

Community based environmental enterprises-A case study of Mount Kenya Youth Initiative for Ecosystem Restoration in Mathira division, Kenya.



Mount Kenya Youth Initiative for Ecosystem Restoration is a CBO based in Mathira division and it has embraced the concept of poverty alleviation initiating community based environmental enterprises such as beekeeping, raising seedlings for sale to the forest department and promotion of forest certification standards for their products.

Objectives

Promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and improved landscape conservation

- The group is striving towards this objective by promoting sustainable use of natural resource through initiation of environmental friendly income generating activities such as bee keeping, building capacity for efficient local forest-based industries and embracing the concept of forest certification standards for their products.
- Initiating sustainable forest management good practices derived from forest certification.
- Training the young generation on the importance of the environment through supporting school environmental clubs with seeds, tree seedlings, potting bags and capacity building.

Transforming community livelihood.

- The major aim of the group is to improved (economic and social) activities within the village resulting from good returns from forest goods and services and reviving the supply of diminished environmental services and benefits.
- Promote community based afforestation and soil conservation practices and utilization of non wood products through raising of tree seedlings and selling them to the forest department.

Njoroge Ikonye

Mount Kenya Youth Initiative for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya



Young people

Through this youth initiative, majority of the youth within the village and schools have been sensitized on the importance of natural resources and the benefits they can derive from the forest. Furthermore, the knowledge base of the school going children has been strengthened and a strong sense on the importance of environment created.

Business and marketing skills have been impacted on the youth groups through training for optimal returns from forest based products such as honey, wax and other non wood forest products. The youth within Mathira division have been able to start their own tree nurseries where they sell indigenous tree seedlings to the forest department and private people and they are able to earn some cash.

The youth have been able to start a micro-credit scheme from the income generated from the sale of honey and its products. This micro-credit scheme has been very helpful to them in solving some of the basic problem.

