

We all have a role to play in 'saving our forests and water resources

Who will save the Kenyan forest and water resources? Rivers from 5 key water towers are dying up while others are soaking with pollutants from urban areas and agriculture farms they service. On the other hand, Kenya is losing.....million hectares of natural forest every day to anthropogenic forces key being illegal logging, forest fires, agricultural and urban areas encroachment among others. These threatened resources provide vital goods and services that sustain humans, animals and plants.

It is on this understanding that on February 2012 that Centre for Environmental Stewardship (CES), a Kenyan NGO embarked on a project to empower the local resource managers Community Forest Associations (CFAs) & Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) in Meru and Tharaka Nithi to take charge, defend and restore their forest and water resources with a common vision; flourishing forest biodiversity and stream -full flow of clean waters.



Well conserved and managed Ngare Ndare Forest in Meru County

The project has continuously enlightened natural resource managers through trainings, field tours & advocacy and we have seen them cooperate and collaborate with government officers, ministries, administrators, media, like minded NGOs, policy/decision makers, traditional

leaders, religious leaders and the Community Based Organizations in efforts to sustainably manage natural resources in Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties.

To restoration of drying up rivers, degraded forests, hills and wetlands requires concerted efforts by all stakeholders. The policy makers ought to enact the pending environmental and wetlands policies which will further guide the management of these resources. On the other hand, the decision makers should step up the enforcement of the existing laws and policies such as EMCA 1999, Water Act 2002 and the Forest Act 2005. Journalist and the media fraternity should give environmental issues good airtime; they can raise alarm, they can inform, educate, and bring together think tanks to provide solutions. The civil society organizations can support the associations both financially and technical knowhow through capacity building trainings and awareness creation campaigns. The associations and the entire community will provide surveillance and constant monitoring of the natural resources.

It is the role and responsibility of every Kenyan to stand up and defend the natural heritage. From the policy maker to a community member, we have failed hence we apportion the solution to save our forest and water resources.

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