Green Schools and Commercial Tree Growing Campaign Kicks Off

Eastern Regime Tree Planting Season Launched

Devolution in the Forestry Sector
In the 13th issue of the Forester Magazine, we feature a number of activities and programmes that the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) continues to implement in its quest to sustainably manage Kenya’s forests.

His Excellency the President launched the Green Schools Programme in December 2013. The roll out of the programme was done during the launch of the Eastern Rainfall Regime Tree Planting season at Lpartuk Primary School in Samburu. The event was officiated by the Principal Secretary State Department of Environment and Natural Resources Dr. Richard Lesiyiampe.

KFS also had the honour of hosting His Excellency the President Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta at its stand during the Nairobi International Trade Fair during which he interacted with KFS staff and other invited exhibitors while touring the stand.

Among our features is one on commercial forestry. This is a programme that the Service is spearheading in the country to assist farmers invest in commercial tree growing. This will help increase the country’s tree cover and at the same time improve the livelihoods of Kenyans as wood for various commercial ventures is in very high demand in Kenya.

These are just some of the many interesting articles lined up for you in this issue of the Forester magazine. Enjoy

Anne Kaari
Sustainable Use of Forest Resources is Our Responsibility

It is now abundantly clear that natural resources are finite resources which must be utilized sustainably if mankind hopes to continue depending on them. The effects of forest destruction and environmental degradation are all too clear for us to see and experience. It is encouraging to note that Kenyans now appreciate the importance of maintaining the integrity of our environment especially through forest conservation and tree planting.

But the mistakes of yesteryears have to be corrected so that we can secure our future and that of our children. It is for this reason that Kenya Forest Service (KFS) continues to implement programmes that seek to restore our forests. One such programme is the commercial tree growing campaign that seeks to increase trees on farmlands by encouraging farmers to venture into forestry for commercial reasons. This includes planting trees with the aim of harvesting them on maturing for sell to the wood industry which has a very huge demand.

We are also involving schools in tree planting activities in their institutions in order to first instill a tree planting culture among school going children and also help them boost their financial wellbeing by venturing into tree business. Money realized from harvesting mature trees could be used to sponsor school programmes and thus lessen the financial burden for parents while children can themselves plant trees that they will use to further their education in later stages.

The responsibility of managing our forests sustainably rests with all of us and therefore everyone must play their role effectively so that we can enable our environment serve us adequately and for prosperity.

D.K. Mbugua

LETTERS

Equity African Leaders Club-Kenyatta University chapter wishes to champion Environmental conservation by planting trees. In that regard they wish to start off by planting 1000 seedlings in the next year, in three phases phase one 300 seedlings, 400 seedlings for phase two and 300 seedlings plus replacements for phase three.

Edwin Wachira Kuria.
President - EALC Kenyatta University Chapter.

HEEP Group is a community based organization based on two thematic areas which are education and environment conservation with Health and Poverty eradication as cross cutting themes. Our Project’s aim in the year 2014 is to plant one million trees starting with the semi-arid Kajiado County. This is an effort to prevent or deal with urgent environmental issues in Kenya such as Deforestation and desertification caused by human factors.

Naomi Wanyoike
Program Officer
HEEP Group

BE THE LUCKY WINNER!!!

KFS will be awarding one lucky winner of the ‘Star Letter’. Write to us with your comments and queries for a chance to win the above branded merchandise.
By Michael Muratha

Kenya’s forest cover now stands at 6.99%. Tree planting is a great investment opportunity which has remained appreciated in many parts of the country. The Service has continued to lead tree planting exercises and supervise afforestation activities in all forest land both for natural resource conservation and timber production.

In line with the mandate to conserve, develop and sustainably manage forest resources, KFS launched this year’s Eastern Regime Tree Planting Season in Lpartuk Primary School, Samburu County. Gracing the occasion were various dignitaries including Principal Secretary, State Department of Environment and Natural Resources Dr. Richard Lesiyampe, KFS Board Chairman Peter Kirigua, KFS Director David Mbugua among other senior KFS officials and community members.

In his remarks, Dr. Lesiyampe appealed to Samburu County residents and particularly those burning charcoal, to organize themselves into groups and register themselves for certification. He also urged school heads and board members to allocate 10% of school land for the planting of trees. He castigated the cutting of the Red Cedar tree, which he termed as an endangered species in the country and warned those engaging in the act to stop.

Kenya Forest Service Board Chairman Peter Kirigua noted that the Service was keen on promoting commercial tree growing to boost Kenya’s economy and towards this, KFS had partnered with the Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust to supply and deliver Eucalyptus seedlings to Counties countrywide, in order to make them easily accessible to farmers. A total of 3,700 trees were planted during the launch.

During the ongoing rainfall season, a total of 273,589 tree seedlings will be delivered to KFS County offices for planting within farmlands. In addition, a total of 776,737 Eucalyptus seedlings have been ordered by farmers to be planted during the April–June 2015 rainfall season.

“Dr. Lesiyampe appealed to Samburu County residents and particularly those burning charcoal, to organize themselves into groups and register themselves for certification.”
Green Schools and Commercial Tree Growing Campaign Kicks Off

By Michael Muratha

Environment is an increasingly important issue in Kenya’s development agenda with many communities relying on the natural resources surrounding their localities to generate goods and services for consumption and income.

The Ministry of Environment Water and Natural Resources in conjunction with Kenya Forest Service has finally rolled out the much anticipated Green Schools Tree Planting Programme. The project which is one of the strategies to increase the country’s forest cover to 10% is being implemented in all Counties. One school has been selected from each County with the exception of Kwale, Meru, Kiambu and Garissa Counties where two schools were identified in each.

In total, 51 schools have been picked out of which 34 are from the non-ASAL Counties while 13 are from the ASALs. A total budget of Kshs. 37,317,800.00 will be utilized for implementation of the activities which include; water harvesting, tree nurseries infrastructure establishment, woodlots establishment, capacity building for schools and tree nursery and woodlots protection.

The criteria for selecting the schools in the non-ASAL Counties includes the availability of adequate arable land to plant and maintain 1,000 trees. While in the ASAL Counties, the schools selected are required to plant and maintain at least 100 trees. The schools should also have an area of at least one acre for tree nursery establishment and demonstration of commercial tree growing among other requirements. The program is structured into three components namely Green Schools, Commercial Tree Growing and Programme Management and Coordination.

Launching the program last year in Michinda Primary School Nyandarua County, His Excellency the President Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta lauded the initiative which he said will see children planting about three million seedlings per year. Kenya Forest Service being the lead agency for the programme implementation has been able to so far launch the program at the county level.

