**REPORT ON EXCURSION TO NGONG HILL FOREST TREE PLANTING, HIKING AND VISIT TO WIND MILLS TURBINES**

After a 2-day informal and non-formal climate change education, the facilitators organized a one day trip. Four different field trips were arranged and happened simultaneously to enhance experiential learning. As a result, attendees were divided into four groups in which delegates were assumed to be learners who voluntarily chose their suitable area of visit for discoveries. About 20 delegates visited Ngong Hills under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Kinyili, head of Kenya Forest Service (KFS), accompanied by National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND) representative, Prof. Wilkister of Egerton University, Prof. Vincent Sudoi of University of Eldoret, Mr. Mutie, the Deputy Conservancy Head for Nairobi and Kajiado, Mr. Ndolo, Kenyatta University and coordinated by Mr. Dennis Oyancha youth coordinator RCE North Rift.

**The first stop:** Kenya Forest Service **(KFS) Headquarter, Ngong Forest**

Delegates paid a courtesy call to the offices. The manager and Mr. Mutie gave a brief talk on structure, history, key responsibilities and achievement of department as far as Ngong Forest conservation efforts are concerned.

**The Second Stop; Kajiado North Sub County Headquarters**

The Delegates Made a Courtesy Visit to the Deputy County Commissioner. Prof. Wilkister and Prof Sudoi introduced the RCE role and activities in climate action and the 12$^{th}$ African RCE Regional Meeting.

The County Commissioner in his remarks acknowledged the effects of Climate Change which has impacted the County whereby residents have lost several livestock due to drought, lack of pasture and water crisis as the community members are pastoralists. He also mentioned that Ngong Hill forest is about 21,105 sq km in North East of Kajiado County and is a source of both Mbagathi River and Kiserian River and proposed a Partnership with Regional Centre of Expertise and other Stakeholders to work together in restoration efforts of the Ngong Hills. He appreciated the delegates for Considering Ngong Hills as their choice of excursion. He Challenged Kenyatta University to adopt a site at Ngong hills since he is an alumni of the university.

**Ngong Hills Visit**

By the permission of Kajiado District Commissioner, the team was accompanied by about 5 foresters to Ngong Hills. The main goal was to contribute to 30% tree cover target by 2032 and appreciate Kenya's effort in reducing carbon emissions by implementing renewable energy firms such as the Ngong Hill wind power stations that generates about 390MW to the surrounding environment. These are major low carbon projects that are part of Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions. Availability of land for forest conservation, people's willingness to

adopt forests for conservation and availability of wind as a raw material for wind turbines has made it possible for the projects to be implemented in the region.

**Major Activities**

**Tree planting**

Main purpose is to offset carbon by reducing forest emissions through growing trees that has diverse uses for sustainable community forest conservation.

Variety of tree species such as *Olea Africana* (Mill.), *Prunus african (Hook.f. and Kalkman.) markhamia lutea (*Benth*.), acacia xeanthophloea (*Benth*.), Warburgia ugandensis (*B. Verdcourt***).** These tree species in the region provide basic ecological services as microclimate regulation, hydrological cycle, medicinal values, educational values and recreational services. They are also ecologically suitable in the region with great resistant to harsh climatic conditions as prolonged drought experienced in Kajiado.

About 180 trees were grown, involving watering to enhance tree survival during the dry season. The delegates especially the youths were encouraged to adopt planted trees to maturity to expand the forest.

**A visit to Wind Power plant**

Delegates visited Ngong Hills Power Station that is managed by Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KENGEN) for brief talk about history and importance of the wind turbines in the provision of renewable energy.

According to the engineer, the station has about 30 turbines that collectively generate about 390 KW of power. The electricity generated is purely renewable and wind is a source of energy. The energy produced is ecofriendly that can be adopted in other areas with high wind velocity in Kenya. More research needs to be done to establish such projects that not only provide energy but also green jobs for sustainable livelihoods among people.

**Challenges faced in the region are**:

Forest: illegal logging in search of medicine, droughts that hinder sapling survival, low climate change information among the locals that has influenced low adoption of tree planting as a mitigation measure.

Wind power: incapacitation as a result of unsustainable wind velocity, lack of turbine spare parts in Kenya.

**<u>Benefits Delegates gained</u>**

1. Contributing to greening Ngong Hills

2. Learnt about ecological services of different tree species
3. Learnt green jobs and applicability in their local areas, climate change should be an opportunity to explore talents.
4. Networking and recreation

**Challenges**

Limited Time to explore Ngong Hills

**Recommendations**

- Organize several outdoor experiences for environmental education
- Partnering with different RCE in Kenya to implement some activities such as tree planting and forest adoption.
- Provide research platforms and space for youths to discover the ecosystems through experiences.
- Provide avenues to share our field work experiences and how youths can closely work with environmental organizations for climate action

**Acknowledgement**

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- NEMA KENYA, for coordination, planning, mobilization and hosting the co-hosting the regional meeting with RCE Greater Nairobi.
- RCE Greater Nairobi for facilitating the event.
- KFS for providing personnel to take the team through the forest.
- Ngong Hills Power Station manager for briefing the team about renewable energy
- NETFUND for facilitating the group