

MISSION

YCCAN but they stand for Youths Climate Change Adaption Network.

To mainstream climate change information in the society and engage the society in coming up with sustainable solutions to their local environmental problems which will have an impact globally.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

YCCAN was founded in the year 2009 with the main focus of offering climate change and environmental conservation awareness through education mainly to the youths. The idea of having an awareness program was a profound one. The founder had just been admitted to pursue Bsc.Meteorology, where he found a keen interest in topics on Global Warming and Climate Change. It was eureka at last, so this is what has been ailing our nation? The droughts warmer temperature, unpredictable seasons and many others. For sure the two had apocalyptic consequences and all the people in my village and even province were blaming it on the sins of mankind and now the gods are punishing us. Yet we continued to cut trees unsustainably, use the wrong farming methods, and pollute our rivers with sewerage among other environmental injustices.

In a little way the founder started to talk to friends and relatives about climate change who mostly conquered with my idea that we have to behave in a more sustainable manner towards Mother Nature if our economic activities are to remain sustainable. The idea of the school program emerged in early 2010, it was paramount to engage the kids and youths such knowledge as it would help them to grow as environmentally conscious citizens. In the year 2010 the program was able to infiltrate a lot of schools especially primary and secondary schools. The founder use to teach them the basics of for instance trees as carbon sinks by photosynthesis and things like that which they could relate to. For sure this awareness was not good enough if it was not combined with outdoor activities that are conservation based that's when an implementation strategy was developed as follows:

YCCAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

To achieve our mission, YCCAN will keenly undertake the following activities in our implementation strategy:

ELIMIKA POPOTE (Get educated wherever)

ELIMIKA is an awareness program for the youths wherever they are, majorly primary, secondary and other learning institutions. KYCCAN will work with these institutions through Eco- clubs where they exist or assist in initiating one where they don't exist. Therefore, reviving and strengthening environmental/eco-clubs will be a priority. As a strengthening strategy, the clubs are student based where the students run the affairs of the club with minimum supervision from their patron and make independent decisions as to matters pertaining to the club. From this, it is expected that the clubs will have an influence on the school and the community at large. The opportunities and challenges that come with climate change adaptation and mitigation will be communicated; students encouraged to be innovative in autonomous adaptation at personal, institutional and household levels.

As a way of making our sessions more interactive, the use of visual aids such as documentaries and pictures to illustrate what is being implied. Information materials such as handouts, leaflets, banners, T-shirts and caps with messages on environmental conservation will also be used.

We cannot rule out the role of sports, arts and other extra-curricular activities which can be used as an excuse to get the attention of the youths. Such activities will entail eco-challenge competitions, essay and poems, visiting game parks

To make ELIMIKA sustainable, we shall invite other knowledge platforms to educate students on various issues such as career talks, sustainable farming, personal development, training on leadership and entrepreneurship among others.

ELIMIKA program also plans to target social gatherings like Churches where we can get a heterogeneous crowd. Due to the gravity of the matter and the extent of climate change illiteracy, door to door awareness will also be conducted where the situation demands.

HIMA (Hifadhi Mazingira)

Hifadhi is a Swahili word for conserve or take care of while Mazingira in the same language means environment. Thus, HIMA is coined from the prefix of the two, to mean conserve your environment.

The HIMA program will encompass all rehabilitation and conservation activities such as re-forestation, forestation, soil and water conservation and riverine protection. Rehabilitation programs will involve mitigation of destruction of ecological systems while conservation will involve preventive measures to reduce destruction of the unexploited eco-systems.

To achieve the above activities, the HIMA program comes after ELIMIKA such that the youths will have been educated on the importance of conserving the environment for the current generation and for posterity and the roles ecological systems play in sustaining the economies of developing countries.

HIMA will also be involved in activities that are directed towards sustainable use of resources. For instance, the use of biogas as a fuel to replace charcoal and firewood. A case in point is in a school setup where a lot of firewood is consumed in preparing food for the students. If such a school has cows a biogas plant can be installed to either eliminate the use of firewood or to reduce amount of firewood used. From such an initiative, the communities in the neighborhood can learn and adopt at household level.