Speaking during the launch of the project in North Eastern, Head of Conservancy Jamleck Ndambiri said that the Service will introduce more tree species in schools under the programme. So far the project has been launched in all the 47 Counties in successful events whereby school children where engaged in the planting.

In addition, school administrations have expressed willingness to participate in this programme in the long term. The selected schools are accessible to a large catchment of community members since they will become centers of learning the many aspects of tree growing, whose impact is excepted to be both far reaching and visible. The main source of water will be water to be harvested from roof catchments.

“His Excellency the President Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta lauded the initiative which he said will see children planting about three million seedlings per year.”
KFS Shines at The International and Agricultural Shows

By Caroline Kahuria

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) joined participants both local and international, at the 2014 Agricultural Shows around the country. The participants showcased a rich selection of exhibits from all over the world, and in a variety of sectors ranging from livestock, industry, trade and environment among others.

The Service scooped third position in five categories at the Nairobi International Trade Fair; among them best organization in community service, the stand that best interprets the current show theme, the best medium government stand, the best innovation an invention stand, the best energy saving and conservation sector stand and the best stand demonstrating the application of environment quality standards.

Elsewhere at the Nyeri Regional Show, the Service won first position for the best interpretation non-statutory board, second positions for the best display and service in the health sector and pharmaceutical stand and the best energy services and conservation stand. At the Nakuru Show, the Service won first position for the best energy and conservation sector stand, second positions for the best stand demonstrating the application of environmental quality standards and the best large government stand.

At the Mombasa International Show, the Service emerged position two for the best large trade stand and commercial industrial stand, best organization in community service stand and third position for the best energy saving and conservation sector stand, and in Kisumu; third category for the largest government stand. This year’s theme was “Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth”.

The Service has been performing exceedingly well more so in engaging with communities adjacent to the forests on viable ways of protecting the forests while still benefiting from them through community participation programs. The speakers, while addressing the participants at the shows, encouraged farmers to work tirelessly towards value addition of their products to ensure they reap maximum benefits for food security and National growth respectively.
By Caroline Kahuria

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) joined other participants at the 9th Scientific Conference for Forestry Society of Kenya (FSK) held on 18th and 19th September, 2014 in Kisumu County, under the theme “Sharing Experiences in Sustainable Management of Forest Resources to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change”.

The Conference focused on conservation issues among them; sustainable management and utilization of mangroves, conservation of endangered and threatened flora and fauna, challenges and opportunities in sustainable management of farm forestry, sustainable ecotourism amidst the challenges of climate change and streamlining forestry education, research and training to address emerging forestry issues.

Speaking during the conference, FSK National Chairman Mr. Jamleck Ndambiri noted that the conference was aimed at improving skills and additional knowledge of participants on forestry matters, particularly on mitigating and adapting to new changes happening around the world at large.

“We are aware as foresters that forests contribute to a great extent to the change in climate change not only to the country but also within the region. We therefore hope that the conference will enable participants take home with them skills and additional knowledge that will help them participate in mitigating, and ensuring communities within Kenya adapt to the new changes that are happening all over the world”. He also noted that a law is being legislated to ensure that livelihoods of people living in fragile ecosystems are improved.

Also in attendance was Kisumu Governor Jack Ranguma, KEFRI Director Ben Chikamai, KFS Deputy Director Prof. Donald Ogweno among others. The speakers encouraged participants to embrace technologies in the forestry sector to ensure that issues to do with climate change are dealt with for the benefit of the country and the world at large.

“The speakers encouraged participants to embrace technologies in the forestry sector to ensure that issues to do with climate change are dealt with for the benefit of the country and the world at large.”
Total Kenya Tree Conference and Annual Awards Gala Night

By Michael Muratha

As one of the strategies of meeting the stipulated 10% tree cover, Kenya Forest Service and Total Kenya have identified a need and have set a target of planting 100 million trees per year. The Total Kenya Tree Conference and Annual Awards Gala Night which is spearheaded by the two organizations is an annual event that has been set up in order to award tree planting champions each year. These champions include individuals, farmers, community groups, schools, societies, organizations, businesses and industries of every size and kind, who have majorly contributed to increasing our tree cover.

This year’s tree conference dubbed “Face It, Fix It” was held at the Windsor Golf and Country Club where forestry experts and stakeholders made presentations and deliberated on big issues in the forestry sector. The Conference was later followed by a colourful Gala Night where tree planting champions were awarded for their outstanding efforts in forest conservation and management.

To open up the conference was KFS Director David Mbugua who urged forestry stakeholders to team up and come up with even brighter ideas regarding forest conservation and management in this country.

The conference also offered a unique opportunity to bring National Policies and the private sector together to start a purposeful conservation between government and the entire public. It also provided a framework to build mutual understanding and respect and to forge a growing public-private partnership, which is essential for any and all to succeed.

Among the KFS officers awarded during the Gala Night were Ecosystem Conservator, Uasin Gishu; Paul Karanja and Forest Station Manager, Lorenge Forest Station; Hesbon Ogira who both expressed their gratitude on receiving the award and promised to continue in the good spirit of forest conservation and management.

“Recognition of exceptional achievements is done by presentation of trophies as per the category of championship.”
NDC Course 17 Participants Tour KFS Headquaters

By Sgt. Tito Okello

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) on 26th November, 2014 hosted a delegation of participants and four members of staff from the National Defence College (NDC), Karen. The students, who hail from different African countries, are also Senior Officers from various Security Agencies in their respective countries. Among the team members were officers from Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Rwanda Defence Forces while the rest were from the Kenya Defence Forces, National Police Service and National Intelligence Services.

The head of delegation Brig. Joseph Kivunzi paid a courtesy call to the Director KFS David Mbugua where he signed a visitor’s book before joining his teammates at the presentation hall. The aim of the visit was for the students to familiarize themselves with the roles played by KFS in the Nation’s Economic Growth and how it contributes to National Development and Security.

Deputy Commandant A.L Lemarkoko, who is also an alumnus of the NDC, gave the students a brief background of the Service and its functions as mandated by the Forest Act 2005. He cited ENCOM as an example of a Division in KFS which is directly mandated to protect forests and offer security to the Service’s Installations and personnel. He also mentioned the National roles played by the Rangers in Joint Security Operations and sharing of intelligence with other security agencies among other National duties. Mr. Lemarkoko informed the officers of the importance of protection and conservation of forests as they serve as carbon sinks for industrial toxic emissions and that forests are a source of raw materials for manufacturing industries and are a vital part of the building and construction sector.

The delegation also visited the Karura Forest Reserve where Prof. Karanja gave them a clarion call to observe protection of forests since all insecurity factors emanated from environmental degradation. The officers were taken through the birth and growth of the Friends of Karura Association and their Corporate Social Responsibilities towards adjacent communities like the Huruma slum next to the forest.

