

THE ACTS OF GREEN, E-NEWSLETTER

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Dear reader, Albert Einstein once said “Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better”. Climate change effects have become part of everyday life. Rainfall patterns have changed drastically, they are shorter rain seasons with heavy downpour in some areas while in others the seasons are short and with too little rainfall. Drought on the other hand has become more persistent and hash.

In every walk with nature, one receives more than he/she seeks-John Muir

Communities’ ability to bounce back to normal lives has been depleted with every drought and/or flood. Sadly, due to various communities’ ways of life e.g. pastoralism, farming some communities are more predisposed to the impacts of climate change than others. In order to build the resilience; for them to have the ability to adapt to climate change effects; and to

empower them with mitigation tools, it is necessary to come up with frameworks, policies, laws for climate proofing.

This will provide an enabling environment to plan and implement sustainable projects for community development.

In this issue of our “acts of green” we delve into stories of mainstreaming climate change into county sector plans, how MCAs commitment to tackle climate change in the northern

frontier is paving way for climate change legislation, an overview of the

Green building standards that shall revolutionaries architecture for a green future and finally how you can live a lasting mark on earth through our plant your age and environment conservation initiative.

Enjoy your read, editor.

Oct 2017-Jan 2018
StARCK +EXTENSION
PROJECT.



The Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience in Climate change in Kenya (StARCK) + extension project is a program under DFID and UK aid. Green Africa Foundation is implementing its project under this program through ACT! Its goal is to consolidate prior efforts towards completion of climate change legislation and cross sectoral coordination for enhanced climate change mainstreaming.

We have been working in Wajir, Marsabit and Garissa reaching approximately 224 stakeholders, of this 50 were MCA from the three counties. We hosted a series of meetings as follows: Appraisal meeting to ascertain the status of climate change legislation, Prioritization meeting to identify priority sectors for climate change mainstreaming, Drafting meeting where stakeholders were engaged in

drafting the climate change mainstreaming guidelines for their counties, we also engaged the county MCAs to collect their views to harmonize the draft sector climate change mainstreaming guidelines and pending climate change related bills.

Finally, we hosted validation meetings across all three counties and the guidelines were ready for implementation. As a result of this process, we have developed 10 sector guidelines and revived the Garissa County climate change fund bill 2016 and the Marsabit county environment and natural resources bill 2016.

The sector guidelines for each county are as follows: Garissa County: Agriculture sector, DRR sector, Forest and Water sector mainstreaming guidelines, Wajir County: Agriculture sector, Forest sector and water sector mainstreaming guidelines and Marsabit County: Water and sanitation sector, Agriculture sector and Forest sector mainstreaming guidelines. The guidelines are sector specific, however, they provide a basis for climate change mainstreaming into sector planning for County governments. As the project comes to an end, we look forward to the implementation

of the guidelines in Wajir, Marsabit and Garissa Counties and using this experiences to support climate change mainstreaming in other Counties in Kenya.



A section of stakeholder in Marsabit County during drafting meeting for the guidelines.



John Kioli, Executive Director of Green Africa Foundation (left) handing over the climate change mainstreaming guidelines to Deputy Speaker of the Garissa County assembly accompanied by an MCA and a county official.



Stakeholders from Wajir County during drafting session of the mainstreaming guidelines.

Oct 2017-Jan 2018

GREEN AFRICA BUILDING AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS.

Buildings have numerous direct and indirect impacts on human beings and the environment.

Cognizant of this, we have partnered with the Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Project (LECRD) that is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources with funding from the USAID through UNDP to finalize the development of a National Green Building Standards and Certification System for Kenya.

Program objective is to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy, water and other resource efficiencies associated with new building construction and retrofitting of existing buildings.

*A **Green Building** is one designed to save water, energy efficiency, and utilization of material resources in the construction and maintenance of the building.*

*A ” **greenmark**” is an application and certification tool that prescribes the categories, characteristics and rating system used to award a certificate to all types and sizes of buildings which incorporate building materials, technologies and practices that are environmentally sustainable*

which are stipulated in the Green Building Standards and certification system.

The development of this standards has involved a pool of experts and has been developed through a participatory process involving public private partnership and in compliance with the Kenyan legal requirements for development of national standards.

Once finalized, the “Greenmark” will be the preferred national green building rating tool and certification system.

Read more on Green Building standards here http://www.greenafricafoundation.org/programs/GAF_building_standards.php



A group photo of participants during the Green Building Standards board meeting.

SEEDLING DONATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

In 2012 the foundation partnered with Cooper K. Brand Ltd. through Eco-care to promote supply, planting and growing of indigenous trees in Kenya. Once the seedlings are mature, they are distributed to evaluated groups and institutions that undertake planting during their CSR and tree planting activities.

This is done seasonally with two seasons targeted a year; the April – June long rains and September – November short rains.

Approximately 200,000 seedlings are distributed to groups for free every season. Part of the planting process includes community sensitization on tree growing and management, environmental conservation among other best practices.

Read more on how to apply for the seedlings here

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PLANT YOUR AGE INITIATIVE

Green Africa Foundation:

“What do you do to celebrate your birthday?”

Sheila: *“Big party with a lot of pomp and off coarse gifts from friends and loved ones at a getaway location of our choice”*

Kevin: *“I have a very conservative celebration at home with close family and friends”*

Antony: *(chuckles) “I always forget only to find birthday wishes on Facebook days later”*

Green Africa Foundation:
“Ooh well, we understand.” Whichever way you celebrate it, none of the above can beat you planting trees and nurturing them to grow. This guarantees you and generation to come a shade in your older days, a cool macroclimate, provides vegetative cover reducing soil erosion, carbon abatement, I could go on and on. To say the least, you have an opportunity to leave a lasting impact on earth.”

Plant your age gives you that opportunity to achieve this. You plant trees equivalent to your age, invite your family and friends to help you plant.

All: *How do I plant my age?*

Green Africa Foundation: Step one: *select a planting site and find out which trees are suitable for its microclimate and soil type.*

Step two: *Find a source of tree seedlings and purchase a number equivalent, two times, three times etc. your age. If you are planting with a registered community group, you can contact us for trees.*

Step three: *Take care of the logistics of seedling transportation, hole digging and watering (in dry seasons or dry areas)*

Step four: *On the D day, invite your friends and family to plant your age. After planting, let everyone place mulch around the tree to keep the moisture in and make a small hedge around it to protect it from harm emanating from children playing and /or animals grazing.*

Do not forget to take pictures with your young trees and share with us on hashtag [plantyourage](#) on facebook [@greenafricafoundation](#) and/twitter [@greenafricaorg](#) or share your story on our email info@greenafricafoundation.org, we can share it on our website.

Step five: *monitor them to maturity; visit the site as often as possible to ensure they are growing well.*

Step six: *Repeat this every year on your birthday and you will have a small forest in a few years.*

<http://www.greenafricafoundation.org/initiatives/plant-your-age-initiative.php>

Read about past Plant your age initiatives and commitments:

Churchill Ndambuki of Churchill live commitment to planting trees.

<http://www.greenafricafoundation.org/media/downloads.php>

Our vision is a Green Africa

Our missions at Green Africa Foundation is to empower communities with innovative models for sustainable Natural Resource Management.

Strategic Objectives

- To facilitate adoption of Green Africa Village models
- To promote economic activities for sustainable livelihoods
- To increase resilience to climate change effects through capacity building and policy advocacy
- To establish and enhance strategic partnerships in NRM
- To strengthen institutional capacity.

Our partners



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