



Integrated fruit and multi-purpose trees for food and income security.

Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE)




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*Empowering Communities for healthy ecosystems
and livelihood improvements*

About ICE

Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE) is a national non-governmental organization registered in Kenya in 2006 under the NGO coordination Act. ICE was founded out of a visible need to promote the inherent and natural role of culture in environmental and resource management in Kenya. ICE mandate is to promote environmental conservation and natural resource management through buttressing indigenous and traditional knowledge in community-based environmental and resource management initiatives and facilitating cultural-based learning that would lead to social and ecological wellbeing of the earth community.

ICE accompanies communities as they rediscover the value of local knowledge and naturally endowed resources/potentials in the processes of livelihoods improvement and environmental conservation. This enables communities to drive their own development hence detach themselves from the poverty cycle.

Our Vision

Empowered communities living in healthy ecosystems

Our Mission

To enhance resilience of ecological systems and community livelihoods using diverse knowledge systems

Our Goal

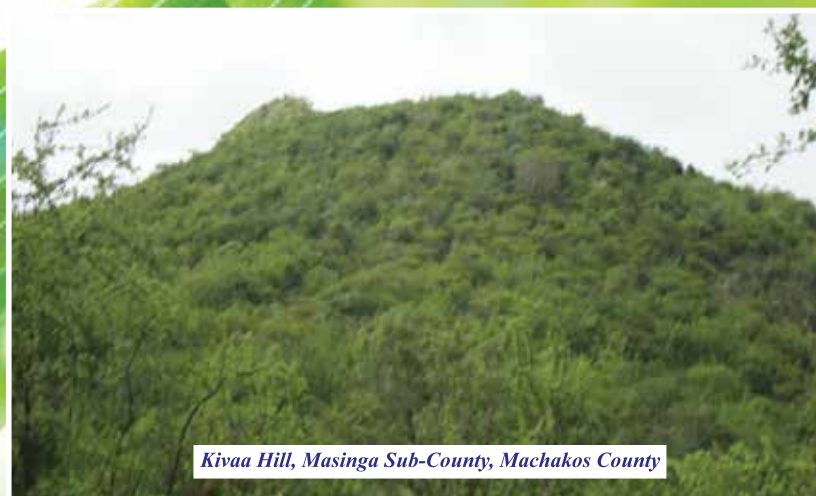
To empower communities through sound ecosystems management and enhancing their livelihoods



Engaging pupils in environmental conservation initiatives



Establishment of kitchen gardens for food and nutritional security



Kivaa Hill, Masinga Sub-County, Machakos County



Promoting indigenous and traditional seeds and crops



Promoting indigenous and traditional seeds and crops



Eco-cultural mapping tool that guides community actions on rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems

ICE Core Values

- ❖ Respect for diversity: ICE accommodates diverse cultures as a way of promoting mutual respect and nurturing relationships
- ❖ Equity: ICE believes in equal opportunities for all irrespective of gender, religion and ability.
- ❖ Accountability: ICE embraces openness and responsibility in all its actions and activities
- ❖ Professionalism: ICE upholds work ethics and diligence in its undertakings.

Who we work with

ICE targets small holder farmers as the direct beneficiaries of ICE work [both men and women, people with special needs (people living with disability and HIV/AIDs)], as well as youth in school and out of school.

In implementation of her programmes, ICE partners with like-minded organizations, institutions, county and national government departments and individuals at nationally, regionally and globally levels in order to gather diverse knowledge systems and achieve effective implementation of innovative culture based strategies as well as undertaking advocacy initiatives.

ICE Thematic areas

1. Natural Resource Management

This program seeks to restore ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. ICE aims to achieve this through promoting environmental awareness among communities; Training on indigenous tree seedling production; support rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems; Promotion of agroforestry and sustainable use and conservation of natural resources; facilitating experiential learning and community ecological mapping.

2. Food sovereignty and Community livelihoods

This program promotes food sovereignty and sustainable community livelihoods as the main social

determinants for community well-being. ICE aims at enhancing communities' adaptive capacity to effects of climate change through promoting recuperation of indigenous crop varieties; use of agro-ecological farming practices and livelihood diversification.

3. Advocacy and Networking

ICE works with local communities to help them secure their rights through getting more involved in decision-making so as to influence decisions, policies, plans and emerging human right issues that directly affect them. This is done through civic education forums, supporting and strengthening community-led advocacy initiatives as well as networking with like-minded partners helps to promote community participation in decision making and governance.

4. Research, Documentation and Knowledge Management

ICE supports collaborative research with communities and research institutions on priority issues in natural resource management, food and seed sovereignty and other emerging issues which will be the basis for actions to be taken to provide solutions to the current challenges.

5. Institutional Development

The Institutional Development Program works to expand the capacity of ICE to effectively implement its mandate. This is achieved through regular review and improvement of policies and strengthening its governance structure to support its vision and mission; Continuous staff capacity enhancement as well as the acquisition of necessary facilities. ICE aims to work towards achieving its goal on development of School of Cultural Ecology.

ICE Approaches;

In implementing of ICE programmes, the following are key approaches used;

- ❖ Capacity development
- ❖ Eco-cultural mapping and calendars
- ❖ Material support
- ❖ Learning exchanges
- ❖ Networking and partnerships

ICE project Areas;

ICE works in the following counties in Kenya but not limited to;

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| ❖ Machakos | ❖ Embu |
| ❖ Tharaka-Nithi | ❖ Meru |
| ❖ Murang'a | ❖ Kiambu |
| | ❖ Kilifi |



Supporting community-led tree planting activities



Supporting community-led advocacy initiatives