Afforestation and forestation programs will be at institutional level and national level that Kenya being a water scarce country, water management and conservation are key. Water conservation will entail reduction of surface runoff which is a major cause of soil erosion, degradation and water pollution, a measure meant to encourage percolation so as to recharge our ground water resources. Are directed towards achieving 10% forest cover.

Water management will involve programs such as water harvesting, water recycling and wise water use at institutional level. This will be done majorly as collaboration between the institution, YCCAN, and the organization with the relevant technology.

This is the concept of green schools, which will provide a learning field for other institutions and even cooperates.

All the above activities require an input mostly financial to be realized. To avoid disappointment in situations where the founder visits a school and is not rewarded for the noble work, a resource mobilization plan was formulated as follows:

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN SHORT TERM STRATEGY

YCCAN has a financial policy: that money is not the end but a means. Our primary goal is to create environmental awareness and not profit. Since inception back in the year 2009 YCCAN has had to endure tough financial times, resulting to the founder working on his own since there were no funds for traveling. This resulted to the founder buying a bicycle which is used to travel in nearby schools. Similarly the insufficient funds meant that YCCAN operates in areas around Nairobi the founder's residence.

YCCAN has also faced a myriad of dilemmas particularly in matters pertaining to traveling vs. buying information materials and cameras or whether to invest for the future. The only source of money available for YCCAN's operation is the HELB the founder gets every year which is not enough for all this activities.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INOVATION

Due to the above financial bottleneck YCCAN advisors brainstormed and came up with the following strategy of raising fund without total dependency on donor funding:

To invest in low capital business such business includes:

Tree nursery, the seedlings can be sold whenever YCCAN has tree planting event or sold to other organizations. This strategy has worked very well for YCCAN at the moment YCCAN has 20,000 seedlings which are ready for plantation.

Bee keeping- bee keeping is a promising industry which requires small amount of capital. Mainly because one can start with even two beehives and then progressively increase the number. At the moment YCCAN has two beehives in the founder's rural home. And currently sells honey as part time job.

Collecting waste papers for recycling –Most institution burn waste papers yet they could be used in the manufacture of tissue papers.YCCAN recently introduced the idea but has a lot of challenge due the logistics involved in the collection yet the returns are low thus not sustainable in the short run..

The above is what we project will provide funds for most of our activities in the near future; our approach is mainly like so because there has been a significant reduction on expenditure by most donors as the world faces economies meltdown and environmental crisis.

LONG TERM STRATEGY

YCCAN's long term strategy to mobilize resources is the one that will not only raise funds, but also create employment for the many youths who are leaving learning institutions. This will be achieved by opening up new ingenious employment opportunities that are queered towards environmental conservation.

Through cooperation with other institutions YCCAN will partner to initiate an institution were people will be trained on sustainable farming practices, sustainable land use to reduce our impact on soil and water resources. The institution will also welcome researchers all over the world to carry out research on new technology that will facilitate sustainable living.

It also expected that the institution will provide a one stop solution for matters pertaining to new farming practices such as aqua culture, permaculture, and hydro phonics among others.

CONTACT DETAILS

YCCAN has not had the honor of having a website or its own box office address or an office. However, founder uses the family post office address 17612-00100.Nairobi.And is currently being hosted at Museums of Kenya by Jane Macharia who has since joined YCCAN.The official phone numbers are +254751815882 or 0723009477.

YCCAN 2011

SUCCESS STORIES

The following has recently been achieved as a means to overcome the challenges YCCAN faces:

01/09/2011 –SOLAR COOKER INTERNATIONAL agreed to come for solar energy demonstration in the schools YCCAN is partnering with. This will greatly enhance our energy sector in terms of green energy awareness creation and green energy use.

05/09/2011-Africal Environmental Film Foundation donates twenty two documentaries to enhance awareness by Film viewing.

06/09/2011-YCCAN founder is joined by to other partners John Mwangi Kimiti, Lydia Gachahi, Jane Macharia, and Mr. Muchura. The profile of new face of YCCAN steering committee which will also constitute the board members of YCCAN NGO which is in the process of being registered.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

29/06/2011 officially launched and voted office bearers of Kagema Primary School ECO-CLUB



Kagema primary school eco-club office bearers pose for a photo with YCCAN founder.

