

**ORGANIZATION FOR RESTORATION OF
CULTURE AND CUSTOMS OF
TANZANIAN**

“(CUSTOM /DESTURI)”

**A PROJECT PLAN FOR
AFFORESTATION**

**DRAWN BY :
DR.JAMES MATUNGE**

**ENDORSED BY :
TRUSTEES**

PROJECT FOREWORD

The Organization For Restoration Of Culture and Customs of Tanzanian is a locally registered entity. As its title shows, the principal objective of this organization is to promote preservation of the culture of Tanzanian. The chairman of this organization conceives that the culture of preserving natural environment is a responsibility of every person in this country. Hence the need to plant tree to replace any tree being cut.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (i-v)

PROJECT PAPER 1-9

ORGANIZATION FOR RESTORATION OF CULTURE AND CUSTOMS OF TANZANIAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The organization is embarking into a project to plant trees and preserve them.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The board of trustees decisively express a concern for the poor environment that result from people's laxity in observing the need to keep environment intact. Countrywide forests are vanishing hence losing valuable trees. The aim of this project therefore is to plant trees.

OBJECTIVES

Primarily the organization has the role and objective of availing trees to its own traditional healers / traditional doctor. Therefore it is necessary to plant trees. This objective overlaps automatically to embrace the public aspect of preserving the environment. Implementing this objective complements the government's effort to plant trees.

It is our corporate plan later to recommend to the government that there be an elaborate policy that will spell out principles and procedures to be observed while harvesting trees in this country.

The organization further intends to offer seminars and advice to the traditional healers and other indigenous community to give these people an idea about the need to keep environment intact. This seminar is intended to draw participants from the whole country.

Our simple study has revealed that the problem of trees vanishing touches the whole nation. Statistical samples show that : -

1. In Mbinga District trees are only left along the Lake Nyasa and a narrow strip boarder to Mozambique (Msumbiji). Even the existing trees cannot last long.
2. In Songea Urban, trees have just been attacked badly. We observed that there is a small forest reserve near the town. This is government's effort and we feel we must join hands with our government without further lingering. We cannot continue to remain indifferent to this issue.
3. We have data from Same, Dodoma, Iringa, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Masasi.

With marginal exception for Moshi the situation for all these places does not differ with that found in Mbinga. Mr. R.Mengi whose effort has catalyzed a commendable work of carrying out successful afforestation in the Kilimanjaro Region deserves unreserved commendation.

This training shall cover the area of trees tending, planting, development and the whole aspect of protecting the environment for the current and future generation.

TARGET GROUP

For a success in the whole process of this programme we need to include the following groups.

- (a) Traditional healers and their " **Bahemba** " *
- (b) The indigenous people who should then be able to know the benefits derived from keeping good environment.
- (c) Government and its institutions. This shall alleviate difficulties encountered by the government in implementing the policy of afforestation.
- (d) NGO's (foreign and local) e.g. HIMA, HASHI, HADO etc.
- (e) The general public will also be invited as it is every person's role to preserve nature.

* **Assistants to the traditional doctor.**

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

It is planned to carry out the process of afforestation for a period of 5 years. Appendix I gives a breakdown of expected annual plant population by place.

Costs relevant thereof are shown as Appendix II. Some of the costs will be shouldered by the organization. We also expect to seek aids and grants from benevolents.

OWN COSTS

The following costs are a share of the organization.

- a) Office accommodation.
- b) Office furniture and equipment
(computer, fax machine, other fittings)
- c) Motor cycle for organizing offices, in the Lake Zone.
- d) Publicity and sensitizing, some members have started to clear land.
- e) Simple research work (collecting data of forests population in chosen areas)

The chairman met with fellow traditional doctors and convinced them of the need to accept and pursue the programme of afforestation.

ORGANIZATION FOR RESTORATION OF CULTURE AND CUSTOMS OF TANZANIAN “(CUSTOMS / DESTURI)”

It is custom of man to recognise the good things that were done by elders. The people of the past had the same living environment as that of today. Man had to fight all sorts of disease. Man treated the sick and administered preventive drugs.

In the wake of a few centuries ago ways of fighting disease have developed to include western technologies. Our forefathers did not have access to these modern technologies. They had their own doctors. These are called traditional healers. They will look at you and tell you..." you are sick. Take this piece of rope and tie it around your neck, you shall be cured ". When one did as was told by these doctors one was cured.

DESTURI recognises and commends the good work that is being done by the traditional doctors. Dr. James Matunge, himself a traditional doctor, has been chosen to be the chairman of the organisation.

DESTURI is the short name for '**Jumuia ya Kuhifadhi na Kuendeleza Mila na Desturi za Kitanzania**'.

S.4(c), 4(d) and 4(g) created a special attention to the Chairman . The constitution written in Kiswahili and the quoted sections are reproduced below.

S.4(c) states in kiswahili : ' Dawa za Miti Shamba zina uwezo mkubwa wa kutibu na kuonya maradhi mbalimbali hivyo zinapaswa kuoteshwa ,kupandwa , kuimarishwa na kuendelezwa ili kumrahisishia mtumiaji aweze kuipata Miti hii kwa urahisi . Chama kinashauri kutenga eneo la kuotesha miti hiyo pamoja na kuipanda .

