



NARRATIVE REPORT OF PREVIOUS YEAR 2018

Introduction of Mount Kenya Environmental Conservation.

Mount Kenya Environmental Conservation (MKEC) was established in the year 2015. The organization had started earlier in the year 2008 as a self help group known as *Save Mt. Kenya Forest from Extinction Group* and operating within Tharaka Nithi County. It was formed by group of youth who had passion for the environments and whose main activities were tree planting on farms, schools and in the forest lands. Their major concern for the formation was to strengthen community participation in developments to sustainably overcome poverty issues. Since its establishment as a Non Governmental Organization, the organization has been working in Embu and Tharaka Nithi Counties. MKEC has mobilized groups together to undertake reforestation work and concentrated on planting trees on degraded areas of Mount Kenya forest, Community farms and Schools.



Community tree nursery with Vitex keniensis seedling

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Main objectives of the organization

- ❖ Restoration of all degraded areas of natural forest.
- ❖ Support local communities plant trees in the steep rugged and coffee growing landscapes –This is essential to provide fodder, fuel and timber to avoid over reliance on the forest for such benefits.
- ❖ Create environmental awareness on schools as well as provide source of firewood for schools.
- ❖ Goal of ensuring poverty reduction in a sustainable manner, within the framework of economical stability for improved livelihood.
- ❖ Ensure sustainable green economy through smart measures to reduce poverty and environmental destruction
- ❖ Ensure environmental sustainability and combat climate change.



Youths in front of their tree nursery



Farmers carrying Grevillea robusta to plant on her far,

Activities from the year

2017 to 2019

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Reforestation



Podocarpus tree seedling

planted in the forest

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This involved planting of indigenous trees on degraded parts of the forest. The Kenya forest service allocated 250 hectares for restoration starting 2016 up to 2019. MKEC coordinated the planting of 250,000 native tree species within the boundaries of Mt.kenya forest with the aim of restoring the forest to its natural state, survey was undertaken to establish the correct species and planting method with the help of Botanical garden conservation international, 600 community members from various groups participated in the activity. The tree species planted include: Xymalose monospora, Podorcarpus latifolia ,Syzygium guineense , Prunus Africana, Markhamia lutea and Fraglopsis angolensis



Community member planting Syzygium Guineenses in the forest

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Agro forestry

- ❖ MKEC is has been supporting agro forestry developments within various locations in Embu county including; Kagaari North, Kyeni North, Ngandori, Nginda, Mbuvari and Kathangariri. A total of 2500 community members have been actively involved in planting agro forestry trees in their farms. 350,000 agro forestry trees were planted on community farms, species were chosen for their benefit to farmer including improving soil quality, providing fodder for animals and fruits to sell. The trees were planted alongside existing crops within the area which include Tea, Coffee, Bananas, Maize, Beans, Arrowroots, Sweet Potatoes, Sugarcane and Yams. A total of 2500 community members benefited with Agroforestry trees to plant on their farms including fodder trees such as Calliandra calothyrsus, sesbania sesban and various agro forestry trees which are beneficial to farmers.



Community members carrying seedlings to plant on their farms.

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A farmer feeding her cow with fodder tree leaves

Training

- ❖ MKEC has been organizing trainings for group members aimed at capacity building to women and men with a focus being sustainable agricultural practices and small business development skills. Facilitators from Ministry of Fisheries and Micro finance institutions conducted the training touching the key areas being income generating activities and livelihood improvements. The other training was to introduce savings to members, the only way to help grow in terms of saving and developments. Through this they will improve their livelihood as well as living conditions. One of the major empowerment strategy is training women is the establishments of financial services such as group saving loan schemes and table banking , through this the groups run financial services will act as an important support for individuals usually excluded from formal banking sector and improve income control for women.

School Greening program

- ❖ Also known as “My 20 trees and me” growing u together. The program runs through the schools within Embu County and targets young kids aged 7-10 years, every child is required to plant 20 trees annually and take care of them for the next 5 years until the leave the school. And photographs taken annually will show how the children and their trees are growing up together and will provide an opportunity for them to tell their stories as their landscapes gradually changes. The program aims at nurturing young kids on tree planting and forest conservation culture, six schools adjacent to the forest were selected to participate in the program. 35,000 trees were planted during the drizzling period within the schools with 80% survival rate being experienced.

Achievements

- ❖ Run 30 community tree nurseries within Embu county
- ❖ 2500 community members actively involved in the project.

- ❖ From 2016-2019 MKEC coordinated planting of 250,000 native trees within the degraded forest parts. The tree species were chosen with help of Botanical garden conservation international who conducted baseline survey.
- ❖ Around 350,000 Agro forestry trees already planted in community farms. Species were chosen for the benefit to farmer, which aims to improve soil quality, provide fodder for animals and fruits as part of income generating activities.
- ❖ “My 20 trees and me”-Growing up together –The program runs within 6 local schools. The program aims to nurture an understanding of the importance of trees. Around 35,000 were planted within the school compound.

Expected outcomes

- ❖ Ensure all degraded forest lands are restored within the Irangi forest in Embu county creating a habitat for wild animals and reducing human wild life conflicts.
- ❖ Enable over 5000 vulnerable households of an average 5 people to plant fruit trees and agro forestry trees to help increase income.
- ❖ Support the developments of agro forestry, improving farm productivity, nutrition and food security.
- ❖ Improve agricultural practices including kitchen gardens, composting, use of green manure and nitrogen fixing tree species to reduce overreliance on inorganic fertilizer.
- ❖ Support the creation of forest friendly income generating activities such as bee

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keeping and fish farming.

- ❖ Work towards a long term impacts of improved water catchments and healthy forest and farm ecosystems.
- ❖ Create opportunities for groups and individuals to generate income through sale of high value trees and fruits seedlings from their nurseries.
- ❖ Support local communities plant trees in the steep rugged and coffee growing landscapes –This is essential to provide fodder, fuel and timber to avoid overreliance on the forest for such benefits.
- ❖ Conserve healthy soil, improve local climate, increase crop yield and maintain healthy agro ecosystem.
- ❖ Improve farm productivity and increase resilient to climate change.
- ❖ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ❖ Create environmental awareness on schools as well as provide source of firewood for schools.
- ❖ Goal of ensuring poverty reduction in a sustainable manner, within the framework of economy stability for improved livelihood.
- ❖ Ensure sustainable green economy through smart measures to reduce poverty and environmental destruction