



AFRIKA GREEN REVOLUTION (AGREE)

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CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 22 MAY 2011 AT MUHOYA'S BRIDGE NYERI HILL

The United Nations declared this year the International year of forests whose theme is "FORESTS FOR PEOPLE. 22nd May was declared the international day for biological diversity, set aside for increasing understanding and awareness of Biodiversity issues. This is a day to be observed the world over.

Afrika Green Revolution (AGREE) Embarked on rehabilitation campaign to rehabilitate the much degraded Nyeri hill forest adjoined to Chania River Line.

Nyeri hill is a culturally and strategically important land mark in Nyeri county. This is where all communication and broadcasting bodies have erected their transmission Masts.

The first weather station serving the central Kenya region from the colonial era was situated at the top of Nyeri Hill.

While on top of this hill one can see the whole of central Kenya as far as Nairobi and beyond. You can also see clearly the two water towers ie. Aberdares ranges and Mt Kenya forest. Here you can also have a clear view of the tallest mountain in Africa, Mt. Kilimanjaro on the Kenya Tanzania border as well as picturesque meanders of River Tana and Athi.

Over the years, the Nyeri hill forest has been destroyed by illegal loggers even up to this day we have witnessed cases of people felling giant pine trees for fuel and timber using axes and hand saws to avoid detection. They avoid the use of power saws for their loud noise. AGREE has been authorized by K.F.S. to rehabilitate and conserve the southern side of the Nyeri hill forest touching Chania river. In addition the ceremony was also meant to mark ***The Groundbreaking and Launching of AGREE's Rehabilitation and Conservation Programme.***

AGREE vice Chairman Mr Wachiuri played the part of M.C. and welcomed guests at the site.

M/s Beate Boehme actively participated on behalf of IWMNet, (Capacity Building for Integrated Watershed Management in Eastern Africa) a network of a number of local and international universities that is funded by EU which is a member of AGREE, bronze category.

M/s Beate being familiar with the current River Catchments Strategic Plans emphasized the need for her organization to strengthen AGREE to effectively train farmers bordering rivers and wetlands on sustainable conservation from which they can draw various benefits.

AGREE being a member of Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) planned and organized the event with the blessing of the zonal manager's office, Kenya forest service (KFS) and the local office, Kenya forest Research Institute (KEFRI).

It is noteworthy that KEFRI, besides offering AGREE with technical advice in conservation related matters, through the research officer Mr Michael Gathura donate 500 assorted tree seedlings a week before the event.

Most of these seedlings were planted at the prepared part of the site on Biodiversity day while others continue to be planted along with further bush preparation activities.

The event brought together a number of well wishers who included the local community around the hill and a number of local and international organizations. The local community assisted in site preparation while a tree farmer from the area Mr. Mahinda Gikonyo donated 500 tree seedlings.

Although the day fell on a Sunday when almost all offices are closed KFS still managed to provide us with a vehicle and a driver to ferry participants to the site.

The participants displayed a great love and enthusiasm for their environment by bravely defying the intermittent showers and wet condition that made the order of the day. Over 200 trees were planted when more participants who walked for long distances to the site joined the team.

The following organizations were represented:

- 1) Chania river Water Resource Users Association (WRUA)–was represented by the Chairman Mr.Uledi Majid
- 2) Tetu Irrigation Pilot Scheme (TIPS) –Represented by the chairman Mr. James G.Wamani
- 3) Kieni West Community Forest Association – represented by the chairman Mr. John Karoki

- 4) Capacity Building for Integrated Watershed Management in Eastern Africa (IWMNet) a regional project funded by E.U. was represented by M/s Beate Boehme from the University of Siegen, Germany.
- 5) Citizen Television crew For Video coverage.
- 6) Tetu Boys School, a local primary school with an established tree nursery was represented by a Board member Mrs. Rose Muthoni.
- 7) 2010 Strategic Self Help Group was represented by the Secretary Mr. Hudson Wanjohi
- 8) Kollywood Kenya Movies for Documentaries was represented by the Executive Producer Mrs. Eunice Macharia.
- 9) Kihatha Youth Polytechnic was represented by the Chairman Mr. David Wanyiri Gitonga and
- 10) Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) was represented by the Area Manager Miss Esther Wangui.
- 11) Kirinyaga Cultural Group was Represented by Hmphrey B. King'ori

AFRIKA GREEN REVOLUTION,

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH ;

On The International Day For Biological Diversity

Sunday 22nd May 2011

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED.

We are gathered here today as a small crowd but in a very big way for naturally being concerned with the conservation of our small forest which will be counted among many others as a vital contribution to the world forest cover.

In my view, what I see here is a gathering of brave ambassadors representing a strong spirit of oneness and standing to be counted with the best of the world in celebrating this international day for biological diversity.

The United Nations declared this year the International year of forests "Forests 2011" whose theme is "FORESTS FOR PEOPLE," in recognition of the role of forests to the survival of mankind. From time immemorial the forests have continuously provided us with food, clean water, medicine, materials for shelter, clothing, fuel and recreation notwithstanding the most enormous work of balancing climatic conditions that make the world habitable providing us with the air we breath and the rain that water our crops.

