

Project Update: December 2015

Progress made to date

The project team held a meeting in early September 2015 to discuss the activities, workplan and execution of the same. Because of the current heavy rains in Kenya, the team agreed to start with establishing the tree nursery. This is on-going and some seedlings are almost ready for planting (Plate1).



Plate 1. Nursery tubes for planting seedlings. In the background are covered tubes with planted indigenous tree seedlings. Plate 2. Prof P. Aloo-Obudho (in spotted skirt) and Dr. Mugo Mware transferring seedlings from seed bed to the polythene tubes

The second activity was seeking authority from the Ministry of Education authorities in Nyeri County to work with the school children. The authority has been given and 10 schools already identified around the vicinity of the University. Currently, schools have closed but soon as they open in January 2016, the Nature Clubs will be established.

We shared the project idea with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) on how we intend to have primary school children establish tree nurseries and mini forests in the schools. They lauded the project and agreed to partner with us. In addition, they have pledged to donate 1,000 indigenous tree seedlings to complement our efforts. The seedlings are awaiting collection from their various stations to be brought to the university. The research team contacted the county Minister for Environment to allow us to plant the seedlings which have been donated by KFS in degraded lands in Nyeri County and we are waiting for response to proceed with the activity.

I talked to the Editor from Nation Media Group and briefed him about the project. He agreed to mention our project but would like to give full coverage when we start working with the schools in January. They already highlighted the project on the Daily Nation of Thursday 4th December 2015. After the highlight, the Director General of the National Environmental Management Authority called me to hear more of what we are doing.



Plate 3. Weeding of the tree seedlings.