

FIRST PRIZE

“How has my environment changed since the day I was born and what role has KVTC played in this change and role should it play in future”

By: Witho Kilawe, Matunda Hill Secondary School

KVTC is the short term of the Kilombero Valley Teak Company that established in Southern Tanzania in 1992.

It is the forest management company that has invested in forests in Kilomber, Ulanga and Malinyi in seventeen villages namely, Idete, Mavimba, Magereza, Namawala, Mbasu, Namhanga, Madabadaba, Idete B, Itete, Ikungua, Alabama, Kichangani, Igumbiro, Milola, Ilagua and Nakafuru. Its industry and main office is located at Mavimba.

The core business of the company is to plant, to harvest and to process the teak for the production of timber and export them abroad (Asia) for commercial purpose. KVTC also deals with the protecting and managing of natural forest and including wildlife animals and wetlands.

Since the day I was born my environment has changed a lot in the following ways:

Rainfall patterns have changed, rainfall seasons have completely changed compared to years around 1980s. This situation caused the problem to the farmers on the process of farm preparations. It also affect the sector of agriculture because the crops are not grown on time, some crops like maize and rice were affected before matured. For example in 2016 to 2017 we have witnessed the change in rainfall pattern in Kilombero District.

Prolonged time of drought, now days we experiencing a long time for drought. This is because the deforestation is at maximum level. Our nature forests are being destroyed due to demand for firewood and charcoal. These activities caused the area to have shortage of rainfall, hence drought. For example in 2015 to 2016.

Frequently storms and floods, these two natural calamities have now becoming common to happen in our areas during rain seasons. This proof to change in climatic condition due to environment pollution done by people in river sources and our natural forests. For example Lumemo river at Ifakara, Idete river at Idete village, Kilombero river have proved to have severe floods during rainy seasons.

The following role has KVTC played in these changes. KVTC introduced the VGS (Village Guard Security), this system involves the contract between the village and KVTC to provide security to the teak plantations and natural forest against budge fire and all acts that can harm the teak plantations or the natural forests. The system has succeeded to a great extent to control the bush fires. Hence good management and safeguard of the environment.

KVTC employed the natives to work as drivers, planners, managers, nurses from the villages where the company use the part of land for either teak production or nature forest conservation and management. This system has widen the cooperation between the villagers and the company because the native communities are directly seeing the importance of having KVTC.

KVTC trained and facilitated the individual teak outgrower and the native community in general. This program is implemented through experts from KVTC and help to make people aware about the teak

production, hence participate in planting them as outgrowers. A good because it tries to increase teak forest and help people to keep the natural forest safe from being destroyed or disappear.

KVTC prepared the radio programs which provides the education about teak plantations and conservation of natural forests. This radio program has in great extent keep people aware about the company and its activities. Many people have dated to take into practise all the lesssons from the KVTC prepared radio programs. The programs are broadcasted every Friday 07:30pm and repeated on Saturday morning at Pambazuko FM, that is existing in Ifakara.

KVTC has provided the social fund to the concerned villages. The fund is provided once per year as a compensation for the them to use the land. The fund is purposeful for public development projects such as schools, hospitals, roads and local government offices. This motivates people from a particular village to cooperate effectively. The best thing is that the social fund is accompanied with the condition that seek the village to have the by law concerning the environment as well as teak forest hence keeping our environment safe from being destroyed. For example at Idete crossing primary school the social fund has used to support he building of school room.

KVTC has planted the teak trees to the village local government for our village (Teak outgrowing). The project maintains the conservation of the environment since it make sure that he land is covered with trees (artificial forest), where the forest will also contribute to the formation of rainfall as well as will maintain ecological system.

KVTC has to play the following role in future for sustainable conservation and management of our environment include the sustainable development of teak plantations and the company.

KVTC should provide mass education to the people concerning with teak plantation. This because some people have completely negative attitude towards the existence of the company in our village.

For example there are some people believing that the existence of teak plantations cause the drought in the area. Others say the teak trees have introduced new species (white in colour) that attack some plants like mangoes, pawpaws.

KVC should conduct a number of researches most of researches need to be social researches as to get people's opinions and suggestions so as they can use them to make yearly evaluation.

With researches the company will know close it is with the neighbouring the good relationship with them will help the company and its forest. The researches need to be the same as those conducted in 2011 and 2016, the best thing is that the company need to work on the results of those researches and provide feedback to the community.

The company should prepare the television programs in order to widening people awareness and training the company needs to prepare the TV programs that shows the skills used to prepare plant and harvest teak trees. This should done through method demonstration because watching is better way to understand than listen.

The social funds should not be provided directly to the village government. Instead the company should visit a particular village and make a problem analysis, then the villagers should priorities their first to the last demand by then KVTC itself should implement those prioritised projects for that village. For example the case of water supply, the company should dig up he water wells then the wells need to be charted as to introduce the builders of that project. This will make the next generation to appreciate the existence of the company.

KVTC should prepare good present / gift for honest people who will report the crimes. For example those reporter should be given gift like bicycle or to be employed by the company.