In recent decades the human advancement in science and technology have resulted in reduced child mortality rate hence spanning population growth and an increase in demand for life's necessities most of which are to be found within our forest ecosystem.

The increasing demand on forest resources have considerably brought the forest cover to far much below the nationally accepted minimum of 10% for a balanced sequestration of carbon. The ever growing dependency on fossil fuels coupled with mushrooming of industries in both developed and developing world have continuously increased their carbon emissions to a very high level that is choking our atmosphere. This has created the scenario that is responsible for Tsunami related catastrophes we are frequently witnessing today.

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) declared this day 22nd of May 2011 a day for celebrating globally the role of people in the management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests.

The implementation of the *Kenya Forest Act 2005* could not have come at a better time. The Kieni West Community Forest Association and the Chania Water Resource Users Association both of which we are members and are well represented here, are products of both global, regional and national initiatives that have safely placed the responsibility of caring for threatened forest ecosystems on the hands of local communities.

The same Forest Act have put in place mechanisms by which the communities stand to draw enormous benefits from their conservation efforts of the forest ecosystems around them on social cultural and economic terms.

I finally thank everybody and end by making an appeal to all of you; Let us always remember that the responsibility of our environment is entirely on our hands. Let us make our environment better than we inherited it from those before us while inspiring our youth to sustain ably conserve as nature demands of us.

This way we stand to draw more benefits from our well tendered forests than ever before, by exploiting the genetic and other resource potential within our forest biodiversity.

Thank you

E.G. Wang'ombe

Chairman; Afrika Green Revolution

SPECIES OF TREES PLANTED

- 1) Mukurwe - *Albizia Gummifera*
- 2) Muiri - *Prunus Africana*
- 3) Murangi - *Dendrocalamus Aspera*
- 4) Muhuru - *Vitex Keniensis*
- 5) Mukoigo - *Bridelia Micranthas*
- 6) Muu - *Makhamia Lutea*
- 7) Mutero - *Olea Africana*

PICTORIAL



Beate planting her Murangi tree



Chairman's address



Guest of honour address



Beate's address



Esther YMCA planting Muringa tree



Group poses for a photograph at site



Beate and Uledi plant Muringa tree



AGREE and WRUA Members



AGREE Treasurer planting Pordocarpus



TIPS Chairman giving his speech



AGREE Chairman planting Muiri tree



Kollywood Producer planting Muhuru tree



Board Member Tetu Boys planting Pordocarpus tree



Chairman Kinunga planting Muhuru



AGREE Vice Chairman's speech



AGREE Secretary planting Muiri



Kingori of Kirinyaga Cultural Group Planting Mukoigo tree



Treasurer AGREE addressing

KENYA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION JOIN AGREE'S
04/06/20 CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

DURING
2011 WOLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS
AT MUHOYA'S BRIDGE NYERI HILL FOREST



Girl Guides proudly show off their Logo next to their team leader As they keenly listen to the DO's And DON'T's of Conservation By AGREE's Chairman and the Secretary smiling right behide



One of the forest's greatest enemy; Charcoal Burning is still a Menace and a major Challenge AGREE is working to curb by providing Alternative Energy Sources for the communities for sustainable Utilization of forest resources



The team enjoys a light moment at the Isle on river Chania near the Bridge



AGREE secretary give conservation hints to the Team at the back-ground franked by Scout leader before tree planting commenced



The team goes for more seedlings as they get more enthusiastic



A Girl guide plants a muhuru tree



A Boy Scout plants a Pordocarpus tree



The Guest of the day Mr Wachira is helped to water the Mutero tree he Planted next to a giant Mugumo tree

After planting about three hundred tree seedlings, the team expressed their love for Mother Nature by rushing back to the Isle where they took snacks and photo sessions with a promise to join hands with AGREE on their long route towards substantial Rehabilitation of Nyeri Hill Forest.



Board Member of Tetu Boys M/s Rose sorting out indigenous tree seedlings from a sack.

The day's importance was summarized with remarks from various speakers; M/s Maureen Wangechi on behalf of the team and Young Leaders Central Province Chapter thanked the AGREE team for taking up responsibility of such an enormous task and more so for recognizing and inviting The Girl Guides who extended the call to their counterparts, a team from Kenya Scouts Association led by M/s Tabitha W. Kibera.

Mr Ndegwa a renowned Landscaper and the current AGREE secretary emphasized the need for more cooperation to transform the beauty of the area to become a Big sport for Eco and Agro Tourism.

The Chairman AGREE gave a vote of thanks to all participants for representing all those who enjoy breathing fresh air by contributing towards its cleaning process. Let us take the lead towards compliance to benefit from Carbon Trade. My greatest source of happiness is to see young people like you taking up the initiative to conserve the environment.

The AGREE team offers to guide and train you how to generate a milliard jobs from the rich forest Non Wood Resources including genetic and carbon credit.

What you have done today is a great step towards turning this place into an out door School with no walls. You truly make us proud by the realization that the future of our nation will be under the care of Responsible Hands if at all you keep up this spirit.



THANK YOU

Ernest G. Wang'ombe
Chairman AGREE

