

# LAIKIPIA *Mali Asili*

A NEWSLETTER ON SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Issue 001 August 2014

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## COMMENTARY

### The Importance of Biodiversity Conservation

**The more types of plant and animals present in the environment, the healthier that environment is for both human and animal populations. The variety of animal and plant types, which is referred to as biodiversity, is reduced when conditions develop that make it impossible for some species to survive. Such conditions can be created by excessive use of chemicals aimed at killing weeds or pests, which also end up killing species that are beneficial to human beings, animals and agricultural crops. These beneficial species include bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators.**

Within Laikipia County, there are a number of Projects focusing on promotion of biodiversity in different ways.

Maintaining high levels of biodiversity has many benefits. For example, elimination of harmful chemicals results in increase of pollinators such as

bees and other useful insects. This enables more people to get involved in activities relying on some of them such as bee keeping (apiary) for income. The quality of trees and other vegetation also improves because pollination ensures the production of better adapted varieties of plants.

It is important to note that biodiversity refers not only to plants and animals available in our surroundings but also organisms that live in the soil such as earthworms and even micro-organism such as bacteria and fungi. These microbes aid in the decomposition of plant materials to release useful nutrients for plants.

Another factor that is threatening biodiversity is climate change.

Climate change is the significant change of the average temperatures over period longer than 30 years, causing changes in weather patterns and a (slow) rise

in sea level, among other impacts. According to the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), key climate change impacts for Kenya are drought and water scarcity, flooding and sea-level rise.

Research suggests that temperatures will continue to increase, and the frequency of hot days and nights will rise. Precipitation is expected to increase in some areas, with the largest rise in rainfall occurring in the highland and coastal regions. However, the greater part of the country comprising the arid and semi-arid regions is expected to become significantly drier.

When climate patterns change, it is expected that plants and animals species which only survives on cooler regions will disappear while new species suited to warmer climates will replace them.

### About Laikipia Mali Asili

*Laikipia Mali Asili* is a voice for people promoting sustainable land management practices in Laikipia County. Most of the development projects contributing to *Laikipia Mali Asili* are supported by UNDP under its Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program (SGP).

**Who can contribute?** Anyone concerned about the environment of Laikipia County or Kenya can contribute. We encourage students, county leaders, farmers, conservation groups, organisations, school children and the general public to contribute.

**The Children Corner:** We are very encouraged that children are learning about the environment at an early age. Because of this, *Laikipia Mali Asili* has set aside a children's corner to provide a platform for them to share information about the environment in a fun, creative and informative manner.

### About UNDP GEF SGP

The UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program (SGP) is an UNDP initiative aimed at supporting community-based projects to result in positive change in the environment while at the same time supporting poverty reduction and local empowerment objectives. At least 16 projects, including the one under which *Laikipia Mali Asili* is being produced, are supported by UNDP GEF SGP in Laikipia County.

In order to promote information and knowledge sharing, ALIN has been supported by UNDP GEF SGP to establish an SLM Knowledge Sharing Centre at Ng'arua Maarifa Centre located in Sipili Township, Laikipia West. All UNDP GEF SGP grantees are free to use this centre to share information in various formats or to hold meetings there. The other knowledge sharing facility is an SLM Notice Board that has been constructed in Nanyuki within a space provided by the County Government of Laikipia's Department of Natural Resources Management.

### EDITORIAL

## Conserving Laikipia's Landscapes

We are pleased to present the first issue of *Laikipia Mali Asili* newsletter. Contributors to this Newsletter are mainly partners working in Laikipia County under a Project sponsored by UNDP under its Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (UNDP GEF SGP). Production of the newsletter is coordinated by ALIN.

One of the key approaches being used to conserve biodiversity in Laikipia County is to promote the cultivation of forest trees that bear useful products for humans and animals. One such tree is Tea tree, whose production is being promoted by the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) within the environs of Nanyuki Municipality. Noah Lusaka's feature on this subject sheds light on Tea tree cultivation.

In this inaugural issue of *Laikipia Mali Asili*, we have carried brief reports about organisations working in partnership with UNDP GEF SGP and the main activities in which they are engaged. See details on Page 10. *Laikipia Mali Asili* will be one of the main platforms through which these projects will be sharing information and learning.

For the children, a *Children's Corner* has been set aside. Read powerful poems and other contributions by children who have shown amazing commitment towards caring for the environment. The newsletter will feature articles in both English and Kiswahili. We welcome your feedback in form of Letters to the Editor.