The officers were fascinated by the scientific research work that has been done at Karura forest leading to the discovery of a Fruit Fly now scientifically known as Rochmopterum Karurae. They were also shown pictures of archeological tools and artifacts believed to have been used by a Nilotic Group who might have inhabited Karura about 3,000 years ago.

The delegation also visited the waterfalls where the delegation head planted a Makamia Lutea tree to commemorate their visit. KFS Zonal Manager Stephen Kahunyo promised them that the tree would be protected and taken care of accordingly. The team appreciated the warm welcome they received at KFS and gave a gift of appreciation to the Director which was received on his behalf by the Deputy Commandant.

“They were also shown pictures of archeological tools and artifacts believed to have been used by a Nilotic Group who might have inhabited Karura about 3,000 years ago.”
Commercial Tree Growing

By Caroline Kahuria

Commercial tree growing is a venture that is becoming increasingly popular among farmers, considering its financial and environmental benefits. More and more farmers are involving themselves in tree growing each day and are without a doubt minting massive benefits from the same. According to the Kenya Forest Masterplan 1994, annual wood consumption stands at 43,000,000 m² while the supply of the same is at 30,000,000 m². Therefore filling the gap as a country is very important, and is only possible through engaging farmers to plant trees on their farms for commercial purposes.

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has teamed up with the Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust (TBPT) to promote and intensify commercial forestry development in the country. This partnership will see to it that farmers, more so small holder farmers receive the right information through extension services and publications. KFS will ensure that they are well informed regarding the tree seedlings to plant in different areas; TBPT will be tasked with producing new and improved commercial tree seedlings that are suitable for different counties in the country.

This initiative is aimed at eliminating the problems farmers encounter through the sale of sub-standard tree seedlings by individuals who are keen on profits but lack technical skills. Subsequently, the quality of farmers’ private plantations is compromised leading to low quality forest products and financial returns. This therefore will require that KFS officers in all regions offer advice on the best tree seedlings in order to maximize on returns, and order them for the farmers on request.

Speaking regarding the initiative, KFS Forest Extension Officer Joseph Njigoya said that farmers had accepted the initiative in a big way. “Farmers have embraced the initiative very positively; we are targeting to establish 1,200 Ha of private forest plantations and hence plant 2 million seedlings this financial year through this initiative, and we have already received orders for 1,794,275 seedlings. It is encouraging that farmers have embraced the initiative, and are also benefiting greatly from it,” he noted.

The tree growing efforts will enable the country achieve its 10% forest cover and still empower the farmers economically. Farmers in different counties are therefore urged to register with KFS offices and place their orders for improved Eucalyptus species to be provided by TBPT.

Marketing Manager, Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust Rose Makena noted that she was pleased with the progress. “This year a total of 273,598 improved Eucalyptus seedlings and clonal hybrids are scheduled to be collected under the KFS order. Already a number of counties have collected the tree seedlings and the process is still ongoing. 776,737 plants are scheduled to be planted in the year 2015 during the long rains. In total 1,050,335 tree seedlings will be planted by individual private farmers on their farms,” she said.
Devolution in the Forestry Sector

By Micheal Muratha

In line with the provisions of the Kenyan Constitution 2010, a new structure in the forest sector has emerged, it is simple and economical to implement and is purposefully designed to set the stage for the establishment of County Forest Management. It provides a gradual evolution of the forestry management structure that the Kenya Forest Service has at the County level. The strategy of the structure includes functions of the Service at the County and National level, programs and actions during transition, capacity, structure and budget on the service delivery at the County level.

Distribution of the forestry sector functions between the National Government and the County Governments have been set out in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The Constitution, The Kenya Vision 2030 and other development blueprints, have strongly emphasized the need for Kenya to work towards attaining the 10% tree cover. This requires that both National and County Governments work closely in order to realize this national goal through program and policy implementation.

In the current dispensation, the County Governments have the obligation of implementing specific National Government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation, Gazette Supplement Number 116 dated 9th August, 2014 provided for the following forestry functions to be devolved, forestry including farm forestry extension services, forests and game reserves formerly managed by Local Authorities, excluding forests managed by the Kenya Forest Service, National Water Towers Agency and private forests. With regards to the implementation of devolved forestry functions, the bigger responsibility for County Governments lies in the implementation of farm and dryland forestry interventions with technical support by the Kenya Forest Service.

Following the identification and gazettment of the functions to be devolved under the farm and dryland forestry development, the orderly transfer of these functions is very important. KFS has developed a Transition Implementation Framework as provided for under our statutes, to provide the smooth transfer of the identified functions. This will be followed by a Transition Implementation Plan that will be drafted jointly with the County Governments.

In line with the provisions of Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, KFS is committed to making every effort in providing technical assistance and capacity building to the County Governments in order to support forestry development. In particular, KFS has and will maintain a specialized pool of technical officers in the office of the Ecosystem Conservator in each of the 47 counties, for the purposes of providing advisory services to the County Governments and supporting forestry enterprise development and trade.

In addition, the Ministry will also continue to provide support during the development policies and legislation on forestry by the County Governments.
### Tree Resources in Kenyan ASALs

By Lydia Ogada

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<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>COMMON NAMES</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COMMON USES</th>
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| Melia volkensii               | Mukau                 | Fast growing, tolerant to dry conditions and is compatible with most crops. Prefers altitudes of between 350 and 1700m in areas with mean annual rainfall of 300-800mm. | • Harvested for timber use-its timber is used for construction and furniture  
• Used as fodder (fruit and leaves), Medicine (bark), bee forage, mulch and green leaf manure.  
• The leaf extract is also used on the skin of goats to control ticks and fleas. |
|                               | Mpendabure            |                                                                            |                                                                                      |
|                               | Kirumbutu             |                                                                            |                                                                                      |
|                               | Boba                  |                                                                            |                                                                                      |
| Prospis Juliflora             | Mrashe                | Grows to a height of 12 meters. Pods are 20-30cm long and contain between 10 and 30 seeds per pod. A mature plant can produce hundreds of thousands of seeds. Its roots are able to grow to a great depth in search of water. | • The only source of carbohydrates, sugars and proteins for livestock and human populations  
• Also provides fuel and timber which is used for poles, firewood, sawn timber and honey production from nectar, environmental rehabilitation medicine and shade. |
|                               | Mathenge              |                                                                            |                                                                                      |
| Osyris lanceolata-(East African Sandalwood) | Sandalwood          | A shrub or small tree growing to a height of up to 6m. It is multi-stemmed with a dark brown to blackish bark. It is a hemi parasite, with its roots attaching to host plants from which they absorb nutrients. | • It’s used for perfume and medicinal products. |
| Tamarindus indica             | Tamarind              | The tamarind is a long-lived, medium-growth, bushy tree which attains a maximum crown height of 12-18 meters. The crown has an irregular, vase-shaped outline. The tree grows well in full sun in clay, loam, sandy, and acidic soil types. Leaves are evergreen, bright green in color. The branches droop from a single, central trunk as the tree matures and is often pruned. At night, the leaflets close up. | • Produces edible, pod-like fruit which is used extensively in cuisines around the world.  
• Also used for traditional medicine and metal polish. |
| Adansonia digitata            | Baobab                | The baobab trees usually grow as solitary individuals and have fruits that are filled with pulp which dries, hardens, and falls to pieces which look like chunks of powdery, dry bread. | • Fruit-seed with pulp is colored and sugar added to make a product commonly known as Mabuyu.  
• Jam |
| Vitex payos                   | Black plum            | A small tree, 2-10m tall and produces a black fruit that when ripe contains a black, meaty and sweet pulp.                                                                                                    | • Jam  
• Fruits                                                                 |

