the aviation industry. The 2024 challenge focused on scaling previously implemented solutions to drive sustainable impact.

Kenya Airways participated by successfully operating four long-haul flights—Nairobi to New York, Amsterdam, Paris, and London—under sustainability-focused parameters. Key efforts included sustainable in-flight catering, ground operations optimization, e-mobility solutions for passenger transport, a "travel light" policy encouraging passengers to minimize baggage weight, and waste management initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting eco-friendly operations.

Kenya Airways' participation highlights its commitment to innovation, environmental stewardship, and nurturing talent, further positioning the airline as a global leader in sustainable aviation.

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About Kenya Airways:

Kenya Airways (KQ), *The Pride of Africa*, is a leading African carrier on a mission to propel Africa's prosperity by connecting its people, cultures, and markets. We fly to 45 destinations worldwide, 37 of which are in Africa, connecting over 5 million passengers and over 70,000 Tons of cargo annually through our Hub at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

As the sole African carrier in the SkyTeam Alliance, we open up a world of possibilities for our customers, connecting them to over 1,060 destinations in 173 countries. We take pride in offering a delightful flying experience with a caring African touch. Our exceptional African hospitality has consistently earned us global recognition including the prestigious Skytrax World Airline Awards where we were honoured with the Best Airline Staff and Best Airline Cabin Crew in Africa in 2024.

For more information, visit www.kenya-airways.com or call our 24-hour Customer Services Desk at +254 20 327 4747. We are also available on Twitter: @KenyaAirways & @KQSupport, Facebook: @OfficialKenyaAirways, and Instagram: @OfficialKenyaAirways.

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