Strong punishment for those environment litter crimes. The company also should cooperate with local government to ensure that the crimes are given heavy punishment, paying fine or both. For example 6 months jail or fine of above 500,000 for bush fire, charcoal maker or tree cutting.

KVTC has contribute positively to our environment conservation and management since with KVTC our natural forests have well conserved and managed, also the company has introduced teak plantation on the land which previously was underutilized. Therefore my environment has at least remained safe and secured from randomly bushfire and deforestation acts. It is also KVTC made our land that was idle to be full utilized hence we get economic and ecological benefit.

SECOND PRIZE

“How has my environment changed since the day I was born and what role has KVTC played in this change and role should it play in future”

By: Honesta B. Mbeta, Lupiro Secondary School, Form III

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENT

Environment is everything that surrounds human being they include atmosphere such as climate vegetation and animals. People live in the world that is the earth. People depend on nature in order to sustain living human beings engage on different activities like agriculture, fishing, mining, tourism, and hunting and lumbering. All those activities they may affect the environment on one way or another. All these activities may lead to environment degradation in the area along ifakara to malinyi road there are great environmental changes due to human activities. Covering the area from Kivukoni up to Itete village along the road to m

Malinyi: there are great changes as follows.

Deforestation. This is the decrease of number of tree within the areas it has seen there is the increase of people due to immigration within the area. Large of number of people specially sukuma, come and live in area. The presence of this people led to cutting of trees for charcoal clearing bushes for settlement and agricultural activities. Example from lupiro to nakafulu village previously there was thick forest but now a days some bushes has been checked and houses has constructed.

Disappearance of swampy areas due to the increase of settlement, areas like madibira at lupiro previously was water lodged areas especially mnungu areas is used as farms for cultivating rice , but now days all swamps has been tried rice milling machines has been constructed in the area. This led to the changes of land surface outlook.

Loss of soil fertility, arable land because exhausted due to over using it is agricultural activities by using chemical fertilizers. Some area in Iragua village there are livestock keepers, due to overgrazing it led to the bare land which in turn the fertility of soil.

Disappearances of some animals, like elephant around Namhanga and Nakafulu forests. This is due to presence of human activities such as clearing bushes for agriculture and settlement.

Climate changes, due to increase drought within the area. Trees always help to bring rainfall within the area due to the evaporation through plants. Therefore through clearing bushes and cutting trees for settlement led to the increase of drought and scarcity of rainfall.

Land pollution, land pollution is the addition of harmful materials within the land. Due to the human activities such as the use of chemical fertilizers led to increase of poison in the soil.

THE ROLES PLAYED BY KVTC TO THESE CHANGES

Kilombero valley teak company limited is the companies that engage on growing of teak trees. The headquarters is in mavimba, nakafulu itete and ifakara. There farms are in nakafulu namhanga, and itete. The company activities affect the environment in the following ways.

Reducing of natural forest. As they clear bushes and grow teak. These may affect the environment as the area is covered by one type of trees which affect the natural beauty of environment.

Disappearing of some animals such as elephants along teak farms, the company has set electric security of protecting trees from destruction. This made elephants which were seen along the road to itete to disappear.

Land exhaustion, the teak farms are no longer useful for other food crops as teaks as a tendency of exploiting large amount of nutrient and water from the ground.

Protection of vegetation this is positive activity of company as they have the compain of abolition of bush fire. They provide the price for the one who report. The one who set fire in the bush, for joining so they company safeguarded the vegetation decrease some of species of trees, some res of trees has disappeared due to human activities example miombo trees have been minimized by its numbers as construction materials others. Use it as the source of fuel such as firewood and charcoal for cooking.

ROLES SHOULD KVTC PLAY IN THE FUTURE FOR ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

For the betterment of environment the KVTC should do the following.

Removing the electricity shock security in the farms for the life of wild animals, KVTC should note that the environment is for all creatures not for their own uses. Therefore their activities should consider the life of wild animals.

Giving education to the villagers nearby their farms, the company should provide the Environmental Conservation Education. Therefore the people may know the advantages of protecting environment.

Exposing the benefit of the KVTC to the villagers. The company should give the developmental support to the people across the area. What company is doing for their development should be known to the people. The company should state what they have done to the people. Therefore people will be aware on the benefits of having the company within the area. They may make the villagers join hands to KVCT Company on environmental conservation.

Conducting debate continuous between students to make students also aware on environmental conservation and to know the effort of KVTC on their studies and life in generally.

Giving employment to the indigenous of the area on the farm of ticks this may reduce cutting trees for getting charcoal to sell. Therefore charcoals sellers will there activities as the y have another source income.

Constructing of good roads, the villagers blame that their road (Malinyi to Ifakara road) is destroyed by heavy tracts that carry teaks. Therefore all blame is posed to KVTC. Therefore the environment conservation the KVTC Company should construct the road to tamarack road level. By doing so people will be together with KVTC and company will proceed with its activities smoothly.