**Anthony Mugo - Editor**

## Quotes from UNDP GEF SGP grantees

I have not seen a Project that brings together different organizations supported by the same donor to discuss common issues. The approach by ALIN is new and we must encourage more ways of sharing information among ourselves. I think the use of blogs is a very effective way of doing this hence I am keen to learn blogging and improve my writing skills. **Peter Gitau of Upper Ewaso Narok Water Users' Association.**

I really liked the whole training section because I learnt a lot. I came here without any knowledge

about blogging or news writing but I am getting out of here well equipped. I will now start blogging under Yaku Laikipia Trust Blog which we have just opened. Thank you UNDP GEF SGP and ALIN for giving me this chance. **Kishan Samuel an employee from Yaku Laikipia Trust**

I think blogging is a very powerful tool of enabling the society to receive relevant information from organizations. **Ms. Teresa Ndirangu, Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)**

## Call for articles

The next issue of *Laikipia Mali Asili* will focus on the theme *Water Resources and Sustainable Land Management*. Degradation of the environment particularly deforestation leads to destruction of water catchment sites.

We welcome articles on this topic and other material such as cartoons, puzzles, crosswords, poems and jokes. Articles should be no more than 600 words. They should be accompanied by good pictures of at least 1000 MB in Jpeg format and with descriptive captions. Send contributions to [lakipiamaliasili@alin.net](mailto:lakipiamaliasili@alin.net) and copy to [elungahi@lin.net](mailto:elungahi@lin.net)



**COUNTY NEWS****World Environment Day Celebrations**

The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) held a field day at Kwandege in Ndaragwa, Laikipia Central to celebrate World Environment Day on 5th June, 2014 hosted by Nettles World.

The event saw the promotion of *Osyris lanceolata* - East African Sandalwood, which is a shrub or a small hemi-parasitic tree growing to a height of six meters. This variety of Sandalwood is among the renowned tree species for producing fragrance-scented wood and essential oils. KEFRI has embarked on a research on propagation of Sandalwood to enhance its domestication because the tree has become an endangered species in Kenya.

**Laikipia Citizen Journalism Blog Scoops Global Prize**

On July 17, 2014 during a global conference on Finance for Agriculture (Fin4AG) convened by the Netherlands-based Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), ALIN's citizen journalism blog for Ng'arua Maarifa Centre - The Laikipia Rural Voices emerged the Best in East Africa winning a kitty of €3,000.00.

The blog hosts articles on innovations and best practices on sustainable land management practices including those implemented by UNDP GEF SGP grantees in Laikipia County.

**Launch of Natural Resources Management Knowledge Centre and Open Day**

On July 12, 2014, the new Natural Resources Management (NRM) Knowledge Sharing Centre was launched in Sipili Township during a colourful ceremony witnessed by more than 200 people. An Open Day, during which Laikipia-based projects focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation; agriculture; environment; landscape and natural resources management showcased their work.

The launch was officiated by a representative of the County Commissioner and area Chief Mr. K Njuguna. The County Government of Laikipia was represented by the Technical Officer in Charge of Environment and Natural Resources Mr. Godfrey Ndonye.

The centre is open to the community and offers a range of information materials on environment, renewable energy, climate change and sustainable land management practices. It is also a meeting space furnished with chairs and tables that can accommodate more than 70 people. It is available for use free of charge by organisations that are grantees of UNDP GEF SGP.

**UNDP GEF SGP Partners Trained in Citizen Journalism**

Representatives of UNDP GEF SGP grantee partners were trained on citizen journalism in Nyahururu on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The training attracted participants from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Baringo County.

Each participating organisation created its own news blog. The Laikipia Rural Voices blog, which is managed by ALIN's Ng'arua Maarifa centre, will be featuring stories being generated by the partners on innovations, experiences and best practices on sustainable land management practices in Laikipia County. This will go a long way in ensuring that grantees share information, knowledge and strategies for safeguarding Laikipia's landscapes.

**Laikipia County Assembly Passes Motion on Beekeeping**

The County Assembly of Laikipia on June 10, 2014 passed a motion moved by nominated member Hon. Jennifer Koinante on value addition for bee products.

