

GREEN STEPS NEWSLETTER

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Organize. Empower. Impact

February 2024



Our Work in February

We are excited to share our milestones from the Green steps restoration project, a 6-year project that aims at promoting landscape restoration through agroforestry in Kibwezi East Makueni county Kenya. We are determined to see the community grow their social wellbeing and improve on their economic status that impacts their living standards, while adversely protecting their environment and forest landscapes. We are excited about the feedback and reflections from the different stakeholders concerning this project and are happy to share some with you

Top News

New Project Launch:
Introducing Our Green steps
Restoration Project

Progressive Project Planning:
Introductory, need analysis
and stakeholder consultations



New Partnerships Formed.
Meeting CECM Lands Urban
Planning Environment and
Climate Change Makueni County

01/03



The project kicked off with stakeholder mapping whereby all the stakeholders contributing to climate action and landscape restoration were engaged in a consultative planning meeting. These included the County and National government environment units, Kenya forest services, Kenya forest research institute, Kenya wildlife services and Farmers cooperative.

Kibwezi East in Makueni being a high-risk area for human- wildlife conflict, the discussion around the human wildlife conflict and management was driven by the Kenya wildlife services and the community as the key stakeholder.

Out of this we managed to get the indigenous knowledge on how to handle the wildlife and conserve it as they coexist with the community. Some of the community driven insights were like using beehives in which elephants are afraid of bees. Having to deal with elephants and harvest honey with time was highlighted as a solution and benefit for the community. The project area is also prone to termites and ants that infest on growing tree seedlings. Community members highlighted use of herbs to control the termites and use of pesticides for extreme cases of termite infestation. This would increase survival rates and improve impact. We conducted the sustainability assessment and crisis management forums with the community from the target villages, that is Ulilinsi, Kisayani, Masaku Ndogo, and Nguuni where we identified each of the farmers capacities to plant trees. Some of the established key indicators were availability of water (water ponds, boreholes, wells, earth dams and water buzzers by private business establishments) availability of reasonable private owned pieces of land, and human resource (willing farmers)



Later, we identified the community based nurseries that would provide seedlings to the farmers. These were to promote economic growth within the target beneficiary and create job opportunities within the project area. The nurseries identified were Muliluni famers nursery, Mutule farm nurseries, Jennifer nursery and Veronicah nursery.

We were able to get relevant documentation and permits for implementation at the county community forest. We then drafted an agreement with the willing famers so as to mark commitment and related terms. We further conducted a set of community engagement forums in Masaku Ndogo, Ulilnzi, Nguuni, and Kisayani vllages in Masongaleni location in Kibwezi East Makueni. The famers were taken through the agreement and upon agreement signing was done. Signing of contracts happened at village level where each farmer willingly committed to the number of seedlings to grow to maturity. A mutual working network is now in place which will propel the GreenSteps (GS) project.

The objective of restoring the Masongaleni landscape has it base on enlightening the community on the importance of planting and naturing of trees to maturity, management of pests and the preferred pesticides under the quality control process especially for the Mango, pawpaw and orange value chains to achieve quality products that cancompete in the market with an upperhand.

We are excited to embark on March activities.

Looking Ahead

- Our organization seeks to start tree planting in March 2024. It will be opportune time to further interact with the farmers and stakeholders while reflecting on best practices for the success of Green Steps Restoration Project.
- We appreciate the different stakeholders and partners from TerraFund, Government and locals who have been key in advisory, capacity building, community mobilization, and Jumuisha Initiative for the good coordination, oversight and management of the Green Steps Restoration Project

We are keen to adopt participatory approach to the implementation of this project. In this approach we have greatly borrowed incorporation of indigenous knowledge in the restoration practices as realized during the consultation meetings with the community.

This shall be integrated with the scientific knowledge from KEFRI, KFS and County Agriculture office during implementation for the success of this project



Masongaleni, Kibwezi Makueni County