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ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS APPROACHES IN RESTORATION



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Entrepreneurship and business approaches in restoration: The way ahead

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Who Natural Resource Forum (NAREF) is

- For the last two years, KEPSA foundation has been engaging stakeholders from the natural resources related subsectors to promote formation of an umbrella body for natural capital sector, NAREF.
- The Stakeholders of NAREF, through various meetings approved the process to address the need for a **unified advocacy organization to champion the interests of the entire ecosystem of sectors and also partner with government towards sustainable economic development and wealth creation through natural resources.**



What inspired the formation of NAREF

- Challenges experienced in the Natural Resource sector have caused lagging in realizing its full potential and contribution to the economy. Among the challenges experienced include:
 - Human wildlife conflict caused by population growth and encroachment in their habitats
 - Deforestation that has led to climate change patterns causing water stress, drought and an increase in arid land
 - Wildlife poaching and bush meat hunting that has led to extinction of certain species
 - Land degradation due to illegal mining contributing to the loss of biodiversity and pollution.
 - Poor water management leading to reduced water quantity, pollution of water bodies and overfishing threatening extinction of some species.
 - Inadequate monitoring and evaluation of the sector leading to inadequate information on status of degradation.

Overall Objective of NAREF

- Considering the above and many more challenges, NAREF seeks to find synergy and champion the achievement of a common goal which is conservation and preservation of natural capital. Bringing the entire sector together to speak in one voice will generate cooperation and improve the collaboration, management and conservation of natural resources in Kenya.



Why NAREF

- The goal: KEPSA wanted to create a new industrial sector focused on Natural Resource Management.
- Job creation: Green infrastructure jobs are linked to climate finance mechanisms that benefit companies seeking to reduce their cost of capital funds by reducing climate related risks.



Our Work

- Awareness creation through advocacy
- Knowledge building
- Monitoring and Evaluation :The first 2 years will need to focus on data gathering and capabilities gaps analysis so that a proper monitoring and evaluation plan can be put into place.



Expected Outcomes

The Forum seeks to harness the national full potential of Kenya's natural capital endowment and to employ the competitive advantage offered as an engine for inclusive economic growth. This will be achieved through;

- Enhanced partnership with the Government in addressing all concerns of the Natural resource Sector.
- Strengthen policies to manage climate change.
- Increased conservation of rivers, dams, lakes, and water towers.
- Enhanced pro-sector policies to spur tourism productivity for environment and wildlife conservation, performance expansion, and growth of the sector.
- Enriched implementation of various policies at a National and County Government levels



Membership of NAREF

The Forum will draw its membership from;

1. Tourism Associations
2. Wildlife Conservation organizations
3. Forest and Environmental Conservation bodies
4. National World Heritage Sites and Cultural Associations
5. Water, water Towers and Rivers Conservation
6. Coastal and Marine life Conservation
7. Climatic Change, Renewable Energy/Green Energy/ Clean Air
8. Mineral sector
9. Ornithology
10. Research Institutions & Education
11. Agriculture Sector

Call to Action

- NAREF will function as a BMO WITH KEPSA. We need your support to create a vibrant natural resource industrial sector in Kenya:
 - Impact investors
 - Technical assistance
 - Green Industrial skills capacitation
 - Green procurement for our members



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THANK YOU.



Private Sector Engagement in Kenya's landscapes restoration efforts

27 May 2021



Speakers and their organizations

- Teddy Kinyanjui: Sustainability Director, Seedballs Kenya
- Tommaso Iser Menini: Founder and Managing Director, African Agency for Arid Resources (AGAR Ltd)
- Jan Vandenabeele: Senior Director Forestry, Better Globe Forestry
- Simon Muli: farmer working with Better Globe Forestry in Kitui County
- George Oselu: Forest Manager, Kenya Tea Development Agency Foundation
- Michael Koech: Manager Environment and Climate, Safaricom PLC.
- Dr. Dora Kilalo: Senior Lecturer Entomology and Pest Management, University of Nairobi
- Benson Ngigi: Stewardship Manager, Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK)



Teddy Kinyanjui: Sustainability Director, Seedballs Kenya

- Seedballs Kenya has been undertaking direct seeding with both tree and grass seeds on a massive scale in different parts of the country. Many businesses have promoted its action.
- A seedball is simply a seed coated in a ball of charcoal dust.
- This method is far cheaper than physical planting.
- The people who should play a larger role in landscape restoration are the private sector actors.
- The private sector actors need to understand the concept of natural capital accounting and industries consuming water should know the true cost and the environmental impact of water use. This way, the private sector will be able to pay back to the environment.