The motion was motivated by the realisation that although Laikipia County had a huge potential to produce honey from its many forests, most honey consumed there is imported from Baringo County. Communities have also recognised that there is a direct correlation between honey production and increased afforestation. Improved beekeeping would likely lead to increase in numbers of trees planted within and outside Laikipia forests, which now face immense pressure due to exploitation for timber and wood fuel.



## The Big Question to Kenyans: *Is Mining a Curse or a Blessing?*

By Faith Kisiangani

In 2012, news about the discovery of oil in Turkana caused a lot of excitement among Kenyans. While the mining industries in developing countries most of which are located in Africa are considered important on their economies, Kenyans need to look at the negative impacts of these mining activities on ecosystems.

Mining activities could threaten the lives of entire communities. Cases of such negative impacts have been observed in Kwale and in Kilifi Counties where titanium is being mined and in Kitui County where some coal mining has begun.

The establishment of the mines often results in the removal of all standing vegetation. Apart from this, indigenous communities get relocated from their ancestral homes in order to pave way for the mines. Community natural water surface sources become contaminated.

These experiences should act as a lesson to Kenyans to ensure threat posed by mining on the environment are minimised. For more information visit African Biodiversity Network <http://africanbiodiversity.org/> See also [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/gaiasns\\_1.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/gaiasns_1.pdf)



## Medicinal Tea Tree Changing Farmers' Lives in Nanyuki

By Noah Lusaka

The trip to Nanyuki from Nyahururu took us about two hours. I was part of a group that participated in an exchange visit to learn more about growing tea tree. As we approached the lush green patch neighbouring Mr. Joseph King'ori's dairy shed, we could see beautiful green shrubs waving about in rhythm with the light wind that was blowing. I was convinced they were young Eucalyptus trees commonly grown in many parts of Kenya only to learn from our host that it was another type of tree.

"This is my tree tea crop," Mr. King'ori announced as the group stood on the edges of the tea tree plot. He explained that he was introduced to tea tree farming by officials of the Earth Oil and Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN).

### The Many uses of Tea Tree

According to the popular website known as *Web MD*, tea tree ([Melaleuca alternifolia](#)) has been used traditionally as a tropical antiseptic and antifungal treatment. Additional uses include treating skin infections and warts among more than 20 others.

In the outskirts of Nanyuki, farmers have reported to make more than Khs. 75,000.00 from an acre of tea tree. This income is much higher compared to what they obtain from growing maize or beans.

### Challenges of growing tea tree

- High evaporation rate of the Tea tree's essential products restricts distances between farms and the factory to only 25 kilometres. Farmers living further than that cannot grow the crop.
- Another challenge is the fact that many women farmers are unable to grow the tree because they do not own or have legal authority of the farms they occupy.

A programme has been initiated by KOAN to sensitise men on the need to give legal rights to their wives when they chose to get into tea tree farming.

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## Facts about growing tea tree

- The KOAN project and Earth oil Company is currently working with 460 farmers within Laikipia County spread in Huku, Mwireri, Mwiriti, Burguret, and Gatuanyaga. (Matanya, Sweet water, Marura and Ndurukuma are the new areas where expansion is being done) to organically grow the tea tree.
- Tea tree is more resilient to effects of climate change and performs well in extremely harsh dry weather conditions.
- Tea Tree matures within 15 to 18 months after establishment and is harvested twice per year under good management.
- The tree requires low labour inputs and less field management since it's not affected by pests and diseases and is not eaten by domestic animals.
- Tea tree can only be intercropped with desmodium to enhance soil fertility but not any other crop to prevent contamination
- During harvesting time, the whole stem is cut down around 15cm-20cm above the ground at an angle using bending saw. The central stem is then removed. Branches and leaves are then sold for oil extraction. After some time, new shoots will emerge from where the tree was cut.
- All the shoots are left to grow, and the farmer is advised to cut them back after 6 months. This is a continuing cycle and Tea Tree is expected to be highly productive for 25 years under good management.
- Earth Oil Extract Company Limited has a factory at Nanyuki. They signed a contract with the farmers in order to buy all the biomass of Tea Tree. They extract the oil, bulk and export to United Kingdom (UK) to a company called Body Shop
- 3000 tea trees can be planted in a quarter acre of land yielding four kilos per tree per season and can be sold at Ksh10.50 per Kilo.