SOURCE: KEFRI
# Tree Resources in Kenyan ASALs

By Lydia Ogada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| *Acacia senegal* | Acacia      | - Is a small thorny deciduous tree  
- It grows to a height of 5-12m, with a trunk up to 30cm in diameter. | - The source of the world’s highest quality Gum Arabic which is used as a food additive, in crafts and as a cosmetic. |
| *Commiphora myrrha* | Mal Mal (Somali) Qumbi (Borana) | A spiny shrubby tree (upto 4m tall). It grows at an altitude of between about 250-1,300m (820-4,270 ft) with a yearly mean rainfall of about 220-300mm (9.1-11.8 in). It does best in thin soil, primarily in areas with limestone. | Produces Myrrha for:  
- Ink in Quranic schools  
- Snake and insect repellent  
- Medicine  
- Essential oil in cosmetics, flavours and antiseptics. |
| *Commiphora holtziana* | Hagar (Somali) Hagarsu (Borana) | A spiny tree (up to 9m tall) growing in areas with rainfall of 220-630mm. | Produces Hagar for:  
- Tick control  
- Medicine for snake bites and livestock ailments.  
- Herbal products  
- Essential oil in cosmetics. |
| *Boswellia neglecta* | Fohi (Somali) Dakara (Borana) | Much branched shrub or tree up to 6m tall with dark grey bark in areas with 250-600mm rainfall. | Produces Frankincense for:  
- Chewing gum  
- Burnt as incense, perfume  
- Medicine  
- Essential oil in perfumes, cosmetics and flavours. |
| *Moringa oleifera* | Moringa      | Grows quickly in many types of environment                                                  | - Is considered a potential oilseed feedstock for biodiesel  
- Its edible by humans and animals  
- Its leaves are used for medicinal purposes. |

*Source: KEFRI*
KFS Director David Mbugua poses with elders from the Kaya community, KFS officials and other guests during a meeting in his office.

Her Excellency First Lady Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta is briefed on the importance of the Podocarpus latifolius tree seedling that she planted by Senior Forest Officer Nairobi Conservancy Joyce Nthuku (left) during presentation of incubators to Pumwani Maternity Hospital in Nairobi County.

KFS Senior Legal Officer Laura Yego explains some of the KFS Legal Department’s activities to students from Nginda Girls Secondary School, Murang’a County during the Milimani Courts User’s Committee Open Day at the Milimani Law Courts.

Community Forest Association Members of Ololua Forest Station plant a tree during this year’s Mazingira Challenge in Kajiado County.

KFS Director David Mbugua poses with elders from the Kaya community, KFS officials and other guests during a meeting in his office.

PICTORIALS

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PICTORIALS

Head of Eco-tourism Department Philip Ireri explains a point to a visitor at the KFS stand during the Magical Kenya Travel Expo at KICC.

From left, Susan Kinyuki Assistant Director Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission, Judy Ndichu Programme Officer, Climate Governance Integrity Program Transparency International Kenya and Alfred N. Gichu Kenya Forest Service Senior Assistant Director Climate Change Response Program during the launch of the National Anti-Corruption for REDD+ project.
Participants pose during the 2nd National Participatory Forest Management Conference at KEFRI Headquarters Muguga. It was officially opened by the Principal Secretary State Department of Environment and Natural Resources Dr. Richard Lesiyampe (in blue suit), flanked by KFS, KEFRI, and Ministry Officials and other Environmental Stakeholders.

Asili Sacco Chairman who is also KFS Head of Survey Department Mr. Evans Kegode addresses members of the Sacco. The Sacco has benefited many KFS staff members.

SCBFFE Project Manager Jane Ndeti hands out a certificate to graduating farmers during the Farmer Field Schools graduation ceremony in Tharaka.

PICTORIALS

Senior Deputy Director, Support Services Monica Kalenda hands out a certificate to graduating farmers during the Farmer Field Schools graduation ceremony in Mbeere.

KFS Senior Deputy Director Field Operations Emilio Mugo receives a trophy won by the KFS Karate team during the Japan Association Kenya Shoto Cup Championships in Mombasa. He is flanked by KFS Senior Deputy Director Finance and Administration Patrick Nyagah (far left).

Hon. Justice Njoki Ndung’u Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya (left) together with Wangari Maathai’s grand daughter Ruth Wangari Lidkvist plant a tree at Karura Forest during the Wangari Maathai’s 3rd Memorial.

Senior Deputy Director, Support Services Monica Kalenda hands out a certificate to graduating farmers during the Farmer Field Schools graduation ceremony in Mbeere.

Asili Sacco Chairman who is also KFS Head of Survey Department Mr. Evans Kegode addresses members of the Sacco. The Sacco has benefited many KFS staff members.
By Sgt. Tito Okello

The Annual Joint Prayer and Thanksgiving Service for Uniformed Disciplined Services and their families is a spiritual nourishment program for all Disciplined Services in Kenya. The church chaplaincy in liaison with the Disciplined Services leadership started this program in order to allow officers seek spiritual intervention while in the line of duty. For better organization and smooth running of the event, a committee was set up and was meant to be taken in turns among the Services. The objective of this program was to enable officers give thanks to God, provide an opportunity for them to socialize and interact with their families, pray for their tools of work, departed souls who died in the line of duty and to pray for peace and reconciliation in the country among other things.

Until the enactment of Forest Act 2005, KFS could only participate in this program as an observer for two main reasons; firstly because it was not a member of the Disciplined Services and secondly because it had no capacity and organizational proficiency to carry out the duties of a Chair-Organization. Fast forward to 28th October, 2012 and the sheer transformation of the service from a Department to a Parastatal, beckoned the responsibility of the Chair Organization to its door.

