

Green Rotary District Proposal

DRAFT COPY

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One Million Tree Planting Initiative

Introduction

The 'One Million Tree Project' will address critical issues of sustainability in the conservation of forests and biodiversity protection in Kenya.

The forest cover in Kenya has reduced drastically as a consequence of over exploitation for timber, charcoal and related uses. This has brought many a predicament to existence of sustainable forests and its consequent conservation. More so, lack of awareness and education on conservation has been lagging behind. Poverty and climate change have further aggravated the situation.

The depletion of the Kenyan forests such as the Mau Forest, Karura, Ngong, Aberdares, among others in the country, has resulted to the unfavourable climatic changes with far reaching consequences, including;

- Unreliable and inadequate rainfall for agriculture
- Poverty due to loss of livelihoods.
- Food insecurity in the country.
- Water sources drying up, including rivers.
- Land resource degradation due to erosion.

The situation is likely to worsen in the absence of deliberate efforts to improve the forest cover in the country.

The project will be implemented as part of the Green Rotary Environment Strategy by all Rotary clubs in Kenya and other profound stakeholders. The Strategy aims at ensuring a healthy and wealthy environment for all, and also the enhancement and promotion of the quality of the environment through the demonstration and facilitation of sound environmental practices towards sustainable livelihoods and development.

THE FOUR WAY GREEN TEST

First

Is it ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE? (I.e., maintains the natural balance of

plants, animals and people)

Second

Is it ENVIRONMENTALLY sound? (I.e., action that helps keeps the world around us in good condition)

Third

Will it be ECONOMICALLY efficient? (I.e., that ensures the outputs justify the inputs)

Fourth

Will it promote PEACE? (I.e., that ensures there is no conflict arising out of the action)

Rotary responses to challenges mentioned above and others posed to the environment and societies include;

- Adopting and supporting schools and community groups to plant trees.
- Promotion of environmental education and sustainability.
- Promotion of environmental friendly technologies, e.g., in agriculture and energy.
- Recognizing and publicly reward best environmental practices in society, including companies, organizations, schools and communities.
- Promotion of the adoption of climate change reduction technologies in all sectors, e.g., promoting the 'Green Energy' concept.

Target areas

The 'Green Rotary One Million Tree Initiative' targets the forest areas that have drastically been depleted so as to refurbish them and accrue a better forested future. These areas would include all major forest areas in the country. These areas would also include schools, community and residential areas, organization grounds and industrial areas.

Impacts and benefits of the initiative

The 'Green Rotary One Million Tree Initiative' will:

- Address issues of sustainability in forest management and conservation by planting trees.
- Curb climate change.
- Provide resistance to soil erosion and thus protect rich land areas.
- Promote water conservation.

- Agro-forestry would curb out food insecurity of which would also form the bases for income generation activities.
- Promote environmental aesthetics and land scaping.
- Working with schools and communities, can form a base for curriculum development and learning for students.
- Schools will act as demonstration centres for community groups in livelihoods and sustainability issues, hence forming bases for training and capacity building.
- The initiative will be promoting corporate citizenry in the country.

Project implementation

- Formation of a working committee 'Green Rotary One Million Tree Initiative Committee' to spearhead the initiative.
- Composed of key identified personnel within the country's Rotary Clubs for an even composition.
- Hosted by the Rotary Club of Nairobi, of which already has an active Environmental Green Sub-Committee.
- Charged with the coming up of activities of the initiative prior and including the launch of Green Rotary at the 84th District Conference in May (2009).
- Responsible for the implementation of the whole project including fundraising for the initiative.

Proposed activities of the initiative

- Formation of a 'Green Rotary One Million Tree initiative Committee'.
- Identification of fast growing seedlings and others of interest.
- Identification of areas for trees to be planted.
- Carrying out of quick Environmental Audits.
- Mobilization, sensitization, education and promotion of the initiative.
- Training and capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, and management of the seedlings.
- Launching of the 'Green Rotary Tree Planting Initiative (One Million Tree Project).
- This will be done at the Rotary 84th District Conference at UNEP Headquarters at Gigiri Complex in May (2009).
- The planting of trees at Gigiri Complex by the guest of honour at the conference.
- Schools and communities will exhibit on Environmental Best Practices in line with the initiative.
- Awarding of best environmental practice at the Conference.
- Sustainability of the initiative.
- Documentaries and awareness materials. E.g. green flags, banners, leaflets and badges.
- Identification of stakeholders partners and associates e.g.,

No.	International sponsors	Local Partners & Associates	Stakeholders	Individuals/Sponsors
		Doshi Group of Companies		A. Dosh (100,000KSHS)
1		Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources	Schools	Ashok Shah (50,000KSHS)
2		Ministry of Education	Communities	Kodawala Yusuf Dawood
3		Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Rotaract clubs	Kaushek Manek
4		Ministry of Wildlife and Forestry	Interact clubs	Wangari Maathai
5		Green Belt Movement		
6		Lion Clubs of Kenya		
7		Safaricom Foundation		
8		Barkclays Bank of Kenya		
9		Merali Trust Foundation		
10		Hindu Council		
11		Kenya Commercial Bank		
12		East African Breweries		
13		Manu Chandaria Foundation		
14		Embassies- including the American Embassy.		
		Kenya Organization for Environmental Education		

The Kenya Organization for Environmental Education (KOEE and through Dr. Otieno), as a partner in the initiative, will;

- Initiation of income generating micro-projects that address poverty and environmental resource conservation.
- Conduct training workshops and seminars for policy makers, teachers and the local communities.
- Together with partners like Rotary, run the Rotary Green Schools and community award campaign yearly for promotion of environmental best practices.
- Development of simplified ESD awareness materials.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Networking between students, teachers, organizations and local communities in sharing experiences through the ESD link and network activities.
- Furthermore, KOEE will provide training of local key stakeholders, partners and associates.