In simple and ordinary english language this section state:

>That traditional medicine of herbal nature have got ample ability and power to cure diseases.

>That it is therefore imperative to plant and develop trees.

>That **DESTURI** directs its executive officials to strive to get land for the above purpose .

S.4(d) outlines the role of cultural and traditional groups of the organisation in the move to plant trees and preserve good environments and cultural behaviour .

All other related institutions are urged to join hands .

..In kiswahili , section 4(d) reads :

'Vikundi vya Utamaduni na Mila pamoja na Taasisi zina dhima kubwa katika kuelimisha , kuadhimisha na kuimarisha maadili katika jamii .

In its entirety this section requires the cultural and traditional groups to :

>To educate the society about the good things of the past .

>To cause to remember, celebrate and keep good cultural behaviour .

>To solicit and encourage unity in the society .

S.4(g) actually encompasses all the above objectives by stating that custom and tradition must be observed and preserved .

The Chairman of DESTURI has decided to practice and see to it that the objectives of the organisation are accomplished . He begins with the above list of objectives . James believes that to preserve natural environment is a heritage, culture and tradition . Hence he encourages people to plant and develop trees .

Immediately after being chosen to lead the organisation as chairman Dr. James Matunge made a long tour to the regions and districts to meet with colleagues the traditional doctors in practice.

James says that to every corner of the district he toured he was being greeted by the cry that there was lack of trees to prepare herbs. He recollects what he saw during his tour and we reproduce some record of the same. Dr.Matunge speaking at a trustees meeting : - ‘...I wish to put before the trustees some record of finding that I got during my tour upcountry .

1.On being chosen to lead **DESTURI** I was to travel to the districts and villages to know my fellow traditional doctors.

I was accorded warm welcome wherever I stepped. Customary functions were being organised to give me requisite powers to handle traditional and customary issues. All the traditional healers and doctors who had seemed to have been forgotten and unrecognised all the way before, now felt as if my tour was an opening towards being recognised. They were disjointed and almost disorganised in their work but now they are being united.

2. A common cry raised by all the customary and traditional doctors, and the whole society at large, was that during recent years trees and forests are vanishing. As a result of this fact it was very difficult to get the trees they require to prepare medicine. On several occasions I joined colleagues in trips to the far forests or bushes to collect herbs. Such trips used to take 3 to 5 days all in the forests. The trees are missing from places they used to be. This is a problem to be checked and without further tolerance.

RECAPITULATION OF EARLY DAYS

The problem due to absence of trees makes me remember some disasters that I witnessed when I was a child. I wish to narrate a few of these events.

It was a custom and tradition of our forefathers to preserve trees and forests. All custom or tradition functions were being performed in a thick forest or under a big tree.

The elders would urge the young people to avoid tempering with the forest or tree. It was held that gods stayed in such places.

It was not allowed to carry a burning piece of wood near such places. Mere smoke near residence of gods was tantamount to severe punishment being imposed by the super powers. Even the felling of trees was not being done prior to making requests through sacrifices.

Following here are a few cases where people tempted with forests or big trees and the gods punished the culprit instantly.

1. One irresponsible person carried a piece of burning wood near a big tree, which we believed was a residence of gods. The tree caught fire. When the tree was burning the gods dropped a large cloud of bees that attacked that man. Discovering the incident the traditional doctors made traditional function and managed to exhume him from the heap of the bees. And they turned to the gods to beg for tree leaves to make herbs and treat this person but were turned away disappointingly to see that the burning tree was the only one around to make such medicine. He died.

2. In this case one hunter set on fire a small bush where his prey had hidden. In no time a snake bite him. The herbalists looked for medicine from the bush. Because of the fire they could not get the tree required for the purpose. He died.

3. This one was more severe punishment. Here a group of unscrupulous people were making charcoal for sale. Fire spread and burned substantial part of the land. The gods this time were very annoyed. First there was no rain for 20 months. The elders started fasting and made sacrifices to the gods. It rained on the 21st month. There was acute famine. Many people and animals famished and died of hunger.

As if this was not enough the rain that came brought with it a lot of unprecedented disasters. Speedy running water on the burned land made deep gorges and disturbed most part of the earth. Running water caused historic floods and swept away some huts and killed many people.

The above cases are only a few. From that time people feared tempering with forests and trees.

At least I missed my sleep for several days trying to look for ways to avail trees to the traditional doctors.

I was also worried of the early punishments that resulted from felling trees. History **may repeat itself** !

Dr. James, on returning from the long tour, convened a meeting of the Board of Trustees to explain the need to involve DESTURI in an exercise of planting trees. The idea was accepted in principle but constitution did not have a clause to cover this activity. The law was then revisited and the defect taken care of. Members have been educated on the need to plant trees. They have taken up the idea unreservedly and are already clearing land for the purpose. They are seriously eager to participate in restoring their environment.

