

Project Update: September 2011

Acknowledgement

Green Resources Initiative wish to acknowledge funding from the Rufford Small Grants for Nature which has supported the project on Ecological assessment of Kibauni Forest Hill to document its floristic composition and scale up conservation initiatives from June 2011 to May 2012. The implementation of this project and its success is entirely because of this support accorded by this funding. We also thank the support accorded to Green Resources Initiative by the provincial administration, the community members, and the line government ministries so far who have been key in the mobilization exercise that was conducted successfully.

ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Reconnaissance visit to Kibauni Hill Forest

A reconnaissance visit to the hill to was conducted on 12th to 15th of August 2011. This was followed by a data collection period which took place from 23rd August to 15th September 2011.



Data collection

A total of 3 transect and 23 permanent sampling plots were established along the climbing routes of the hill on both the windward and the leeward side. From the plots, plant botanical

data was collected from the tree layer, the shrub and the herb layer.

Data that was collected is being sorted for analysis as well as identification of plants that were collected during this period at the National Museums of Kenya Herbarium. One of the major challenges that we faced during data collection was the fact that this being a relatively dry season, many herb species were not present and also some shrubs had dried up. It was therefore agreed that another data collection was important during the wet season so that we capture on the shrubs that might have been missed out. This has been planned to take place during the onset of the short rains of October to December.

Incidences of disturbances were also noted in each sampling plot and also canopy cover for tree, shrub, herb and litter layers were collected.

All the GPS points that were collected are outlined as annex in this progress report. It was observed that the forest is in danger of unsustainable utilization and most of the destruction is happening from the windward side. An ethnobotanical study to establish how the communities around this forest are utilizing the resource has also been suggested and this will add up to the ongoing work of ecological assessment of the forest resource as well as support a postgraduate research student.



Capacity Building

Training and capacity building of the Community forest Association (CFA) that was recently formed through the facilitation of Green Resources Initiative has been organized to take place in the last week of September. This will highlight on some of the key areas that have been highlighted as the main source of unsustainable utilization of the forest by the community members around the forest. It will involve the provincial administration, the CFA Trainers of Trainers and the Kenya Forest Service. This will be Key in mobilizing the community to protect the forest and act as the watchdogs while scouting.

Postgraduate students

This work will also be useful in supporting my masters' programme at the University of Nairobi having completed my course work and contacted the department about presenting a proposal on the same. A concept proposal is being worked on and it's scheduled to be ready by end of October.

Nursery establishment

A nursery of 30m by 15m that was established through the support of the embassy of Finland was completed. Seeds were procured from Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) and sowed in the seedbeds that were prepared by our staff in partnership with the community members. Plastic polybags were also procured and other consumables like watering cans. A total of three seedbeds so far have been able raise 19,300 seedlings as at the end of August. Most of these seedlings are indigenous trees, agroforestry species and fruit trees as follows. It's our hope that at the end of October, we will have raised 30,000 seedlings and start preparing the site to plant the seedlings at the onset of the rains in November.

Table 1: Number of seedlings raised

Species	Use	Number of seedlings
Acacia mellifera	Fruit tree	12800
Acacia polycantha	Woodlot	600
Croton megalocarpus	Woodlot	420
Grevillea robusta	Woodlot	900
Magnifera indica	Fruit tree	1500
Acacia seyal	Woodlot	140
Acacia xanthophlloea	Woodlot	29
Eucalyptus camandulensis	Woodlot	400
Senna siamea	Woodlot	1400
Moringa oleifera	Income generation	150
Leucaena leucocephala	agroforestry	3000
Jatropha cacus	Income generation	120
Kei apple	Income generation	600
Pawpaws	Fruit tree	841

Citrus fruits	Fruit tree	400
Total seedlings		23300

GPS points for the sample plots

Transect No.	Plot number	Location	UTM	Elevation
1	1	37M 0347778	9829307	1283
1	2	37M 0347861	9829382	1332
1	3	37M 0349986	9829483	1371
1	4	37M 0348103	9829529	1385
1	5	37M 0348251	9829554	1407
1	6	37M 0348355	9829623	1441
2	1	37M 0348173	9828859	1306
2	2	37M 0348267	9828919	1350
2	3	37M 0348375	9828985	1407
2	4	37M 0348469	9829054	1454
2	5	37M 0348577	9829085	1502
2	6	37M 0348686	9829161	1555
3	1	37M 0349113	9828918	1611
3	2	37M 0349040	9828814	1557
3	3	37M 0348962	9828742	1504
3	4	37M 0348841	9828637	1436
3	5	37M 0348699	9828524	1358
4	1	37M 0349024	9829781	1349
4	2	37M 0348980	9829636	1412
4	3	37M 0348966	9829433	1507
5	1	37M 0349135	9829274	1543
5	2	37M 0349355	9829436	1448
5	3	37M 0349393	9829695	1399