Strategies for the initiative

- Use of Rotary Clubs country-wide.
- Use of Rotaract and Interact Clubs.

- Use of schools and community groups.
- Use of corporate organizations.
- Use of other interest groups.

The school approach is excellent due to its reliability.

Why the school approach is the most viable in regard to tree planting

1. It makes follow-up easier and thus facilitates evaluation in assessing project impacts and seedling survival percentages.
2. Schools are important and respected centres in the society and cannot be left out in implementation of strategic development projects as this at hand.
3. Students/pupils can directly be used to plant trees both within and without the schools.
4. With the school approach, students/pupils will be trained on relevant issues about environment and tree planting. This is to propagate a culture of love to maintain our environment with children right from their tender ages. If thoroughly trained, children will not forget even when old and so this approach caters for the future environmental maintenance.
5. Many schools in the republic have big pieces of land that are idle (i.e. not under classrooms or playground). If tree nurseries are raised in schools and trees planted in these idle pieces of land the overall impact will be great.

Implementation approaches

Tree planting in schools can be approached in two main ways;

- a) Establishment of tree nurseries with eco-clubs in the schools. The schools are then planted with seedlings from their own nurseries.
- b) Buying seedlings from external nurseries (e.g. government or private nurseries) and then supplied to the sampled schools.

NOTES:

The first approach is cheaper in that there are no labour costs or water bills. Club members in charge of the nursery will form the labour force. All that will be needed in this approach is little money for seeds and polythene bags.

The second approach is a little more expensive since much money will be committed to enable transportation and a part of the money spent for purchase of the seedlings directly.

Contacts of the trainings with pupils/students in schools

- The benefits of a healthy environment.
- Climate change, its impacts and remedial measure.
- The role of trees in the definition of environment.
- How to establish a nursery to enable raising seedlings in a tree nursery.
- How to plant a tree scientifically for quick returns.

Commonest tree varieties, their uses and cost of seeds

Tree special variety	Uses	Suitable eco-regious/agroclimatic zones	Cost of seeds per kg
Category 1: indigenous species			2,500/=
1. Acrocorpus flaxen folios	Firewood, timber furniture, beehives, bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, windbreak	Widely planted in tropical areas in Asia, Africa Latin America. Does with good rainfall, altitude to 1900m but will stand drought, red soils agro climatic zones II - IV	
2. Markhanuia litea	Timber, firewood, charcoal, furniture, poles, posts, tool handles, walking sticks, boat building, banana props, medical (leaves), be gorge, shade, ornament, mulch, soilconservation windbreak, ceremonial, boundary marking.	Lake basins and highland area to 2000m. Stands Acid, heavy clay soil, prefer, red loam agroclimatic zones II - III	2,700/=
3. pose corpus falcut**gracil***	Firewood, timber, furniture, poles, p***, medicines (bark) shade, ornament.	Southern hemisphere (temperate zones and tropical highlands) altitude 1500 - 4200m. Agro climatic zones II - III	2,500/=
4. Cardia Africana	Timber, firewood, furniture, beehive, utensils (mortars**) edible fruit, medicine (bark) fodder (dry season), bee forage, shade, ornament, mulch, soil conservation, fibers, glue, boundary marking.	Moist warm areas, widespread in Kenya in pasture land between 1200 & 2000m Agro climatic zones II - III	2,500/=
Category II Exotic species 5. Grevillea robusta	Firewood, charcoal, timber, furniture, poles, veneer, fodder (low gravity), forage, shade ornaments, mulch, soil conservation, windbreak	Well establishing tree 0-3000m. Neutral to acidic warm light study soils Agro climatic zones II-V	3,000/=
6. Eucalyptus gra***	Firewood, charcoal, timber, pulp wood,	Widespread in the highlands 1200-	3,000/=

	pleas, posts, fencing*****forage, shade, windbreak, veterinary medicine	2400m. Good in all but arid areas not food will estimates Agro climatic zones I-III	
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Potential areas to plant trees

- School compounds themselves.
- County council lands
- Public lands e.g.
 - Chiefs' camps grounds
 - District headquarters
 - Hospital compounds
- Individual lands - for those willing
- Communal clan lands

Comments;

The school-based tree nursery and tree planting model has worked in Meru (Nyambene) and can as well work in other districts of Kenya.

Cost of raising a 10,000 seedling tree nursery in one school

Quantity	Particulars	Cost (Ksh)
2kg	1Kg. indigenous tree seedlings + 1Kg. exotic seeds	Indigenous 1Kg X Ksh 2500 = 2,500 Exotic - 1Kg X Ksh 3000 = 3,000
100 Pkts Polythene bags/sleeves	100 Pkts /School	100 Pkts X Ksh 50/Pkt = 5,000
Sub-Total		10,500
For 100 schools		10,000*100
Grand Total		1,050,000

Each school tree nursery costs Kshs. 10,500. To establish such tree nurseries in 100 schools will cost only Kshs. 1.05 million

Seedlings;

		No. of seedlings	Cost per Seedling (KSHS)	Total cost (KSHS)
Seedlings	Indigenous	100,000	15	1,500,000
	Exotic	100,000	20	2,000,000
Transport				
Labour				
Management				
Sub-total				3,500,000

Grand total				3,500,000