

The Eco-Newsletter

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EEIU-Kenya

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Eco-clubs continue to mature into strong social groups for environmental change and awareness. This is marked by numerous demonstration projects in many schools, and the environmental campaigns and clean-ups that members have taken up. We have watched this with happiness sometimes even with soaring

pride, that our young ones and the youth have not only mastered the science and art of keeping our environment habitable but have also internalized the spirit of dirtying their hands to realize these noble goals.

Still, a lot remains to be achieved: convince all and sundry that it is actually our duty to keep our environments safe for our living, standing up for conservation of certain vital areas like the few remaining recreation points within the Mombasa town, reducing waste and through recycling, re-use and repair

EEIU– Kenya is convinced that we can determine the nature and status of the environment through behaviour and actions change. To overcome such environmental challenges like the global warming we will begin with every conscious environmental action we take. Such efforts will need concerted global efforts but must start from our local actions.

The organization of the Eco Clubs as a social tool of harnessing positive change becomes also relevant. Clubs' patrons and members should find the listed actions, steps and concepts interesting, catapulting and engaging.

I thus commend the Eco Club coordinators, patrons and our supporters for their innovations. The garbage-burning kiln in Star of the Sea primary school is one such a method. We might want to do more in this regard as well. Needless to say, our institution will be more than willing to walk with you in that regard.

Lastly, such outreach materials like the 'Eco Newsletter' are vital especially as a medium of exchange of ideas, means of expressing ourselves and even as a source of learning a new idea. We gladly invite your support towards the Newsletter. You can do so by sponsoring the printing, sending your articles such as success stories and giving your comments after reading.

Okeyo Benards. Director, EEIU – Kenya.

WHAT IS ECO-CLUB?

Environmental education and activities is a core mandate for Eco-Ethics International Union-Kenya (EEIU-Kenya), and there could be no better institutions to implement this other than learning institutions and colleges where young brains gather to be shaped.

For sure, the strategy has been working well with EEIU-K by involving the students actively in environmental activities through eco-clubs under the guidance of a teacher –patron.

A club registers with EEIU-K by paying a one-off registration fee of Ksh. 1000 and an annual subscription of Ksh. 500. The program emphasizes on actions through tree planting, lectures, debates, competition, video shows and educational tours to mention but a few. The program is currently strong in Mombasa but with new partnerships with Kenya Organization for Environmental Organization (KOE), we shall be broadening up to other parts of the Kenyan coast.

ECO-CLUB WRITES ON GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming and sea level rise.

Sea level rise is one of the critical concerns of global warming. Ice in the poles and mountain tops continue to melt due to increased global surface temperature.

Sea level rise can damage infrastructure close to seas and oceans through hurricanes leading to huge losses. This could increase to 50% in populated areas in the next century. Other problems related to sea level rise include, beach erosion, loss of wetlands, and damaged aquifers.

In 1992, UN reported that more CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions would eventually lead to sea level rise and consequently cause the coastal plains of Bangladesh and the Netherlands to flood by year 2100 and small islands submerged only with a 2 feet increase in sea level. This would even be worse for Bangladesh which is a developing country.

Deforestation can deplete carbon sinks. For example an acre of forest will absorb about 10 times the CO₂ amount absorbed by an acre of cropland or grassland. Unfortunately, it is reported that over globally 5500 acres of rain forest are destroyed daily and over 50 million acres are destroyed annually. CO₂ absorption is thus very low. A concerted effort on afforestation would help. Countries should also adopt Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) to aid cut the CO₂ emissions.

*Humphrey Shitanda, Mombasa polytechnic
Environmental club*

Make Kyoto a true reflection

Geographers have brought it to our attention that the snow that beautifully caps our mountain peak is receding thanks to global warming.

Industrialization is one of the genesis of this phenomenon. For Kenya, industrialization would mean more employment opportunities, increased products value and increased government revenues. It appears good at the face value.

When scientists cited industries as being responsible for the climate change, it seemed like a bolt from the blue sky to a layman. In reality, it has been witnessed in the form of prolonged droughts, higher temperatures and floods experienced during the El-Niño rains of 2007/2008.

Although industrialization cannot be done away with, it should be made sustainable. When fossil fuel users add CO₂ into the atmosphere, it acts as a blanket for the sun's heat, hence trapping it within our atmosphere, this results in more evaporation, more condensation and high rainfall and eventual floods. The floods destroy our property and causes death. The property destruction resulting from the phenomenon is costlier than the factors causing it.

So let us not cry over spilt milk. Let us turn back to our divine role of taking good care of nature. It is high time all earthlings signed the Kyoto protocol in order to reduce this global warming. It is discouraging that some countries like the United States of America (USA) are selfishly adamant to

embrace such a grand move. Is this a case of one man's meat in another man's poison?