It was time KFS proved its worth in the disciplined circles and in a colourful ceremony presided over by the retired President His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, the then Kenya Police Service Commissioner Matthew Itere handed over the mantle to the KFS Director David Mbugua. As the new Chair Organization, the Service was to chair all meetings at all the Prayer Celebration Centers all over the country. Another task would be to organize the sites and coordinate the activities of sister Services within the given regions and facilitate the Bishop (Head of the Uniformed Disciplined Service Chaplaincy) and his team to the events.

Without a demur, the service took over the mandate with gusto. Coincidentally, as KFS was taking over as the new head of the chaplaincy, Rt. Rev. Bishop Salesius Mugambi of the Meru Diocese was also taking over from his predecessor Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo of the Homabay Diocese. It was a new beginning but KFS had already come of age to rise up to the occasion. It was during its tenure that the Service introduced more celebration centers than were originally in place. The new centers are Voi, Wajir and Lodwar which brought about convenience to the officers in the respective centers.

The two aircraft acquired by the Service also made it soar over the transportation challenges that came with transportation of the team. This made it move far and fast even in difficult terrain with much ease within record time. In line with the KFS mandate, a tree planting program for Service Commanders was also introduced to be undertaken annually. The team under the leadership of the Deputy Commandant Mr. Lemarkoko on behalf of the Director, traversed the country to every Prayer Center from Coast, North Eastern, Central, Nyanza, Upper and Lower Eastern, Western, Rift Valley and Nairobi discharging this mandate to the final fruition of these events.

The curtains would soon come down on 2nd November, 2014, as the Service Director handed over the very mantle to the Commissioner General of the Kenya Prisons Service Mr. Isaiah Osugo at Holy Family Basilica Nairobi in the presence of His Excellency the Deputy President. The Director wished the Prisons Service well in their new mandate and pledged to support them all the way. The Service is also grateful to the entire Disciplined Services and the Church Chaplaincy for the unyielding support and cooperation showed at every stage whenever needed. This couldn’t be any better without the devoted staff members of the Service who did their part unrelentingly in order to make this a success.

KFS hands over Prayer Mantle to Prisons Service
SCBFFE Project Conducts its Final Farmer Field School Graduation

By Susan Ndethiu

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) through the Support to Community Based Farm Forestry Enterprise (SCBFFE) Project, recently joined farmers from various Farm Forestry Field Schools (FFFS) in the Tharaka, Mbeere and Kitui regions for their graduation ceremonies which took place between the 13th and 23rd October, 2014.

Speaking at the Tharaka District function, Guest of Honor Senior Assistant Director in charge of Forest Economics Samuel Muriithi encouraged members of the Tharaka community to plant even more trees in order to reduce the effects of climate change on the environment and also to keep educating themselves on environmental conservation matters. He also urged the groups to take up more loans as the money is still available for their use. He also encouraged the members of the different groups to keep the Farmer Field Schools going strong even after the project comes to an end.

In Mbeere District, speaking at a similar graduation ceremony, Guest of Honor Senior Deputy Director Support Services Monica Kalenda congratulated the graduates on a job well done and said that she would like to see them utilizing the skills learnt to continue improving their livelihoods. She further urged them to be ambassadors of tree planting on behalf of the Kenya Forest Service so that others around them may also learn from and emulate their successes.

Elsewhere in Kitui, another series of graduations took place from 21st – 23rd October, 2014. In attendance were Senior KFS Officials, local leaders among other guests.

Speaking during the graduation ceremonies, SCBFFE Project Manager Jane Ndeti congratulated the graduates for their hard work and noted that the Project has seen over 2,000 farmers graduate since it began. She also encouraged the graduates to register themselves with the various available networks so that they could apply for loans as they are very useful to them, and also advised them to keep utilizing the skills they have learnt to uplift their lives.

Among the farmers who have benefited from this project include Esther Musyimi from Zombe District, Kitui County who grows mangoes as a business and other horticultural crops. She attributed her success to hard work and consistency ever since she enrolled for the Farmer Field School course. She has also been a farmer facilitator in her area whereby she has trained a number of people on this course.

The Support to Community Based Farm Forestry Enterprise (SCBFFE) Project which continues to improve the livelihoods of farmers in Arid and Semi Arid areas, is funded by JICA through the World Bank and implemented by the Kenya Forest Service.

The farmers had been undergoing a training course on forestry and income generating activities for one year. A total of 484 farmers graduated from the three zones.
Farmers living adjacent to forest in Kericho, Sururu, Bomet and Sotik areas now enjoy better living standards after Kenya Forest Service (KFS) through Green Zones Development Support Project (GZDSP) impacted their lives through support in establishing woodlots on their farms.

The farmers, who were initially hesitant about the idea of transforming their grazing land for tree planting for fear of losing out, have benefitted greatly through commercial tree growing.

David Tiroto from Bomet County is one lucky farmer after he was trained by the GZDSP and supported with tree seedlings to establish a tree nursery. “I visited Kenya Forest Service offices after realizing the predicament that our village was facing without trees even for basic needs such as firewood,” he noted.

Fuel wood provides over 80% of Kenya’s domestic energy demands and provides for over 90% of rural household energy. The demand for fuel wood in the country is therefore high and has adversely affected the natural vegetation with environmental consequences. This is one of the reasons why GZDSP was established; to substantially increase the tree cover in the country and also to improve the living standards of communities adjacent to the forests through generation of income.

“The Project has greatly impacted my living standards such that when I first established the woodlots in 2007 at the cost of Kshs.20,000 I was able to earn a total of Kshs.930,000 by 2012 after harvesting firewood which I then sold to the Tigaga Tea Factory. These earnings enabled me to educate my children up to University level, construct a restaurant, purchase land as well as a vehicle that I use to manage all my businesses,” he says. The proud farmer, who has amply named his restaurant ‘Osinet Cafe’ which translates to ‘forest cafe’ in his local dialect, has been able to get additional income from the sale of poles, tree seeds and from the proceeds accrued from intercropping with cash crops. “Youth and farmers have now taken up tree growing as a means of livelihood after witnessing my success,” he noted.

Another successful farmer in Sururu area, is the chairman of the Masuricofo CFA Joseph Kimani who noted that the project had improved his life in a great way. He was especially gratified that through the project particularly the woodlot establishment, he had become entrepreneurial. “The money I earned from the sale of seedlings from the group enabled me to build my homestead, educate my children, start my own tree nursery, construct a fish pond and start cattle farming. I am also able to employ two workers who assist me in managing my farm. The Green Zones Project has brought a total livelihood change for us and we couldn’t be happier,” he said.