Generally the increase of population may lead negative impact to the environment. The process of combating environment is the role of all Stakeholders, government, villagers, Non – government Organization should play on their part. KVTC should connect all these Stakeholders to have common goals to the environmental conservation. It should be noted that most of the villagers are ignorant to the advantage of environment conservation; therefore KVTC as the leader on this journey of environment conservation should make sure that all people are aware on the environment protection.

THIRD PRIZE

“How has my environment changed since the day I was born and what role has KVTC played in this change and role should it play in future”

By: Hafidh Mtega, Minepa Secondary Form III

Environment is the total of all things that surrounds man and his life, for example water bodies, land, vegetation and airmasses. Environment can undergo changes both whether positive or negative changes. As I started to be conscious and aware of my environment I experienced many changes which taking place around my environment. On the other hand Kilombero Valley Teak Company environment (KVTC) which established since 1992 has been playing great roles for these changes. The following are the changes which took place in my environment as explained below.

First change is deforestation, this is the loss of trees on the land. It is caused by excessive cutting down of trees and leave the land bare. Activities such as lumbering, charcoal making and pastoralism cause deforestation. This results in decrease of rainfall as well as loss of biodiversity.

Second is draught; it's prolonged dryness of the land caused by moisture deficiency due to unreliable rainfall. From either human activities such as clearing for the vegetation for farming, lumbering or pastoralism or climatic changes which creates less vegetation leads to less water vapour in atmosphere to support evapotranspiration hence less rainfall to promote the growth of plants. Also rivers and wetlands get dry and crop failures occur and a lot of livestock die during drought.

Another change is pollution in environment; this refers addition of dirty things into the environment. These things are called pollutants. Pollution results in air, land and water. This is also is called by poor waste disposal. Air pollution can be caused by casual burnings which leads to emission of smoke into atmosphere. Furthermore, pollution results in spread of diseases.

The fourth change is loss of biodiversity; by loss of biodiversity means the disappearance of different species in the natural environment. It occurs due to different human activities which harm the favourable condition for these species to survive. For example deforestation pollution and burning trees. All these activities destrunct the natural habitat of the species hence loss of biodiversity.

Global warming; is the rise in average world temperature due to accelerated green house effect. This is the increased warming of the Easrth caused by human burning fossil fuels. This leads to a build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere so less heat escape from the space.

On the other hand Kilombero Valley Teak Company has been playing different roles for these changes in order to safeguard the environment as shown below:

This first role is afforestation and reforestation; by afforestation means to plant the trees in the area where it did not existed before. And reforestation means to plant trees in the area where trees have been cleared. KVTC plays this role in order to recover the normal condition of the land by encouraging more people to practise afforestation and reforestation. Through all this drought, loss of biodiversity and deforestation is curb.

Another role is creation of laws; KVTC in the cooperation with the government enacts bylaws and regulation that conserve environment for example imposition of fines for those who caught when

setting fire, cutting trees in their plantation. KVTC do this through encouraging informer to provide information when they witness such things.

Encouraging development project; so that people can have an improved standard of living. This is done through provision of funds to support community development projects such as provision of funds grants in building infrastructure for example village offices, classrooms and so on.

Provision of education; KVTC helps to give education of skill to the people about their environment and to be aware of it. And it is done through local media such as radios through seminars as well as leaflets. KVTC performs this role in order to ensure environment is safe from being destroyed by people.

Create job opportunities; since KVTC established it has been creating many job opportunities for the people and large number of people employed as workers in company. This also help in conserving and safeguarding the environment because when people are employed it reduces the risk of attack it when they are employed.

A part from KVTC to play these roles according to that changes but there are roles which KVTC should play for future in order to safeguard the environment for future generation. As explained below.

Ensure implementation of the laws created; KVTC should ensure that the laws laid down for conserving environment is implemented through cooperation with the government, It should be done by making sure that the fines imposed is true implemented by send people in court when caught with different faults like setting fires and cutting trees.

To encourage more people to invest in forestry; this is another role which KVTC have to play in safeguarding the environment for the future generation. Encouraging people to invest in forestry will help to reforestation the land and people will stop living depending on natural environment for their daily economic activities.

To promote the policy of environmental conservation is very important. KVTC should promote the policy of environmental conservation by planting trees and conducting the proper ways of waste disposal. By doing this people could be careful and aware of their environment hence the environment will stay safe and good even for future generation.

To establish fire breakers; KVTC should ensure there is the service of fire breaker in order to precaution for frequent burning of forests and this will help to conserve the environment because it is experienced that the casual burning always result in emission of harmful gasses in the atmosphere hence air pollution.

To encourage development so that people can have an improved standard of living; KVTC should perform its role in order to safeguard the environment for future generation because when the standard of living is improved they will not attack the environment for a large extent.

Basically, the Kilombero valley Teak Company is a good friend of our environment because it has been giving aid for a long time in terms of get rid of hazard changes which our environment encounters. And through which the disasters such as drought, deforestation and loss of biodiversity is escaped in a large extent and help to safeguard the environment for future generations.