## Participatory Forest Management Approach at Work in Rumuruti

By Koskei Joshua

**The Rumuruti forest comprised of 15,378 acres of indigenous high altitude forest, located in Laikipia County is a home to amazing wildlife and an important catchment area. It is also the primary source of income for over 5,000 households.**

The forest has rare tree species such as Pencil Cedar *Olea africana podocarpus* and the Blue Gum tree. It is inhabited by a large population of elephants, buffalos, hyenas and many other wild animals. It is surrounded by diverse communities in the six administrative sub-locations of Laikipia West constituency among the ethnicities are Kikuyu, Kalenjin, Turkana and Samburu.

In recent years, the forest has faced overexploitation due to the high demand for forest products, Wildlife populations have also been reduced significantly due to poaching.

The Forest Act (2005) provides for joint biodiversity conservation

and protection of adjacent forest resources by communities and external agencies. It is in this spirit that Rumuruti Forest Association (RFA) was founded under the leadership of Dickson Kamau. The Association was registered in 2008 and acquired a Forest Management Agreement in 2011. The agreement binds community members with the Government through the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and other partners to manage and conserve forest resources using a forest management plan that the Association developed in 2008. It is based on the Participatory Forest Management (PFM).

The activities of RFA include: rehabilitation; joint forest patrols and; livelihood improvement programs. These programs contribute to changing community attitude towards natural resources and uplifting their economic status. The Association also owns a tree nursery that produces at least

80,000 indigenous tree seedlings and around 50,000 exotic species.

To mitigate climate change, the Association is carrying out conservation activities with support from the UNDP GEF SGP. The project activities include bee keeping, charcoal briquettes production and ecotourism aimed at reducing forest wood charcoal demand.

The Association has forged partnerships with KFS, Kenya Wildlife Service and the local administration among other stakeholders. So far over 10 hectares of the forest have been rehabilitated. Additionally, illegal logging has been eliminated through weekly joint patrols. The PFM approach creates a platform for stakeholder participation in conservation of resources.

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## Community Based Organisation strives to preserve Ewaso Narok sub catchment

By Bob Aston

The Ewaso Narok sub catchment area and forest reserve of Laikipia West has experienced massive forest destruction from illegal logging, charcoal burning, fuel wood vendors and wildlife poaching within the South Marmanet and Rumuruti forests reserve.

These activities have reduced the biodiversity of the Ol Bolosat (Ma Nguu Wetlands), Thompson Falls and Ewaso Narok Sub catchment. They have also significantly reduced the ecological functions performed by these ecosystems, which has implications in the entire Ewaso Nyiro basin. Ewaso Narok sub catchment covers a total area of 540 square kilometres from Lake Ol- Bolosat to its confluence with the Ewaso Nyiro River in the Laikipia Plateau. The catchment traverses through Laikipia and Nyandarua counties.

In response, some community members came together in February 2010 to form Upper Ewaso Narok Water Resource Users Association (WRUA). In collaboration with the Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA), the Community Based Organization (CBO) was mandated to manage and to conserve water resources within the Ewaso Narok sub-catchment area.

Upper Ewaso Narok WRUA is now focusing on promoting sustainable management of the water resources within Ewaso Narok sub catchment. This is being done in collaboration with other stakeholders for enhanced livelihoods for the communities living within the sub

catchment.

Upper Ewaso Narok WRUA realized that the reduced ecosystem goods resulting from catchment destruction had started causing communities to shift their focus from agricultural and livestock production to unsustainable livelihoods. This prompted the CBO to start promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for increased crop production as well as rehabilitation of Ewaso Narok sub catchment through reforestation.

The CBO which has 76 active members: 52 male and 24 females. It has been actively advocating for environmental conservation and promotion of sustainable agricultural and nature based livelihoods.

Taking cognizance of the fact that many tributaries of Ewaso Nyiro River are drying up while farmers are also cultivating next to the river banks, Upper Ewaso Narok WRUA has been carrying out community trainings on environmental matters and also involving/mobilizing communities in planning and tree planting activities.

To date, Upper Ewaso Narok WRUA has planted nearly 40,000 indigenous trees most of them indigenous. The CBO plans to plant an extra 500 indigenous trees as well as 10,000 mango, avocado and tea tree seedlings within the riparian and forest reserve. It has also supported communities to establish woodlots at the household level to increase vegetation cover at the farm level. Members work in turns and in the group to manage a 5,000 seedlings tree nursery located in Nyahururu. They are now planning to start another tree nursery at Gatundia area of Rumuruti.