Kenya Forest Service through GZDSP has aimed to reduce poverty while increasing forest cover for water and biodiversity conservation in Kenya. The project objectives are to promote forest regeneration and conservation for environmental protection, and to improve rural livelihoods and incomes of communities living adjacent to the forests.

Speaking about the achievements of the Project, GZDSP Manager Jerome Mwanzia noted he is very proud of how the farmers have improved their living standards while still protecting the environment. “It is encouraging to note that the farmers can now earn a decent income from woodlot establishment. This is precisely because the project was focusing not only on output but also on impact which is now evident. I feel content that farmer’s lives have been fully transformed and I hope that they can now optimize on their returns through the sale of premier products such as transmission poles and other value addition initiatives.” he said.

"The money I earned from the sale of seedlings from the group enabled me to build my homestead, educate my children, start my own tree nursery, construct a fish pond and start cattle farming."
Seek To Improve Yourself

By Sgt. Tito Okello

Whenever I watch a contingent of rangers prance proudly with their boots denting the ground, chin elevated at an angle of 45 degrees with their chests abreast; with one arm held tightly by the side and the other swinging back and forth like a perfect see-saw machine, a flash of memory consumes me about how I felt on 17th May, 2002 at my pass out parade. We were victors! We were conquerors of a rigorous rote that would later change our lives. 12 years down the line since that passing out parade, things have changed tremendously. The law of natural selection has been sieving and still sifts the best of the breed amongst us every passing day. Just like dust blown out by the wheels, we have settled at different stages in life.

Each and everyone one of us though, is at liberty to consider their current standing as a success. That is why some of us settled for less while others crave for more.

It is prudent to note that life is successive in nature and that every new generation replaces another. Just like in a platoon or squad, we each pursue our own individual ambitions in life but the measure of success remains relative among each of us. We may need to employ the philosophy of continuous self improvement without ceasing.

There are various factors that have nipped our potential in life. First, we are in a comfort zone where we have totally become complacent in our current status and positions. Secondly, we have no sense of urgency hence we serve and eat from the plate of procrastination. Thirdly, we are afraid of failing again because we failed once before, while Winston Churchill once said that “Success is going through failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm.” Fear has rendered us apprehensive of trying once more even where we would have succeeded. Fourthly, we are basking in the glory of other people by considering their successes as our own. Because our family, a friend or relative has succeeded in achieving something, we by design have succeeded too. Finally, we have surrendered ourselves to fate, thus embracing the mentality of let come what may.

Does it not nag you that you have great potential or the fallacy of impossibilities have frozen your nerves? On the contrary, you can still lay your finger on the ark of life and tilt it once more in the direction of greatness. Avoid employing trial and error tactics in life. The crown is on the head of those who have spent invaluable hours in the academic corridors, burning every essence of their mental calories in search of knowledge. Society demands knowledgeable captains to navigate the ark of life towards greatness. Despite the challenges we face as individuals, we must emerge better people. They say “Education is the greatest equalizer” Anything less will be considered a mere excuse.

You are a Ranger of substance. You can be the magnet that attracts the world’s attention to the importance of forest protection right inside this camouflage uniform. Didn’t you have childhood dreams? What happened to them once you became a Ranger?

Despite economic challenges, your parents/guardians did their best. It is now incumbent upon you to improve yourself. Push harder than yesterday if you want a better tomorrow. Come out of your comfort zone, employ a death-at-your-feet strategy and have some sense of urgency. Peg your life on success and give failure no chance. And remember, good is not enough if better is expected and best, is still possible.
Corporate Citizenship or Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. The triple-bottom-line approach defines CSR as the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders.

As the world’s population increases, so does the pressure on limited natural resources required to meet rising consumer demand (Grace and Cohen 2005, 147). Industrialization especially in Africa is booming thanks to foreign investment and new technology. Most consumers are becoming more aware of the environmental and social implication of their purchasing power and this has led them to want to be identified with organizations that are environmentally conscious.

In this industrial age where more companies are entering the market and competing for a share of the market, companies need to come up with ways that can make them stand out from the pack and attract even more clientele. More companies in Kenya are investing part of their resources in tree planting as one of their CSR activities. This can help improve an organization’s corporate image as they are seen to be environmentally conscious by the community. Planting of trees also helps in reducing an organization’s carbon footprint, thereby meeting international standards.

KFS has been able to positively utilize the CSR concept in its mandate of increasing Kenya’s tree cover. This year alone, KFS has so far partnered with Kenya Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd. (KETRACO) and Toyota Kenya in planting tree seedlings in Ngong Road forest. In the month of May, both corporates have planted 1200 seedlings each in the 15ha of degraded site in the forest. Last year, KETRACO planted 1400 tree seedlings and through its partnership with KFS, we have been able to achieve a 90% success rate. The organization promised to continue its partnership with KFS and help in increasing Kenya’s tree cover.

Through its partnership with KFS, Toyota Kenya aims to plant 5000 tree seedlings on 500ha of forest land in the next 3 years as part of helping the Service in its mission to enhance conservation and sustainable management of forests and allied resources for environmental stability and socio-economic development.

DID YOU KNOW?
Assuming that it lives for at least 50 years, a tree exhales 2,721.6 Kilograms of oxygen in its lifetime, or about 54.4 Kilograms per year.
NEWS ROUND UP

KENHA Fights Climate Change Through Planting of Trees Along Highways

By Esther Munyingi

Climate change is increasingly becoming evident in this century. We are experiencing droughts, flash floods, landslides and a variety of other phenomena. Unfortunately, these occurrences are having a negative effect on our infrastructure. Roads and bridges are flooded once it rains and in some cases they are swept away by the flood waters. This has been witnessed a lot in arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs) where there is little or no vegetation to counter flood waters. This has seen the government divert money meant for development projects to repairing these roads and bridges. It is because of this that the Kenya National Highways Authority (KENHA) has decided to incorporate tree planting into all its planning and road designs.

The authority has to ensure that they take into consideration the impact of flash floods on all infrastructure being constructed. This is in line with the Climate Change Adaptation Action Point no. 5 of the National Climate Change Action Plan 2013 – 2017 on climate proofing all roads in ASAL areas in Kenya. These areas are prone to flash floods and if vegetation is not added to them, flood waters will end up in non-ASAL areas.

As part of their corporate social responsibility activities, KENHA in partnership with China Roads and Bridge Corporation and KFS, planted trees along the newly constructed Ngong Road interchange along the Southern By-pass. These trees are meant to not only beautify the area but also help in the fight against climate change. By planting trees along the roads, KENHA is contributing towards achieving the 10% tree cover as envisioned in Vision 2030. Speaking on behalf of the KENHA board, board director Mr. Kepha N.M. Oyara called upon all KENHA staff, consultants and contractors to enhance their efforts and capacities in order to effectively work towards provision of green roads and contribute to making lives green.

