

ABERDARE EAST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROJECT

REPORT ON MURAL PAINTING BY KIANGURE SPRINGS ENVIRONMENT
INITIATIVE TO CREATE AWARENESS OF THE CONSERVATION OF
ABERDARE AND NYERI HILL FORESTS



MURAL PAINTED BY: KIANGURE SPRINGS ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE
MURAL FUNDED BY: PAINTING A NEW WORLD www.paintinganewworld.com

OTHER PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT

- 1) **PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION-**
- 2) **UNEP BILLION TREE CAMPAIGN www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/**
- 3) **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FOREST
<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/index.shtml>**
- 4) **TREES FOR THE FUTURE www.plant-trees.org**

- 5) **WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY** www.worldwatermonitoringday.org
- 6) **KABAGE COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION**
- 7) **KIENI COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION**
- 8) **ZAINA COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION**
- 9) **KIANDONGORO COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION**

BACKGROUND.

The United Nations declared this year the International year of forests whose theme is "FORESTS FOR PEOPLE. 22nd may was declared the international day for biological diversity 2011 being the international year of forests, Nyeri hill is an important land mark in Nyeri County in Central Kenya .This is where all broadcasting stations have erected their transmission Masts.

While on top of this hill one can see the whole of central Kenya up to Nairobi. You can also see clearly the two water towers ie.Aberdare ranges and forest and Mt Kenya forest. Here you also have a clear view of the tallest mountain in Africa, Mt.Kilimanjaro.

Over the years, the hill has been destroyed by illegal loggers even up to today where we have witnessed cases of people cutting giant pine trees for timber using axe and hand saws to avoid detection. They avoid the power saws which will make a lot of noise thus attracting attention from friends of the forest..

KSEI in partnership with the local Community Forest Associations (CFAs), grassroot organizations and other local and international organizations has embarked on a campaign through Mural art and environment education in schools and the community to create awareness to the community on the Importance of conserving the Aberdare Water Tower and the surrounding forests including Nyeri hill forest.

The CFAs have been mandated through the Kenya Forest Act 2005 to manage and conserve the local forest.

Each CFA has its own conservation area.

The project involves the following activities:

- 1) Tree planting
- 2) Mural painting
- 3) Water monitoring
- 4) Environment education

THE NYERI HILL AWARENESS MURAL PROJECT

Kiangure springs environment initiative formulated this project after seeing how the Nyeri hill forest was threatened by illegal logging, charcoal burning, poaching and cattle grazing and farming by local farmers. The project to create awareness about Nyeri Hill Forest is part of the Wider Aberdare east environmental education and awareness project started in 2010.

This mural project concept was developed in partnership with all stakeholders and the local community. Those involved are:

- a) Kiangure springs environment initiative
- b) Nyeri hill community
- c) Community Forest Associations around the forests.
- d) Provincial administration through the local chief
- e) District environment office

The Funding was provided by **PAINTING ANEW WORLD**, from Canada.
www.paintinganewworld.com

PROJECT LOCATION

The mural project is located in **IHURURU MARKET**, which is the main entrance route to the forest/hill.

This is the first mural in the Nyeri hill project. We selected the market since it is at the foot hills of the Nyeri Hill and the main entrance to the forest. There is a clear view of the hill when one is in Ihururu market. All loggers pass through this town on their way to the hill or spend their proceeds from illegal timber sales in this town. By painting the mural here, we have captured everybody heading towards the hill from Ihururu market. The mural is painted on a building adjacent to the main Nyeri Ihururu road .The building is near the bus stop.

Already the mural which was painted on Saturday 16th July 2011 has attracted a lot of people and created a big impact to the passersby, bringing the message of Conserving Nyeri hill and Aberdare home.

Other murals will be painted in other shopping centres around the hill and public and private schools.

The mural focuses on the role of Provincial administration and Community Forest Association in safeguarding the forests. It also covers community tree planting and the benefits of conserving the forest.

The Main economic activity in the area is tea farming and dairy farming. These are two activities that depend on rain and so this forest is very important to the community.

The hill is also the Transmission point of all broadcasting stations in the country where they have erected their masts

The mural process involved identifying the suitable and most strategic wall in the market centre. We then painted the rough wall with white paint in readiness for the picture.

Then we composed the mural, painted the whole picture and the logos to recognize those who are working with us.

ROLES PALYED BY VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS

KIANGURE SPRINGS ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE-implementing organization
PAINTING A NEW WORLD –Provided funds for Painting the Murals.

UNEP BILLION TREE CAMPAIGN-Leadership and coverage of our activities

TREES FOR THE FUTURE-Donated over seeds for Tree planting project

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY-Donated water monitoring kits for environmental education in schools.

PICTORIAL



Nyeri hill forest viewed from ihururu market and the wall before painting



Artist Kamau Beginning the mural after painting the rough wall



The coordinator Mr.Mathenge painting the mural



Section of the mural showing tea estates and the rivers depending on the local forests



A view of the mural with Nyeri on the background



A section of the mural showing an administrator addressing community members about forests



Kamau working on the Logos.



Logos of all the partners are clearly displayed on the left side of the mural.



The mural seen from a distance with the Nyeri hill at a distance



A CLEAR VIEW OF THE MURAL



A section of the mural showing local community in a meeting with CFA and local administration where a logger has been arrested while destroying the forest.

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