In order to ease access when travelling around the catchment area, the United Nations Development Project UNDP GEF SGP supported the group to buy a motorbike in July, 2014. The group also received tree nursery equipment.

**Bob Aston is a community journalism trainer with ALIN**  
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**UNDP GEF SGP LAIKIPIA  
GRANTEES' BRIEFS****Upper Ewaso Narok  
Water Resources Users'  
Association**

Located in Ol Moran area of Laikipia West, the organization focuses on sustainable land management for enhanced livelihoods in the River catchment. Its main activities are: planting indigenous and other water-friendly trees on the degraded riparian areas and planting fruit trees on individual members' farms. The group also trains farmers about energy saving cook stoves and their installation.

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**Laikipia Central Community  
Development Organization  
(LAICCODO)**

A CBO based in Nanyuki, LAICCODO focuses on the promotion of adoption of clean energy with specific focus on biogas. Its activities include: construction of biogas plants at discounted cost to farmers; training beneficiaries on operation and maintenance of the plants; and training on optimizing bio-digester products.

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**Segera Jirani na Mazingira  
CBO**

Based in Segera in Laikipia Central, the community-based organisation promotes environmental conservation, bio-enterprise and conservation agriculture. Its activities include: promoting adoption of alternative renewable energy technologies ; setting up community rain water harvesting demonstration sites in schools and in a community medical clinics; training masons and assistants in ferro-cement tank construction; constructing storage tanks in pilot households using roof capture; distributing solar LED lighting

systems to pilot households in the community and; training members on briquette making as well as installation of briquette making machines

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**Sugutan CBO**

Addressing land tenure security and capacity development of small scale farmers in Sugutan, the CBO is located in Mathira II area about 40 kilometres from Nanyuki Town along Nanyuki –Mpala/Sosian road. It carries out the following activities: facilitating communities to finalize and implement an adaptive natural resources and community development plan; providing the requisite, demand-driven and process-orientated capacity building with the community on natural resources management and land rights issues, institutional development, good governance, and livelihoods diversification skills; facilitating legal literacy of over 300 community-members; training communities on the constitution of Kenya particularly background and status to national land and natural resources laws; and civic education.

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**Rumuruti Forest  
Association-RFA**

The Association focuses on climate change adaptation through participatory forest management with specific focus on Rumuruti Forest. It work focuses on: conservation of Rumuruti Forest through reduction of illegal charcoal burning; promoting ecotourism in Rumuruti Forest for community income and behavior change around the forest; wildlife conservation; and promoting honey production in and around Rumuruti Forest, thus promoting tree planting

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**Kenya Organic Agricultural  
Network (KOAN)**

Kenya Organic Agriculture Network was set up to facilitate and provide leadership and professional services to all members and other stakeholders in the organic agriculture industry in Kenya. It undertakes the following functions: helping organic producers to find markets for their produce both locally and internationally; training organic producers and those interested in changing over from non-organic to organic production; extension and information exchange; creating activities that allow Kenyan organic producers to meet potential customers both locally and abroad.

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**Tuongane Tusaidiane Self  
Help Group**

The Group was set up to support the construction of biogas systems for all its 20 members and to operate a loaning scheme among them. Set up in 2007, the organisation operates from the outskirts of Nanyuki Town in the Nturukuma Area. It focuses on construction of biogas and establishing and sustaining a loaning scheme

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**Kantuka CBO**

Located within Nanyuki Town, the organisation, which was established in 2010, aims to build biogas plants for its members as a way of conserving the environment, particularly forests. Its members operate along Likii River off the Nanyuki – Meru road.

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## **Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programmes (SACDEP) Kenya**

Headquartered in Thika Town in Kiambu County, SACDEP has operations within Laikipia County among others. The organisation undertakes activities in other regions in Kenya as well including: Aberdares, Mt. Kenya, Kajiado, Mwingi, Makueni, Murang'a, Kilifi, Malindi and Lamu. SACDEP aims at building capacities of forest communities to enhance equitable forest benefits sharing. It supports a wide range of community-driven activities including: enhancing biodiversity conservation; establishing and running of environmentally-based commercial enterprises as driving mechanisms to participatory forest management initiatives; providing hands-on / practical skills in community managed forest initiatives with their foundation sustained by benefits obtained from forests by adjacent communities and; value addition for non-timber forest products among others.

