

**CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY ON 22ND MAY 2015.**



22 MAY 2015
INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Kiangure Springs Environment Initiative (KSEI) is a registered Community Based Organization under the laws of Kenya that works towards enhancing resilience of communities towards impacts of climate change in the Aberdare ecosystem of Kenya. The Project is located on the Eastern side of the Aberdare Forest. The Aberdare forest is the source of Rivers that are tributaries of Tana, Kenya's biggest river. Our overall objective is to support the upper Tana catchment community in Poverty reduction through improved livelihood systems and the Conservation of Community natural resources and initiatives for enhanced environmental management and governance.

May 22nd is the International day of Biological diversity. This is a time to to celebrate the achievements made and continue creating community level awareness and understanding of our Biodiversity.

This Year's theme is Biodiversity for Sustainable development

70% of the world poor lives in rural areas and depend on biological diversity for food, income and shelter. It is important to save that these grassroot communities are educated and made aware of the need to biodiversity for a sustainable future.

Wanton destruction of forest and biodiversity loss not only threatens these rural and poor populations, it also advances climate change.

There is urgent need to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of Natural resources, manage forests sustainably, address land degradation and desertification in order to protect the threatened biodiversity.

Kiangure Springs Environment Initiative has embarked on a grassroot campaign to create awareness on the need to protect Biodiversity through Mural art.

The community empowerment through art programme is guided by the need to create and sustain community level awareness in Biodiversity conservation. it recognizes that public awareness ,public participation and education are crucial in promoting Biological diversity. Protected biodiversity will promote community health, food security, poverty reduction while mitigating climate change

Currently here in Kenya we are experiencing heavy rains which are due to climate change. It is therefore Prudent that community level awareness about climate change is increased to build the capacity of communities to cope with changing climate. With assistance from Painting a new world in Canada (PNWM) www.paintinganewworld.com

We have been able to produce four murals as follows:

1)MURAL ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The mural illustrates the effect of pollution on the environment.it shows how agro chemicals and industrial waste find its way into rivers and polluting the water which is used by households and animals.The Smoke from industries causes pollution into the atmosphere .The result is disease to the people ,animals and the environment



2) MURAL ON CONSERVATION

The mural illustrates the benefits of Conservation. Adoption of improved cooking stoves, tree planting and micro-hydro power generation will reduce pressure exerted on forests by local communities whose sole source of fuel is wood.



3) This mural illustrates Smart agriculture through utilisation of bio slurry from biogas units to increase soil productivity. This will increase food production



4) This mural illustrates indoor house pollution .About 80% households in the rural areas still use traditional/three stones cooking method, which demands a lot of firewood exposing them to pollution and exerting pressure on forests .This leads to biodiversity loss.

INTERNATIONAL DAY ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CELEBRATIONS 2015

Kiangure Springs Environment Initiative with support from European Union through Community Development Trust Fund www.cdtfkenya.org

took part in this year's Celebrations of the International Day of The Biological Diversity 2015.

The Celebrations took place in Likii Primary school in Laikipia County where Kenyas Cabinet Secretary for Environment, water and natural resources. For Environment, water and natural resources was the chief Guest.

KSEI took part in the exhibitions from various conservation groups in the Upper Tana Catchment Region. The groups have been implementing various projects on Conservation with funding from different donors including GEF, EU, DANIDA, PNWM etc.

KSEI is grateful to PNWM for continued support in the Community empowerment through art program



KSEI stand during in the exhibition.



KSEI Executive Director stands next to the stand.



Cabinet secretary for Environment, Water and Natural resources Prof. Judy Wakungu Visits KSEI stand.

KSEI will continue with cook stoves activities in 2015 and is currently fundraising on global giving to enable 2000 families to adopt cook stoves in order to save trees that are key to biodiversity conservation.

See the project page on the link below:

<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/provide-cook-stoves-for-2000-families-in-kenya/>

The cook stoves project has been featured earlier by Thomson Reuters

See an article by Thomson Reuters about our work:

<http://www.trust.org/item/20150429114132-tnby1>

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