

Help 200 poor deaf farmers save trees in Kenya

According to a recent survey of all disabled people Kenya, in a population of 37 million people, it's been estimated that around 1.6% (600,000) Kenyans are Deaf. Due to no access to education, they are less educated. They have less employment opportunities in public and private sectors due to discriminatory basis. Technically, they often have no alternative employment options to farming. The majority of poor farmers live in areas where there are trees/forests like Rift Valley, Nyanza and Central, and Eastern parts of Kenya. They build houses, growing crop, and keep livestock on, and at the same time keep their own families in the same farms. Most small areas of poor quality and cannot grow enough food to feed their families.

The deaf poor farmers depend heavily on trees/forests for livelihood. The organization has noted with concerns the way some of their farming activities are affecting trees in the areas which include cutting down thousand and thousand of trees per year for commercial and domestic purpose. Out of trees, they burn charcoal, produce timber for furniture; fuel wood for cooking, livestock feeds, and produces traditional medicines. Also because they possess plenty of cattle; they expressly use large scale of forests for cattle crazing. Due to little knowledge, they are actually not aware of how devastating their human activities are to biodiversity and ecosystem and as well to themselves and the people living there who are the hardest hit.

Massive cutting down of tree brings with many ugly consequences such as air and water pollution, soil erosion, malaria epidemic, the release of carbon-dioxide into the atmosphere that is a large contributor to greenhouse effect, and the loss of biodiversity through eviction of plants and animals. Few trees mean less rain, less oxygen for the people there to breathe and an increased threat from global warming. The people inhabiting the areas have developed technologies and resources use system that have allowed them to live on the land in complex sustainable, relationship with the trees/forests. But when all the trees are destructed, so do the poor farmers and inhabitants of the country at large.

But who really is to blame? Directly and indirectly the leading threats to this activity of trees/forests ecosystems are the government of Kenya and Agency-Aid for the unbridled, unplanned, and uncoordinated development of natural resources. For years, the government has accorded low priority to deaf farmers thus has never allocated resources to nor involved deaf-centered organizations to help support projects ,causes and activities related to environmental awareness, protection and conservation. Since poor deaf farmers are the one who know the properties of these trees and how they can be used, the need for knowledge is now considered an essential component of all efforts to conserve and develop the trees/forests.

The organization is aware that the problem and solution of trees destruction is economic, marginal deaf farmers is poor and hungry people on earth. They need money to feed their families,--and the simple fact is that trees/forests are being destroyed for the incomes and profits they yield.

The project is aimed at creating awareness and economic incentives for 200 poor deaf farmers and inhabitants living in forests/trees areas to protect and preserve trees/forests for long-term benefits for themselves, and their children, and the community and to put a solution in saving the trees from destruction.

The organization has the plans to solve this problem such as:

1. Use Kenya Sign Language to education them on

- -Alternative use of energy as fuel energy such as kerosene instead of wood fuel.
- -Use of plants wastage such as cassava, sugar-cane, sweet-potatoes vines, to feed their livestock
- -Better farming inputs and supplies, methods such as cattle crazing, crop rotation, bio-energy use
- -Re-planting tree when one has been cut down

2. Make information regarding agricultural practices accessible to them

And this will have:

Benefits of these protecting and preserving trees

Ecological benefits that sustain the health and well-being of our communities

- -Moderate climate, improve air quality, and conserving water
- -Bird and wildlife will be attracted to the area=in which bring economic benefit to the countries for tourists are attracted to this area
- -Prevent of soil erosion and fertilize the fields with extra nitrogen
- -Prevention of disease such as malaria
- -combat global warming
- -Reduction air pollution in the atmosphere
- -carob dioxide reduction
- Feed the country