Tommaso Menini: Founder and Managing Director, African Agency for Arid Resources (AGAR Ltd)

- AGAR Ltd has invested in arid lands commodities like gums, resins and aloë products. It works in Samburu, Marsabit, Wajir and Isiolo.
- Its investment in these areas has enabled it to elevate the living conditions of the pastoralist communities they work with.
- It is the only company in this field that follows and controls the entire value chain from the collection of raw material to end-products.
- AGAR Ltd also creates market linkages.



Jan Vandenabeele: Senior Director Forestry, Better Globe Forestry (BGF)

- BGF is an afforestation company that works in traditional plantations and agroforestry, in ASAL
- Regarding agroforestry, BGF invests heavily in farmer organization and training. This has resulted so far in:
 - Landscape restoration on a scale of 2,000 ha.
 - Farmer empowerment through surplus food production and financial capacity building (micro-credit and table banking)
 - Contractual engagement with over 6,000 farmers regarding tree planting, management and marketing.
- Its concept of landscape restoration is founded in Soil & Water Conservation combined with commercial tree planting (production of high-value timber).
- The challenges they face include:
 - The need to have incentives for the farmers as well as a decent return for the investor.
 - Trees are long-term investments with delayed financial returns e.g. for *Melia volkensii*, the expected rotation time is 15-20 years.
 - Seedling & tree mortality are high.



Michael Koech: Manager Environment and Climate, Safaricom PLC.

- There is a business case in landscape restoration. Nature provides resources such as food, fiber, minerals and building materials etc. Without nature businesses cannot prosper.
- There is huge environmental risks associated with nature destruction. The [estimated economic cost of land degradation is more than 10% of annual global gross product.](#)
- The opportunities that come with saving nature include cost savings, increase in operational efficiency, increased market shares, predictable and stable supply chains, relationships with stakeholders and customers, and access to new markets, products and services
- Safaricom has seriously invested in tree planting and forest protection in collaboration with various specialized actors (e.g. the Safaricom forest in Marmanet – 5m trees in 5 yrs, electric fencing of Eburu forest, support to NgareNdare forest, the Nairobi Greenline; a LONG LIST)



George Oselu: Forest Manager, Kenya Tea Development Agency Foundation

- Tree planting for KTDA is a Corporate Social Investment (led by KTDA Foundation) because they put efforts in tree planting so that they can also gain from them in future: 4,480 ha planted for wood fuel plantations plus 1,920 ha under indigenous trees for conservation.
- The key objective of the Foundation is to initiate interventions that improve the welfare of small holders' tea farmers in Kenya through strategic partnerships (IKEA Foundation, Mitsubishi Corporate Fund Europe & Africa and others): hundreds of thousands of tree seedlings planted with small-holder communities
- Vision: “Enabled and progressive small holder tea farmers”
- Mission: To empower the small holder tea farmers and their communities economically and socially through sustainable programmes and partnerships



Dr. Dora C. Kilalo: Senior Lecturer Entomology and Pest Management, University of Nairobi

- Modern agriculture can't do without pesticides, but they are dangerous if not well used both for humans and animals, insects (bees!) etc.
- The use of pesticides is increasing in Africa but still below global levels
- Action to be taken: educate, raise awareness on responsible use and alternatives (IPM, bio-pesticides, non-chemical pest controls)
- Research required to monitor effects on the environment to advise regulatory bodies on use.



Benson Ngigi: Stewardship Manager, Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK)

- AAK is an umbrella body for manufacturers, importers, distributors, users, and is also known as Croplife Kenya.
- The aim of AAK is to maximize the benefits from pest control products (PCPs) while minimizing the risks arising from their use.
- Examples of interventions by AAK to minimize the risk to the environment:
 - Spray Service Providers (SSP) training to shift the application responsibility from farmers to trained professionals.
 - Securing and disposing empty pesticide containers (EPCs).
 - Collection and disposal of obsolete pesticides.



Popular issues that came from the participants

- Survival rate of the trees planted by the different private sector actors
- Tracking of the trees, whether there are Apps used to monitor seedlings' survival
- Landscape restoration in ASAL faces severe challenges through present-day land use practices (bush clearing, charcoal & firewood production, free-roaming livestock ...)
- The number of hectares of land that has been put under restoration by the actors.
- Concern about current rules & regulations regarding permits on tree felling & tree products transport and water storing infrastructure (e.g. dams, water pans).



Next Steps discussed during the webinar:

- It was agreed that the conversation on private sector engagement in landscape restoration will be continued in the National Landscape Restoration Conference.
- The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) as well as other private sector actors will be invited to participate in the conference session on private sector engagement and come up with meaningful ways that the private sector can be engaged in landscape restoration.
- Government officials will participate during the conference to discuss about rules & regulations having an impact on landscape restoration efforts by the private sector



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