As the human race, we should put our heads together and talk with one voice since two heads are better than one. REMEMBER a stitch in time saves nine.

By David Ali Desz Liz primary school

PLANNING WITH THE PATRONS - by Richard Kiaka

Active participation of all stakeholders in any project has become inevitable. Within the realm of project management, participation should be encouraged in all stages.

In order to strengthen eco-club program and to tap the skills and experience of club patrons a joint review, evaluation and planning workshop was organized by EEIU-Kenya in February this year at the EEIU-Kenya meeting room. The input of the participating patrons during the workshop was invaluable.

Some of the recommendations of the workshop included regular trainings of the patrons on environmental issues, leadership trainings for the club committees, active involvement of patrons in planning, seed money for micro-projects for individual clubs and improved monitoring.



Participants of patrons review and planning workshop

Patrons who participated in the workshop included: Mr. Newton (Star of the Sea primary), Mrs. Gitahi (Sacred Heart Primary), Mrs Mose (St. Augustine preparatory), Ms Petronela (Sacred Heart Secondary), Mr. Waweru (Mbuyuni Primary), Ms Josephine (Kilindini Secondary) and representatives of Mombasa Politecnic and Active Youth Community Initiative.

ECO-CLUBS DEBATE ON WETLANDS

By Margaret Kilunda

Sometimes it is just interesting to see eco-club members debate like serious parliamentarians. Such was the case of Kilindini and Sacred Heart secondary schools eco club members at Kilindini secondary school to mark the World Wetlands Day. "Healthy wetlands Healthy people" was the topic for debate.



Eco-clubs debate at Kilindini Secondary school

Even though the debaters viewed wetlands to be posing some minimal threats to human life such as disease vector breeding areas, their ecological and socio-economic functions put together are invaluable. Such are to include natural purification of the environment, support to the hydrological cycle, habitat to biological diversity, and support to livelihoods not to mention other socio-cultural values.

The exhaustive debate discovered that man has placed the economic value of the swamps, deltas, estuaries and other forms of wetlands as a priority over the others. Pollution and clearance for settlement and agriculture amongst other economic ventures were identified as the worst enemies of most wetlands. Thus sustainable use of the wetlands is necessary for the health of humans and the living organisms that depend on them.

Moi forces academy goes green

By Margaret Kilunda

Every country on earth needs at least 10% forest cover. Eco-clubs also sing in the same spirit by promoting tree planting in and out of schools. Charged by environmentalism spirit, eco-club members of Moi Forces academy teamed up with EEIU-Kenya and Active Youth Community Initiative- Likoni to plant a number of trees in their school compound.



Tree planting and MDG talk at Moi forces

The pupils would not be happy till they were assured that their efforts were in tandem with national and global policies. Do you usually get concerned like them? The previously trained EEIU-Kenya staff on MDGs and Kenya's Vision 2030 seized the opportunity to assist the pupils eagerly link their 'go-green day' to the UN MDGs and the country's planning strategies and forest policies.

More important and interesting was the enthusiasm of the pupils in knowing why tree planting is important not only for the school and the present generation but also for the nation and generations to come. The exercise also provided a golden opportunity for the pupils to learn tree species and suitable climatic conditions. It was encouraging to see young school children commit themselves to tend the tree and leave a legacy.

A break from ABCD and $1 + 1 = 2$ at St. Augustine Preparatory—by Ruth Mugira

Longer hours on ABCD and arithmetic jargons not only scare away the pupils but bores them up. Madam Mose of St. Augustine school knows that child development is also dependent on other experiences. Environmental education is one of her best ways of helping her students learn widely. Moreover, her students can easily connect what they learn in the formal syllabus with the components of environmental education.

In March this year, her eco-club members participated in a captivating talk on wetlands. She plans for more of such talks and her pupils are too curious to know their roles in conservation.



St. Augustine Eco-club members participating in a wetlands talk

crossword Puzzle

S	P	Q	I	J	B	D	A	P	S
D	L	M	L	Q	R	X	Z	L	Y
A	B	I	N	C	Q	X	E	K	Z
U	Q	Y	O	D	H	Z	L	N	S
Z	I	N	A	N	P	Q	E	M	X
Y	G	B	V	W	R	T	P	P	O
T	J	C	E	U	B	O	H	A	N
U	I	D	H	F	L	C	A	K	L
V	N	O	K	A	F	V	N	J	H
G	U	A	F	C	P	J	T	V	R
F	H	F	B	R	W	K	M	X	A
K	U	E	M	T	X	Z	R	W	B
B	H	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	F

Membership

Is your school still out? Remember to register your club or to send your annual subscription. Send all correspondences including articles to:

The eco-club coordinator

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