KFS Participates in KEFRI Open Day

By Sarah Wacera

Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forest Research Institute and other stakeholders came together to mark the KEFRI Open Day at Karura, off Kiambu road in an effort to conserve the environment with the running theme, ‘Efficient Technologies in Processing and Utilization of Forest Products’. The occasion was well attended by primary school children, university students and people from all walks of life.

KFS advocates for the conservation of trees through the use of improved charcoal production techniques. The main energy saving techniques on display included: the use of the improved earth kiln, casame kiln, drum kiln and portable metal kiln. The benefits associated with the use of the kilns include use of less wood thus saving our forests, employment opportunities for the youth and less carbon dioxide transmission to the environment during the charcoal making process. Other commercial farm forestry exhibits on display were tree products such as tables and stools made from bamboo. Various herbal products from different trees like the Neem tree and Aloe Vera were also part of the exhibits.

The Baobab tree and Date palm tree which produce ‘mabuyu’ and dates respectively were used as an example of food products that come from trees. Bee keepers were not left behind as they displayed honey and wax from bees that they keep in forest areas, thus using the forest for income generating activities without causing destruction to the environment.

KFS staff were readily at hand to answer questions from the members of the public regarding different services provided and ways in which we can all help in conservation of Kenya’s forests.
News Round Up

Development of Nairobi County Forestry Master Plan

By Esther Munyingi

Kenya Forest Service is seeking to develop an Urban Forestry Master Plan for Nairobi County. This Master Plan will help in greening the city and making it more attractive to its residents and also to foreign investors. Speaking during a forum hosted by KFS and attended by stakeholders in the environment and forestry sectors, Nairobi Ecosystem Conservator Stephen Kahunyo emphasized the need for all to be involved in the development of the Master Plan, in order for the county to be a leader in sustainable development.

His sentiments were emphasized by the HOC Nairobi County, Charity Munyasia. These Master Plans will be aligned with the new constitution and the Nairobi County Government Master Plan that is in its final stages. The Urban Forestry Master Plan will involve identifying correct tree species to be planted in different locations around the county, maintenance of these trees and the partners who will be involved in the maintenance of these trees.

The forum gave attendees an opportunity to look at design case studies from Malaysia, which has developed and implemented a successful urban forestry Master Plan. The Master Plan that is being proposed will see Nairobi’s county design plan and also new architectural designs, include trees into their plans to make the residential and commercial buildings greener.

World Bioenergy Conference 2014

By Caroline Kahuria

World Bioenergy conference is held every two years and brings together stakeholders from the bioenergy sector. This year over 50 countries converged at Elmia in Jönköping, Sweden from 3rd to 5th June, 2014 to present and learn about innovations in the energy sector.

The conference which began in 2004 offers a multitude of interesting field trips and workshops in a bid to enlighten the participants from a know how attitude to a show how attitude. The conference which celebrated its tenth anniversary this year was focused on creating jobs, raising people out of poverty and slowing down climate change. The workshop has overtime established a meeting place for the international exchange of knowledge and experience in the bioenergy sector.

It has demonstrated that bioenergy is an industry of the future through the influence on development changes and improving livelihoods in the respective countries of the participants. In many parts of the world, energy supply is being diversified to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide greater energy security. The conference was not only graced by the energy industry, but also the forestry industry which has great potential both for the efficient use of by-products and for dedicated energy production.

KFS has been involved in these noble activities particularly empowering communities living adjacent to forests to embrace conservation and be in the know regarding matters pertaining to climate change both for individual gain and also for environmental sustainability and energy production. The Service has therefore enhanced promotion of renewable energy technologies since approximately 70% of Kenyans depend on wood fuel for domestic use. This involves alternative energy use such as biogas and energy saving jikos which has reduced pressure from trees.

These technologies if embraced will slow down acts of deforestation and maximize on the forests’ role of mitigating climate change, as well as improving living standards of the beneficiaries.
The Kwale Forest Reserve is situated 35km South-West of Mombasa, off the Kwale- Kinango Road next to Kwale Town. It is an area that was set aside as a forest block in 1903 by the colonial government, in order to cater for the local community’s needs for wood related products. It is an afro-mountain coastal rain forest at an altitude of 430m above sea level with the highest point at 450m above sea level.

The area was gazetted as a forest reserve in 1932 and in 1968 as a natural reserve placing it under gazettement and management. It has an area of 19,242 ha with bimodal rainfall patterns. The forest is very rich in bio-diversity of both flora and fauna.

It has more than 1,700 different tree species, with most of them being highly widespread. It is also home to the Sable antelope, which is only found in this reserve in the country and in Tanzania in the greater part of East Africa.

The forest has a wide range of environmental functions, for instance it acts as a carbon sink reservoir, climate amelioration and it has also added aesthetic value to Kwale Town as well as provision of water to both Kwale and Mombasa Counties. It has five rivers with one of the oldest water abstractions done in 1932 and recently it was recognized as a water tower by the Water Tower Authority.

It is also a good source of herbs, some of which are known to cure most notorious diseases. In addition, the community surrounding the forest benefits immensely from it through activities such as bee keeping, ecotourism, butterfly farming as well as conducting their cultural rites within the forest among other benefits.

The forest harbors two Kayas namely Kaya Kwale and Kaya Logo Mwagand. It is also the only forest with a waterfall in the Coastal region. It has four attraction sites namely Shieldrick Falls, Ocean view point, Ngiriama view point and Pongo Hill view point at 450m above sea level.
SPORTS NEWS

KFS Football Team Finishes the Year on a High

By Lydia Ogada

The Kenya Forest Service Football team has been playing in the Nairobi Provincial League (NPL) since its inception. After finishing 9th with 40 points in 2013, this year the team worked extremely hard, producing outstanding results which have seen them finish 2nd in the (NPL) with 52 points, a point less than ASEC Huruma who finished on top of the group with 53 points.

Having emerged second, the team has automatically earned a promotion to National Division One and awaits official confirmation from the Federation of Kenyan Football (FKF) regarding joining the League. This promotion has greatly motivated the team and encouraged them to work even harder to join the National Super League of which if they finish at the top, they will join the big boys in the prestigious Kenya Premier League.

“I am happy with the boys’ performance, through their hard work they have made KFS proud. The performance has boosted our morale and I’m sure my boys are destined for greatness,” said an elated Head Coach, Joseph Sigwili whose remarks were echoed by the team’s new German Assistant Coach, Petersen.