On 02/07/2011 YCCAN partnered with Kagama Primary School Eco –CLUB in a tree planting. However, this was not just a tree planting since each member planted their own tree but were supposed to follow it up.



Kagama Primary school Eco-Club members in the first photo. The second photo shows the follow up to ensure the tree planting exercise is not in futility.

A YCCAN volunteer helps the Eco-members in tree planting and in a follow up.



The Eco-Club patron giving student a hand.

22/07/2011 Partnered with Kihuririo Primary School In a tree planting exercise.



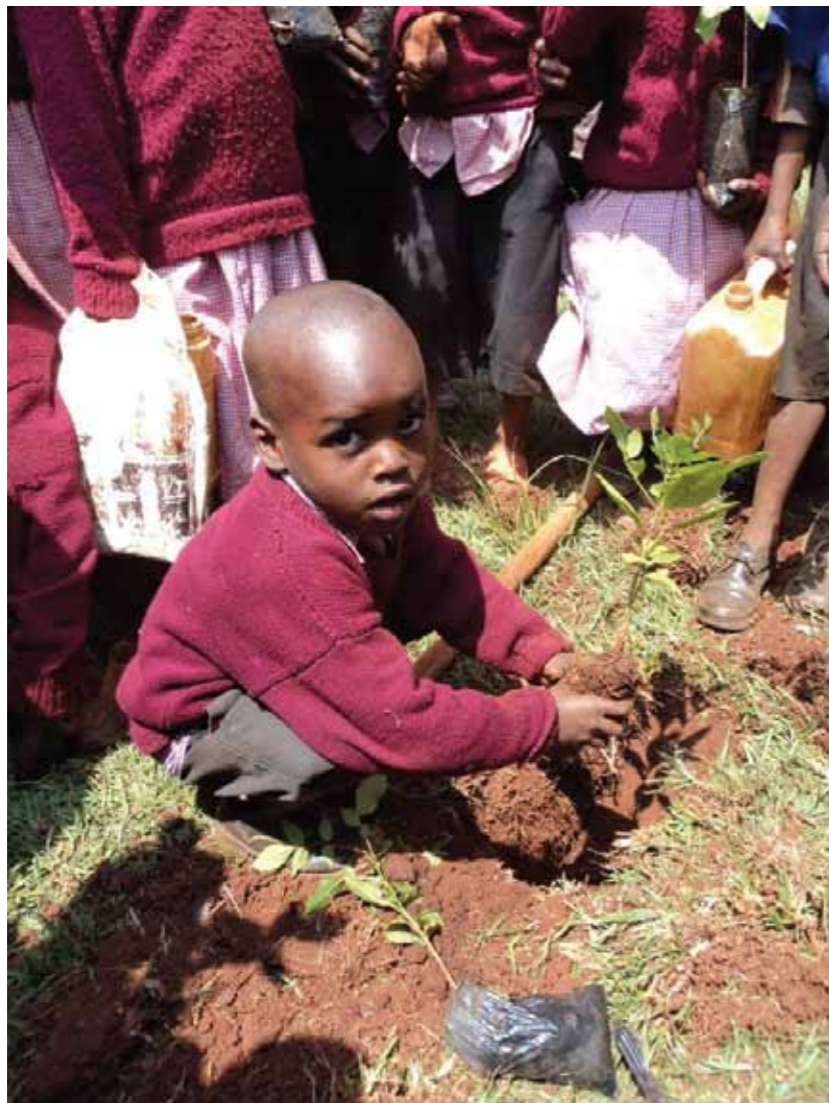
The pupils get instructions from the YCCAN founder and the eco-club patron/teacher



Pupils get a helping hand from founder and the teaching staff.



