



# NEWSLETTER

*Building our flourishing future*

June 2018



Left: ISLA Kenya partners with HE Frans Makken, Dutch Ambassador to Kenya (bottom centre) at the launch of the Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust.

## ISLA Kenya launches Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust

On 26 January 2018 in Nairobi, ISLA Kenya launched the Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust to help jointly restore and conserve 60,000 hectares of the South West Mau Forest by 2030.

The public-private partnership includes more than 16 stakeholders from the private sector, county governments, national government agencies, community groups and NGOs.

It will coordinate conservation and livelihood improvement activities, aligning high-level policy dialogues with practical sustainability solutions on the ground. It will also set up an endowment fund to ensure the program is sustained in the long term.

**“Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust is the engine to drive conservation initiatives in the South West Mau, a key watershed, into the long term. Without the Mau, human life is at stake.”**

John Serem, Representative of the Water Resources User Associations (WRUA) in the ISLA Program

**“The forest influences the region’s microclimate such as rainfall patterns, creating ideal conditions for the production of tea and other crops. It will require our full support and goodwill from all stakeholders to ensure that we achieve this.”**

Lerionka Tiampati, CEO of the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA).

The focus of the program on conserving and restoring the degraded forest relies on collaborating with communities.

**“We cannot achieve any of our goals without actively involving and partnering with the communities that live around the forest.”**

Jordy van Honk, IDH’s Program Director for African Landscapes.

**“The launch of the trust sends a very positive sign that our collective work will continue into the future.”**

Emilio Mugo, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) Chief Conservator of Forests.

A background image of a tea plantation with tall tea trees and a blue sky with light clouds. The image is partially obscured by a large blue text box.

## Renewable energy for industry and communities in the South West Mau

Renewable energy can reduce demand for wood and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. ISLA Kenya is exploring renewable technologies that could contribute to sustainable tea production and provide energy for local communities and institutions.

### Renewable energy for the tea industry

In Kenya, geothermal electricity production is a large and growing industry.

In 2017, IF Technologies performed a feasibility study on geothermal energy for the tea industry. ISLA hosted an online webinar for tea factories in January 2018 to discuss the results. IF Technologies presented several concepts that are based on geothermal heat but none were found to be

economically feasible, mainly due to high uncertainties and capital investments. ISLA is discussing next steps to further explore geothermal and/or other renewable technologies with its partners.

### Renewable solutions for households and communities

In the home, renewable energy for cooking and lighting can reduce exposure to indoor pollutants and contribute to a safe and healthier living environment. Traditional wood stoves often emit large amounts of carbon monoxide and other harmful gases, putting people, especially women and children, at risk of developing respiratory diseases. ISLA Kenya is setting up partnerships to introduce efficient wood stoves and stoves that use renewable sources for households and institutions in the South West Mau, with a focus on the north-east boundary.



## Livestock intensification to conserve South West Mau Forest

The livestock intensification project is a two-year pilot to develop and test an innovative approach of working with forest-dependent communities along the north-east boundary of the South West Mau to increase their income while reducing deforestation. The pilot is training 200 farmers on 10 demonstration farms within the Tinet and Kiptoro wards in Nakuru County, and the Chepseon Ward in Kericho County.

The project uses a semi-intensive zero-grazing model where communities graze dairy animals in paddocks at home in the day, and stable them in a cow barn at night with supplementation feeding. This will help increase milk production and incomes, and reduce grazing in the forest.



## The project

In the first quarter of 2018, we set up all 10 demonstration farms. This included establishing a cow barn at each farm, using mostly local materials. Cow barns offer warm housing for animals and facilitate supplementation feeding, milking, the monitoring of diseases and changes in animal behaviours, and other routine procedures such as spraying and insemination. The project has been well received by communities so far.

**"We have been losing livestock to wild animals, which prey on them in the forest. We have also been losing cattle, especially calves, to very cold weather. Through this project, which is training us to graze our animals at home and house them in the night, we will avoid such losses."**

Richard Langat of Kipkoris study group in Kiptororo Ward.

To supplement animal feeding, maize for silage making was planted at the demo farms. Other types of pastures include desmodium, sweet potatoes vines and bracharia grass to ensure animal nutrition and optimise milk production. The grazing area with Kikuyu grass was weeded, fertilized and paddocked to use pastures efficiently through rotational grazing.

**"We have only been feeding our animals on Kikuyu grass. We did not know that the animals were not getting sufficient nutrients for optimum production. I am happy this project has introduced us to new pastures and fodder crops."**

Ms Mary Barno of Kapkembu from a study group in Tinnet.



Farmers' training on livestock intensification also took off.

**"We didn't know we could use our small land profitably. That we could fertilize this Kikuyu grass to increase the quantity and quality of milk. I am very happy that through this project we are learning these modern farming technologies."**

Joel Tororgei, demo host in Githima study group in Kiptororo ward.

In some of the groups, farmers have started jointly saving towards funding some livestock intensification technologies, such as Artificial Insemination (AI) of cows.

The biggest challenge is poor roads, making accessing the demo farms a big problem for the technical support team, as well as accessing reliable inputs and services. IDH, SNV, service providers and the country governments of Nakuru and Kericho are consulting to find solutions.





## Partnership for conserving water catchment

In September 2017, the Kipchobos spring protection project in Bomet County started with the support of funding partner James Finlay (K) Limited, technical partner GIZ /IWASP and funding and convening partner IDH. It supported the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the spring, which had been adversely impacted by large-scale water use, reduced water flows and contamination. The aim was to provide clean water to neighbouring communities and their livestock, to restore the degraded riparian area, and to support communities in water resource and project management. The project reached around 200 households, approximately 600 pupils from Chemalal academy and approximately 600 pupils from Mugenyi primary school. Since the completion of the project it has been reported that the spring serves a population of 12,000 people.

### Partnerships and linkages

The national government through local administration officials supported the mobilization and sensitization of the public on the project objectives and delivery.

Bomet County Government- Sub-county administration and water sector officers- provided support to project delivery.

Water Resource Authority – supported the sensitization of local WRUA and community members on water management.

GIZ/IWASP provided invaluable support from project inception, sensitization, quality control and training of local Project Committee.

Centre For International Forestry (CIFOR)- Expertise in forests and hydrological related cycles.

Bellagio Construction Ltd – Technical and construction expertise on water projects.





## Our Partners

**Private sector partners:** Unilever, James Finlay (K) Ltd, Kenya Tea Development Agency, Safaricom Foundation, KENGEN, Timber Manufacturers Association

**National government agencies:** Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Water Resources Management Authority, Nyayo Tea Zones Development, Kenya Water Towers Agency

**Local governments:** Kericho County, Bomet County and Nakuru County

**Ministries:** Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry Water and Irrigation

**Civil Society:** Community Forest Associations, Water Resource Users Associations

**International partners:** IDH, GIZ, Rhino Ark, CIFOR, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Picture Credit: Peter Munene/Rhino Ark

## Community outreach for conservation

Rhino Ark undertook a comprehensive schools survey between February and March 2018. The survey aimed to start the process of building relationships with the schools and to assess both the capacity and willingness of the schools to participate in the conservation programme. Authority for the survey and subsequent conservation education work was secured through the Nakuru County Education Office.

The survey found that a total of 31 schools fell within the forest community buffer zone. They will form the basis for follow up engagement. All schools overwhelmingly expressed the wish to participate in conservation education activities.