

Project Update: August 2018

This report provides a summary of activities that have been undertaken in the project during August 2018:-

i. Indigenous tree nurseries establishments and seedlings nurturing for community groups

Three community groups have successfully been able to nurture and breed seedlings for Akara Hills forest reforestation as shown in the table below:

| Group/Nursery Name | Number of seedlings raised | Status of potting |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| NYIEGO Community Tree nursery | 4,381 | completed |
| YASCO Community Tree nursery | 3,993 | continuing |
| RAPUDO Fish Farmers Community Tree nursery | 1,920 | continuing |
| Total | 10,294 | |

In addition, Nyiego and YASCO were given additional Grevillea seeds of 0.5 kg and 1 kg respectively to continue nurturing more seedlings in preparation for plantings.

ii. School outreaches and nursery establishments

Five school outreaches have been conducted in Hawinga, Obambo, Nyalula, Ndayi and Kanyaboli primary schools reaching out to over 138 environmental club members with the project objectives of strengthening conservation efforts of the Akara Hills Forest.

Three schools: Nyalula, Ndayi and Hawinga primary schools environmental clubs have been extensively trained on agroforestry (tree nursery beds preparations, seedlings care and maintenance). They have also been equipped with watering cans, training manuals and seeds. The seedlings at Nyalula have germinated, however, they have not been potted due to schools closure for holiday. In the next few days, these seedlings shall be completely potted.

iii. Community outreach

Three community outreaches have been conducted to empower the locals with skills on sustainable forest conservation, products and ecosystem values and viable alternative livelihood earning initiatives in the Akara hills forest. We also tackle green energy alternatives (solar lamps, energy saving cook stoves) and market linkages for the locals with service providers e.g. where to get seeds, pesticides and market for seedlings. Over 109 local community members have been reached in Kadenge women group (43 participants), Nyamaji women group (38 participants) and Kombo BMU (27 participants).

iv. Tree planting preparatory meeting

One community village heads meeting was held in early August 2018 to help in the planning for tree planting activities within the forest area. A 3-week survey on identification of areas with the highest degradation activities has been accomplished. The identified farmers with farms extending into the forests will be

sensitised before being equipped with seedlings to plant in the degraded areas within the forest.

v. Conclusion and Recommendations

Most of the seedlings already potted are ready for planting, however, due to the fact that the seedlings would be planted in the forest, availability of rains would be very key. We shall therefore conduct planting activities with the September short rains to avoid losing seedlings in dry spell.

From the schools and community outreaches, we are realizing that the target forest users, are becoming more concerned about the roles they can play to help in the protection and conservation of Akara Hills, hence, a clear indication that the project is already having positive impacts. Nevertheless, the initiative must vigorously continue to enable a better forest population to be part of this noble course.



Left: Meeting with village heads and their representatives for mapping and tree planting preparation plans. Right: Community outreach at Kaugagi.



Left: Head teacher and Patron Nyalula primary receiving seeds and nursery equipment with some club members. Right: Environmental club members watering the bed after sowing.