The team was also grateful to the KFS Technical Team which is lead by Inspector Geoffrey Okeyo, Sergeant George Kimani, Team Manager John Thuo, Kit Specialist Edward Thuo and the entire background staff who worked very hard in making their successes possible.

KFS 2014 Golf Days Come to an End

By Lydia Ogada

The KFS sponsored golf tournaments came to an end at the Eldoret Sports Club. Geoffrey Kitiwa playing off handicap 17 posted a total of 41 stable-ford points to emerge the Overall Winner during KFS Golf Day at Eldoret Sports Club. Geoffrey posted 20 points in the first nine and 21 points in the back nine beating Runner-Up handicap 9 Kavi Shah with 40 points. The Ladies Winner prize went to the Club Chairperson, handicap 28 Hellen Yego who posted total 36 stable-ford points. The Staff Prize went to handicap 14, KFS Assistant Director Ochiel Owino who posted 19 points.

The Head of Conservancy North Rift Mr. Solomon Mibey speaking on behalf of the KFS Director, thanked the golfers for taking commercial tree growing seriously; a venture that is beneficial not only to our economy but also towards mitigating global issues like climate change.

Elsewhere at Karen Country Club, nine year old Jason Sifuma produced some outstanding round of golf to emerge the Overall Winner of the KFS sponsored golf tournament played on Saturday 11th October, 2014. Playing off handicap 25, the Braeburn Garden Estate School pupil who started playing golf three years ago, posted 22 points in the first nine and 20 points in the back nine for an impressive total score of 42 stable ford points. He attributed his good performance to immense support from his family. “I would like to thank my father and brother for the encouragement that they have given me since I started playing golf,” a delighted Jason said.

Winning the Men’s Prize was handicap 8 David Russell who posted 39 points. The Lady’s Prize was won by Lady Captain Eunice Maranya who posted 37 points. KFS Chief Communications Officer Charles Ngunjiri continued on his winning streak to win the Sponsor’s Prize with 29 points. Speaking during the awards ceremony, KFS Chairman Mr. Peter Kirigua urged golfers to engage in commercial tree growing, assuring them a return on investments. He said that a commercial tree seedling only cost Kshs. 14 while the same after 7 to 8 years could be sold for as much as Kshs. 8000. He noted that no other investment would give such returns in the same period of time. He also encouraged the golfers to teach their children to learn the value of trees.

The KFS sponsored golf tournament has been a great success this year and has attracted over 1,000 golfers, who have participated and planted trees in their clubs as well as carried some to go and plant in their respective homes. The tournament was successfully staged at 10 clubs around the country namely, Nakuru, Nanyuki, Karen, Nyali, Limuru, Nyanza, Thika, Nandi Bears, and Eldoret clubs. This year’s main focus has been commercial tree growing as a business venture and the commercialization of mature trees in their golf courses, in a bid to ensure that Kenya attains 10% tree cover as envisaged in our Constitution.
FROM THE FILES

16/9/19/19\m

The Conservator of Forests (West)

RE: ISSUE OF TAPED CROPS

Rec: Your Nos. 5/15/1/15/110 of 25-5-34

The relevant Gazette Notices are

(a) Gazette Notice 3502 of October 1937 for "Elgano/Marawat District"

and

(b) Gazette Notice 3976 of November 1937 for Forest Areas

2. You will note that it is "Elgano Marawat District" and not "Elgano Marawat less contained Forest Areas."

3. Under the circumstances I have no doubt that the earlier statement for the whole district appears over a later statement for an unspecified portion of the District.

4. The best you can do for the 1937 crop is to persuade the Administration to hand over 1/36 per bag from what they collect.

DEHL/V

for IS. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The next best time is today.
~ Chinese proverb ~

Across
1. Organisms and the physical factors that make up their environment.
3. Type of oven that produces temperature that can be used in the drying of wood for fuel.
4. Largest gazetted urban forest in Nairobi County.
5. Comes from removing water and other volatile constituents from animals or plants and is used in production of heat.
8. General term for forest crops and stands containing trees of commercial size and quality suitable for sawing into lumber.
9. Establishment of a forest stand of trees in an area where there were no forests.
10. Forests characterized by high rainfall, with annual rainfall between 250-450 cm.
11. A common unit of land measure equal to 43,560 square feet or 1/640 square miles.
13. A tool to measure the diameter of a tree.
14. Selective removal of parts of a plant such as branches buds or roots.
15. Branches and other wood materials left on site after logging.
20. To mark a tree, usually by painting or cutting

Down
2. The art and science of growing forest trees.
6. Outermost layer of stems and roots of woody plants.
7. Degree of variation of life.
12. Upper layer or habitat zone formed by mature tree crowns and including other biological organisms in forests.
15. A dead tree that is still standing.
17. Decay.
18. Boundary between two ecological communities.
22. Trunk of a tree.

Quote
The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The next best time is today.
~ Chinese proverb ~
Your Tree is your Wealth

Trees provide a source of income from provision and sale of products such as timber, charcoal, resins and non-wood forest products such as honey and eco-tourism services. Trees are a source of wealth creation and employment for all Kenyans.

Celebrating Forests for Sustainable Development.
Melia Volkensii

Melia is an indigenous tree species from the family Meliceae. It is well known for its open crown and laxly branches, grey and fairly smooth bark, bright green compound leaves and small white flowers.

The tree also bears fruits which are oval, green and mostly 4cm long. Melia grows at an average of 1m per year and when fully mature it can stand at a height of 15-20m tall with a diameter of up to 25cm. It takes the tree 12-16yrs to fully mature and grows naturally in the semi-arid areas of Kenya, Somali, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The tree has many uses and is considered to be quite profitable to the farmers who plant it, some of its uses and advantages including production of durable timber. Timber from the Melia tree is used for construction and is also considered to be one of the best woods for making furniture. Leaf extracts from the tree are used on the skin of goats to control ticks and fleas.

The tree is classified as a valuable hardwood and it is also termite resistant. Melia grows well in sandy/loamy soils with good drainage and doesn’t tolerate areas prone to water logging. Mature fruits are yellow in color and easily drop on their own but when collecting fruits for planting, it is best to collect them from the tree before they drop and to make sure that they are not stored for a long period of time as they will ferment and the seeds will lose their viability.

To ensure high genetic diversity, seeds should be collected from at least 20 trees which are more than 30m apart. It is also important to identify good mother trees from which seeds are collected, the selected mother trees should be vigorously growing with large straight stems, free from nodes.

After picking out the seedlings, remove the seed coat to reduce fungal attack (Fusarium spp.) to the seedlings which can also be brought about by over-watering as the seedlings are sensitive to water logging hence the importance of controlled watering.