Making tree planting fun for kids



Kids get hands-on





Pupils get a helping hand from the headmaster



YCCAN volunteer assist and YCCAN founders

SUCCESS STORIES

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Our activities are divided into the following subsectors:

WATER

In all our activities with the eco clubs water has been a major drawback. In that case the club will partner with the schools, and other relevant organizations to initiate water harvesting projects. In order to avail water for watering trees, for small-scale farming/beautification project by the school.



At least some schools have shown an effort to harvest rainwater through not adequate to meet the entire schools water requirement.

More often tree planting activities are delayed since pupils have to fetch water from the river downhill as shown by the photos.

ENERGY

In most of the schools YCCAN is partnering with, have a severe energy problem, and be it for cooking, lighting or heating water. Through the clubs YCCAN hopes to introduce latent solar lamps, solar water heaters, biogas and briquettes so that the school can choose what suites their energy problem. This will significantly cut on how much is spent on firewood purchase as we reduce deforestation and pollution.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. However, youths who form the biggest percentage of our country's population are not interested in farming. To ameliorate this problem YCCAN hopes to link the club members with the local agricultural officers so as to get trained on new farming techniques which they can tap to help in poverty eradication and solve the problem of unemployment by embracing agriculture as a business.

One of such project is passion fruit farming for schools as we promote bee keeping.

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

YCCAN in partnership with Eco-clubs hopes to assist in biodiversity protection by:

- Protecting habitat
- Raising awareness
- Adopting endangered animals

One such project which is still work in progress is the protection of Pseudocrenilabrus Multicolor, a fish species that the ichthyology department at museums of Kenya identified as very rare and unique but found in a stream in my neighbourhood. Unfortunately the stream is drying up due to poor farming practices.

The idea of the project is to educate the residents about the privilege they have of having such a fish in their stream. In fact, one person was ready to pay sh3500 just to have that fish in his aquarium due to its sparkling beauty. Currently, some have been kept in an improvised aquarium.



The stream where the were found.



The YCCAN founder and a volunteer fishing



Involving the pupils



The improvised aquarium

That's why the YCCAN would like to invite institution like KEFRI to do riverine protection with the residences using bamboo.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

In rural areas schools children do not have access to tissue papers. In most schools students use leaves or waste papers from old books or neither at all. Ironically, schools generate a lot of waste papers from old books, examination past papers. Ordinarily these papers are set ablaze since they are sort of a nuisance to the school community. Instead they can be collected by the students through eco-clubs, and then used to make tissue papers which can be sold cheaper price to schools around the country.

WALKING THE TALK

It has been my profound dream that one day my home will be the greenest and that people will be coming to learn about water harvesting, clean energy and sustainable farming.

So far my family has made major strides towards achieving the greenest home status.

Recently a biogas digester was installed and is being used to cook. This has tremendously transformed my mother's life who used to suffer from chest and eye infection due to indoor pollution caused by smoke and constantly worried of where the next firewood will come from.



The first photo illustrates indoor pollution that comes along with use of inefficient three stone jiko, second and third illustrates the convenience of a biogas and clean flame.

Biogas is very efficient for her as she can cook from the main house. We also enjoy organic fertilizer from the bioslurry which we use to grow vegetables.

Similarly, after the food is ready it is kept in a fireless cooker which keeps it hot for about seven hours, energy is again saved since no warming is necessary



A fireless cooker

Before the end of the year, a comprehensive water harvesting is to be done. This will come in handy to even out the dry and rainy seasons and to reduce dependency on ground water. This will enable horticultural farming throughout the year.

CHALLENGES

The major challenge to this visionary call has been capacity building. These pertains to teaching aid materials such as maps, pictures and projectors for showing videos clips. Currently teaching is done using manila papers or blackboard.



YCCAN founder giving a talk using blackboard as a means to illustrate.

When we want to show video clips we use television for display and a DVD player certainly these methods of teaching are no sustainable for an ever increasing audience.

The other drawback is with regard to transport means currently the founder has one bike which enables the efficient movement from one institution to another.



The bike during field days

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06/09/2011-YCCAN founder is joined by to other partners John Mwangi Kimiti and Lydia Gachahi, the former did masters in water harvesting while the latter did her masters in climate change. The two will greatly boost our human resource capacity to handle issues pertaining to climate change adaption.