Appendix I shows our project plan which charts a path toward achieving the goal of afforestation. Since **DESTURI** is still young we wish to seek for aids from the government and other institutions so that this project takes off as soon as possible.

The need to plant trees cannot be overemphasised. Recently The Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, denounced with a fatherly concern the current practice burning forests and cutting trees. He directed the nation to plant at least 600,000 trees a year to replace those being cut. The Vice -President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr.Omar Ally Juma on another occasion challenged all the people of that they must see the need to plant trees. And Mr. Reginald Mengi who even at his outset worked tirelessly to rehabilitate natural environment in this country is commended for his efforts in this direction.Mr.Reginald Mengi is in fact still working on the exercise of restoration of environment. We are happy to see that the nation later recognised his efforts and named him chairman of NEMC, a national organization fully empowered to oversee and supervise the work for restoration of environment in this country.

The recent Retired President of the United Republic of Tanzania Alhaj Ally Hassan Mwinyi again raised the same concern a few days ago while attending Primary School function. And Mzee Rashidi Mfaume Kawawa, another retired Top Government Leader, as if indifferent but he is busy planting some trees at his home in Kiluyya near the city of Dar es Salaam and counsels neighbour to do the same.

To crown it all, The President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa directed when addressing the CCM Youth Conference in Dodoma late December 1998, that 5 trees should be planted for every one tree which was cut.

It is all interesting to note that all the top leaders in this country have seen the need for every one person of this country to take care of the natural environment. Should we (the people) close our ears, close our eyes to this problem ?

The **DESTURI** is planning to plant 26,950 trees in 1999. The aim is to plant 107,800 trees by the year 2003. The programme is estimated to cost Tshs.142,700,000/= equivalent to USD 209,853. **The DESTURI** expects to shoulder Tshs.2,500,000/= as own cost.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STAGES

Three stages are identified.

1. Collection of different plants that traditional doctors use to prepare herbs. This exercise involves long travel in bushes and thick forests. It associates the high life risk as poisonous snakes and dangerous wild beasts are met with.

Therefore modern scientific doctors cannot be exposed to these dangers. Only traditional doctors with Dr.Matunge inclusive shall be allowed in the trips.

2. Plant identifying. Doctors now sit together to identify the plants. At this stage Professor of Pharmacy, Botany Zoology medicine and Traditional Doctors shall sit with the following aims;

a). To name species of chosen trees.

b). To test these plants for medical suitability.

c). To document the plants and location so that forest farms including herbal are opened in these areas. This is an important stage. Professors will present simple papers to help the traditional doctors in their work.

3.Planting the tree will follow after workshop/ seminar.

4.Review of the work will be done after 12 months. The best forest farms will be awarded monetary incentives after a thorough review with an elaborate ceremony at the awarding stage in order to promote and sensitise the population.

PROJECTED ACTION PLAN FOR AFFORESTATION

NAME OF FARM	ACRES	POPULATION PER ACRE	TOTAL TREES YEAR 1	PLAN FOR NEXT 5 YEARS	
				ACRES	TRESS
LALAGO	50	49	2,450	200	9,800
NKOLOLO	100	49	4,900	400	19,600
SONGEA	50	49	2,450	200	9,800
KAHAMA	80	49	3,920	320	15,680
IRINGA	80	49	3,920	320	15,680
DODOMA	80	49	3,920	320	15,680
MISASI	50	49	2,450	200	9,800
SAME	60	49	2,940	240	11,760
TOTAL	550	392	26,950	2,200	107,800

PROJECTED COSTS FOR ACTION PLAN FOR AFORESTATION

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>	<u>TZS.</u>	<u>US\$</u>
1. Professional and consultancy (Professors)	1,800,000	2,647
2. Professional and consultancy (Agr. & Forest)	1,200,000	1,765
3. Simple research	2,500,000	3,676
4. Purchase of seedlings	1,000,000	1,471
5. Pest control	3,000,000	4,412
6. Labour	1,200,000	1,765
7. Transport and transportation	5,000,000	7,353
8. Purchase of 2 units of 4wd Toyota P/U	50,000,000	73,529
9. Purchase of unit of 4WD Toyota L/Cruiser	46,000,000	67,647
10. Professional and consultancy	1,500,000	2,206
11. Hiace 20 seater	25,000,000	36,765
10. Seminars and best work awards	4,500,000	6,618
TOTAL	142,700,000	209,853

The project will require expertise from forest and agriculture extension officers. These Professionals shall advise our doctors and other people involved in the implementation stage how to do the work successfully. The officers will be requested from the Government but we must pay them subsistence allowances. Where appropriate extra allowances may be paid as performance bonuses.

At another stage we shall require the services of Professors from Muhimbili and other Medical Colleges to test samples of our chosen trees for pharmaceutical suitability. Botany and Zoology Professors will also be needed to identify trees species. It is our concern and vested interest that we take stock of all trees that are useful for medical or pharmaceutical work. Such trees and their location must be documented and preserved.

The Professors will be paid some allowances . And our doctors will also be paid money incentive.