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## **Yiaku Laikipia and Trust**

The community based organization was initially registered with the purpose of spearheading social, political, economic and cultural rights of the Yiaku Forest dwelling community in Laikipia North. The organisation had to eventually register as Trust because of the need to address issues of governance, peace building, conflict resolution and female genital mutilation (FGM). It has since expanded its mandate to cover interests of all Laikipia Maasai community. Its office is in Nanyuki but it works in the whole of Laikipia County and parts of Samburu and Isiolo counties.

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## **Ilmamusu Mukogondo Forest Association**

The organization's main focus area is biodiversity conservation. Holistic planned grazing is a program activity that is currently being implemented by the organization. It is designed to secure the best use of rangelands, build resilience and reduce vulnerability to droughts and its adverse effects to both pastoralist communities and wildlife in Laikipia. Other activities are: building institutional capacity-committees in every group ranch and setting up and training the technical team for monitoring and evaluation of the rangeland.

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## **Tree is Life Trust**

Tree Is Life was initiated mainly to address environmental degradation and massive forest destruction that was being experienced in parts of Laikipia and Nyandarua Districts (Now Nyandarua and Laikipia counties). The organisation empowers communities to actively participate in sustainable natural resources management and conservation for livelihood improvement by implementing the following activities: educating community members (mainly the rural poor women) on how to use energy saving technologies for their daily cooking and lighting purposes; and Installation and use of energy saving liners (ceramics)

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## **Mpala Research Centre and Wildlife Foundation**

Mpala Research Centre and Wildlife Foundation facilitates and exemplifies sustainable human-wildlife co-existence and the advancement of human livelihoods and quality of life. Within its 200 km<sup>2</sup> of unfenced landscape, Mpala incorporates cattle ranching, wildlife, and research. The Mpala properties were purchased by Sam Small in 1952 and bequeathed

to his brother George in 1969. In 1989 George created the Mpala Wildlife Foundation and the Mpala Research Trust to fund the activities necessary to achieve the vision: conserving the habitats and wildlife of Mpala and providing healthy livelihoods for Mpala's employees and families. The Mpala Research Centre (MRC) undertakes the following main activities: conducting research on everything from parasites to elephants in unique set up that allows for researchers to use the land as a 'living laboratory' in which to conduct experiments focused on conservation and wildlife; and educating, reaching out, and developing science-based solutions to guide conservation actions for the benefit of nature and human welfare.

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## **Sanitation Activities Fostering Infrastructure (SAFI)**

A charitable trust based in Nanyuki Kenya, working to fuse sanitation projects, recycling, and research in the Laikipia region since 2007. SAFI's main activity is educating, training, and mobilizing communities to improve sanitation and livelihoods in rural Kenya.

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## **Thome Development Communities**

Located in Nanyuki, the organization mainly deals with biogas installation as a way of reducing deforestation. Other activities are promotion of establishment of tree nurseries by members; and training farmers to plant trees

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# laikipia mali asili

## Children's Corner



### POEM

#### My Dear Tree

*Tree my dear loving friend,  
To you I cry, I salute you,  
It's you I cherish, I feel bad,  
When you get hurt I moan  
for days.*

*Your sweet melodious songs,  
no one else can play,  
How soft and soothing they  
are, in daytime under the sun,*

*At night under the moon,  
Dear tree you comfort us.  
My whole life depends on  
you,  
The chair on which I sit,  
The bed, which supports my  
weight,  
The desks we use in class;  
Not forgetting the house in  
which I live,  
You need credit for this.*

*The shade that you give me,  
By your looks, surely you  
shelter me  
Against the wind you care  
for me,  
You provide me with food,  
And you ever entertain me,  
With drums made from you.*

*Building materials come  
from you,  
Your roots hold our dearest*

*resource  
They also allow water to  
sink,  
Forming underground water  
reserves,  
From these rivers flow and  
quench the earth.*

**Evaline Chepkoech  
OI-Arinyiro Pry  
School**

### Biodiversity Conservation

*The land of our birth we pledge to thee,  
Our love and toil in the years to be,  
When we grow and preserve and,  
Not destroy as men of our generation.*

*Father in heaven help us control,  
Ourselves always and protect,  
Our environment,*

*Help the children when they call,  
And may build them from age to age.*

*Teach us to control ourselves always,  
To find delight and keep our joy,  
Our mountains, animals, valleys  
And underfilled Heritage.*

