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INTRODUCTION

Kenya Primary forest cover is currently at 704,000 ha. These are in scattered patches around the country. They are further being degraded due to the increasing population, for fuel wood, building material, agricultural land and other land uses. A huge section of the country is arid and semi-arid. This puts a huge strain on the rest of the land since the economy is natural resource based. The decreasing forest cover has severe impacts on climate, wildlife, water bodies and human population.

Green Africa Foundation is leading in efforts to counter deforestation and its effects through promoting tree planting culture among the Kenyan communities .This will ensure the country meets the 10% tree cover requirement by the United Nations' by the year 2030. Autoterminal Japan Ltd a company dealing with inspection of motor vehicles to Africa and various parts of the world in partnership with green Africa foundation has been promoting tree planting in the Kenya, this is through the **One car ,One tree Programme**. Auto terminal Japan donates one dollar for each car they inspect for Africa. Green Africa foundation on the other hand builds communities capacities on tree planting/growing through educative forums and tree planting events. It has been donating trees to various community groups- women, youth groups, learning institutions-primary, secondary and tertiary schools.



Community members during a capacity building session

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Members of women group carry trees to plant in their home and farms.

The organization has come up with a campaign that encourages the general public to grow trees in a fun and more exciting way. It also promotes taking care of the tree after planting unlike before where some people plant trees and do not care for them.

It encourages people to plant during their birthdays, anniversaries and any other important dates in their lives hence the tree hold sentimental value and is therefore cared for. It has been named as **Plant your age campaign**; it was launched by His Excellency the president Mwai Kibaki in Kitui Green Africa Centre of Excellence on 14/4/ 2012. The overall objective is to promote growing trees and hence increase the country's tree cover. To this initiative Green Africa Foundation in partnership with Auto Terminal Japan Ltd donated 50,000 trees that have been planted in various Kenyan forests that include the Ngong forest, Karura forest and other planted forests within the country.



His Excellency the president mwai kibaki, vice president kalonzo Musyoka, Green Africa foundation chairman Dr. Isaac Kalua and other government officials during the launch of plant your age campaign

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Tree ambassadors during the launch of plant you age campaign.

The organization donated 1500 trees seedlings to university students during a tree planting activity in ngo'ng forest.

The foundation donated 1400 trees to be planted in various Nairobi schools on 26th May 2012. The tree planting day involved training the students and their teachers the best tree planting practices for the various regions in the country .Each student and teacher in attendance adopted a tree and is required to nurture them till it matures. They were encouraged to replicate this in their respective communities.

"I now know the type of tree I can plant and the size of the hole to dig in our village in moyale", Hussein Ali said. He is a form three student at Nairobi and is an active conservationist in the schools environmental club.



Nairobi school student plant trees during a tree planting drive by green Africa foundation.

The organization is geared towards making Kenya green through promoting planting of trees to be every citizen's culture and responsibility.

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Its engagement with environmental clubs in various learning institutions is contributing towards achieving the 10% tree cover goal of the United Nation. Building their capacity on the importance of planting tree has boosted sustainability of this tree planting culture. This has evidently been successful due to the increased number of groups approaching the organization seeking for trees seedlings to plant.

Through the support of the **one car one tree programme** the organization has managed to have a stock of trees that are availed upon demand.



Trees stock at the kitui green Africa centre of excellence.

“Green Africa Foundation has a commitment towards a green Africa through our various initiatives but especially tree planting, we are not backing down until Africa is green “ Dr. Isaac kalua, chairman green Africa foundation said.

We appreciate the assistance we receive through our partnership with Autoterminal Japan Ltd. The impacts we are making will go way long into the future of our communities and will ultimately achieve an environment clean and peaceful, climate change effects will dwindle and the community will not be as vulnerable to this changes.

*Dr Isaac P. Kalua HSC, MBS.
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