



Reawakening of the giant

A Rocha Kenya is currently working with three secondary schools within Nairobi to address global sustainability issues such as biodiversity, climate change, waste management, food and water and trees and deforestation, encouraging them to take action, propose their ideas to politicians and share the same ideas with schools from other countries pursuing the same project.

One of the schools is Lenana, where the students have engaged with the project with huge enthusiasm and creativity and a determination to make a difference within the school community and grounds, as well as more widely. In line with the well known mantra 'Think globally, act locally', this students have taken action by initiating various activities to address this issue and the on 8th November, 2014, The Environmental Club in collaboration with the Christian Family Chapel, Family Bank, Nairobi County Government and A Rocha Kenya organized a successful clean up exercise in Ng'ando Estate which borders their school. The club has also installed dustbins (made from used Jerry cans) within the school compound, a lovely visual aid for the principle of re-using!



**'Think globally,
act locally'**

Soil Sampling in Gede Ruins Regeneration Project



Gede ruins regeneration project aims at assessing biodiversity on a 5 acre piece of land formerly a cropland, which has been replanted with indigenous tree species, and sits on a 70 acre piece of land within the Gede Ruins National Monument. This project has brought in immense expertise from various research bodies,

organizations and parastatals including National museums of Kenya, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Malindi Museum Society, Michigan State University, University of Washington, and A Rocha Kenya. The project aims at comparing re-growth and biodiversity among different plots in the restored habitat. This will help evaluate relative effective tropical dry forest restoration on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services along the East African Coast.

Communities Take Action for the Environment



Lack of community participation in natural resource management has been the major threat to the sustainability of these resources in Kenya. Communities have for many years felt as aliens to their natural resources and attributed care of the same to the state. This has led to widespread destruction of natural resources as the policing of the same by state

agencies has not been adequate. Communities have been the losers in this zero sum game as climate change impacts bite them hard. It is for this reason that A Rocha Kenya together with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Foundation is running a project dubbed, Empowering Community Participation through Community Forest Associations (CFAs). Through these trainings, we aim to capacity build the CFAs in understanding issues of climate change, natural resources management, resource mobilization for the groups' well being, sustainable groups' management and networking the CFAs to be able to undertake advocacy activities with the County Governments and other local and national government structures. The CFAs involved are Dakatcha, Sokoke, Gede, Jilore and Ngong hills Metro.

In Pictures



Bishop Julius .R.K.Kalu from Mombasa opening the commemoration stone during the opening of our Environmental education resource centre in Watamu.



H.E Uhuru Kenyatta president of the republic of Kenya at A Rocha Kenya's stand during the Nairobi International Trade Fair.



Wader ringing at Mida Creek Bird hide.



Logos Christian school student holds "managu" leaves during harvesting in the school after the completion of their Farming God's way project.

Communities and the Protection of Marine Ecosystems

The global oceans cover more than 70% of the earth's surface providing numerous habitats and micro habitats which harbor ecologically and economically important species. In this oceans, there are ecosystems and habitats such as coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove forests and so many other that are highly diverse. The magnitude of the ocean has made us believe that they are beyond any harm and thus we have made them dumping sites. The result of this has been serious degradation of the marine



ecosystems and rapid decline in marine biodiversity. Working in Watamu Marine Park and Reserve, A Rocha Kenya marine

research and conservation programme seeks to answer these questions and emphasizing that there is indeed hope for the Ocean. By involving the communities and stakeholders around the park, we carry out ecological and social research to understand the community use and impacts to the marine resources, creating awareness to schools and communities, on the ocean and sustainable use of its resources as well as organizing and participating in beach clean ups.

ASSETS: Thank You

ASSETS is a well targeted sustainable development programme, that provides secondary school scholarships, meeting the economic and social needs of the local community, whilst promoting the conservation of two of Africa's most important ecosystems (Arabuko Sokoke and Mida Creek) in the Kenyan North Coast. Lilian an ASSETS beneficiary from Barani Secondary school in Malindi showed her gratitude to A Rocha Kenya through a letter after paying her fees for four years.



BARANI SECONDARY SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 5054,
MALINDI
11-11-2014.

ASSETS
P.O. BOX 383,
WATAMU.

DEAR Sir/Madam:

SUB: THANK YOU

Thank you, you have assisted me paying school fees for my Secondary school studies. It is not an easy job but it was taken the hand of God. I am happy that I have done my KCSE exam in a peaceful way. I thank God. I know something good is going to happen next year. And not only good but great results because I know God has been with me during the examination.

I would like to congratulate Mr Festus Masha and his colleague Mr Stanley Baga, Jonathan and the other who I don't know their names, for their cooperation. They have been coming to our school and this is only because they had the heart. May God bless them and I wish them prosperity in everything they do.

I would like also to thank our village elder Mr Solomon Bakar. He has been good to me. I still remember his advice he used to give us when we meet at Mida Primary School. May God bless him and keep him too.

I am wishing you well and prosperity in everything that you will do. I am also praying for you that you may continue with the heart of assisting students the way you assisted me. Together let's conserve the environment because it is our duty.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Yours faithfully
Lilian
Ngũgũ Lilian Tobu

Mweria System.

Farming God's Way in Dakatcha began with trainings in five villages namely Kiroso, Chamari, Mulunguni, Boyani and Muchekenzi in the month of April 2014. A project funded by Tear Fund.

About 190 community members were trained. After the training, work began from July 2014 in preparation for the short rains. Farmers grouped into Mweria (a traditional way of working communally), and currently 41 farmers are in the Mweria System. They have managed to do small plots of about quarter an acre each where they've planted maize, cowpeas and some vegetables





A ROCHA KENYA'S NEWSLETTER

Nature conserved, people transformed

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Karara centre

Karara (A Rocha Kenya's forested property) in Nairobi offers Farming God's way trainings to communities, individuals and schools.



Kingdom Farmers pose for a photo with A Rocha Kenya's National Director Raphael Magambo (third right in a navy blue overall) after a Farming God's Way training at Karara (A Rocha Kenya's forested property in Nairobi).

Mwamba Field Study Centre

Mwamba Field Study Centre provides simple and pleasant, friendly and relaxed full-board accommodation for all interested visitors, including researchers and conservationists, and offers opportunities for volunteers to get involved. It also offers conference facilities for small workshops and seminars. Enjoy the dazzling white sands of Watamu's world-renowned beach and National Marine Park.



SUPPORT US!

DONATE

Support A Rocha Kenya Programs on:
www.arocha.org

Support our ASSETS Scholarships Program by making a donation on:
https://my.give.net/arochakenya_assets

HOLIDAY

stay at Mwamba Field Study Centre,
Book with us on:
mwamba@arocha.org

FUN-TIME

Visit our Eco-facilities:-
Karara Nature Trails
Mida Creek Board-walk
Gede Ruins Tree Platform

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer with us, apply at
mwamba@arocha.org

FRIENDS of ARK

Become a Friend of ARK, Registration
fee—Ksh 500
Our Blogs
<http://assets.wildlifedirect.org/>
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