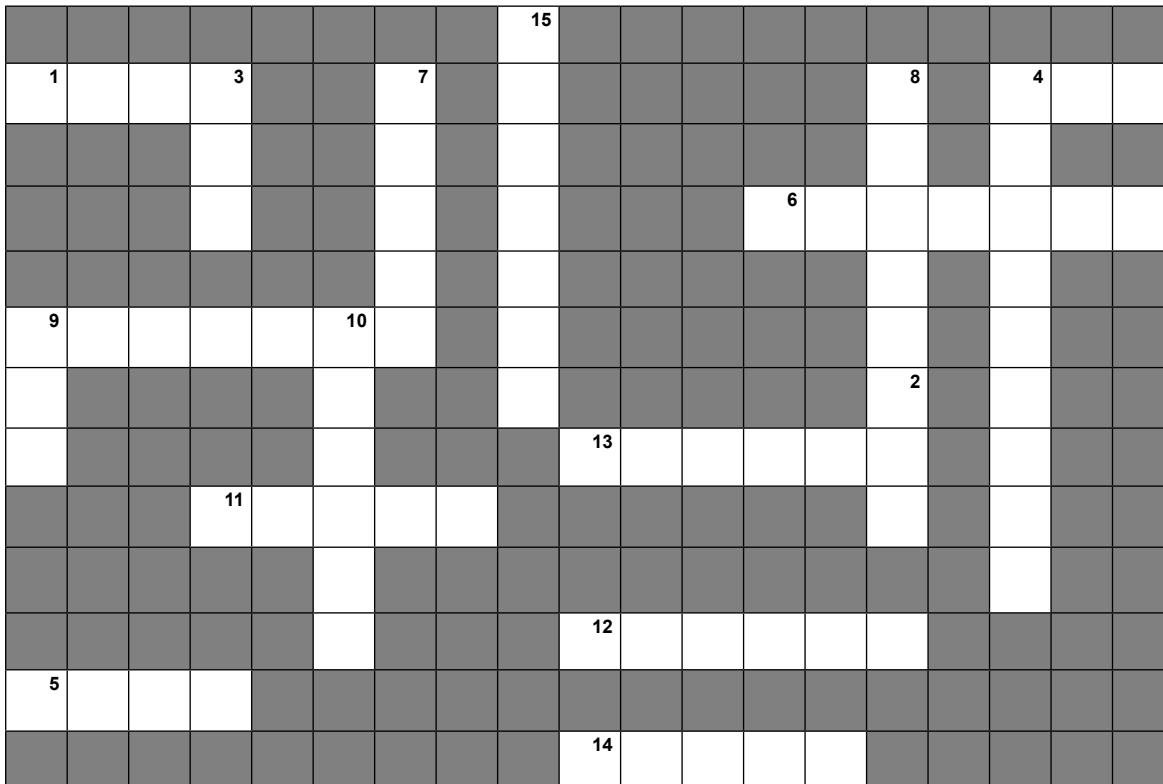
*Give us the strength to care,  
For everything that surrounds us,*

*To make it our duty to preserve,  
Our Beauty!*

*Our environment our faith our mother land,  
And I am proud for it,  
To delight and keep joy in our hearts.*

**Brenda Wanjira  
OI Jabet Primary School**

**CROSSWORD** | Please answer the below questions. *Answers will be provided in the next issue.*



### Down

2. A very small insect that lives in large groups
3. Medium-sized, long-tailed rodent
4. An insect with big-coloured wings
7. A big wild animal with thick skin and a horn on its nose
8. A very big wild animal from Africa or Asia with a trunk and tusks
9. A mammal that hunts at night using its exceptional sight
10. A small animal that has four legs, a long tails and rough skin
15. One of the most beautiful birds on earth with spectacular colors in their feathers and they move gracefully

### Across

1. A wild animal that eat grass and runs fast
4. A small insect that flies and makes honey
5. I survive in all aquatic environments and I am cold blooded
6. A wild animal like a big cat with coarse yellowish fur and dotted with small black spots
9. An animal from Africa that has big low curved horns
11. A small animal with a large shell on its back
12. An animal which has a long tail and it can climb trees
13. A medium to large sized species of old world monkey that is found in a variety of different habitats throughout Africa and in parts of Arabia
14. An African wild animal like a horse with black and white stripes

**Samwel Nderitu  
Olarinyiro Primary  
school**

