




Considering indigenous tree species in on-going tree planting campaigns in Siaya County, Kenya

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*HOW CAN BIODIVERSITY MONITORING BE HELPFUL?*

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# Kenya Forest Service


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The Kenya Forest Service is a state corporation that was established under the Forest Act, 2005

The Service's expressed mandate is:

- To enhance development, conservation and management of Kenya's forest resources base in all public forests, and assist County Governments to develop and manage forest resources on community and private lands for the equitable benefit of present and future generations.

Within the county, it has : -

- ❖ Forest rangers, tree nursery operators and officers
  - ❖ Tree nurseries – 2 No. in Yala and Siaya towns
  - ❖ 3 No. offices within Siaya County in Yala, Bondo and Siaya towns
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# Guiding laws

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**Kenya Forest Act (2005), transition to -**

Forest Conservation and Management Act, No. 34 of 2016

The Environmental Management and Coordination **Act (EMCA)**, 1999, amended in 2015

Other county relevant law documenting devolved services:


✓ The County Government Act of 2012

# Indigenous trees in Siaya County

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Tree growing involves planting and caring of tree germplasm for farm forestry, land reclamation, agroforestry, woodlot and landscaping purposes

□ A study in Siaya county found that the common indigenous tree species are;

- ✓ Cassia siamea (Obino),
  - ✓ Markhamia lutea (Siala),
  - ✓ Acacia spp (Ali/Laktar/Kudho),
  - ✓ Euphorbia triculli (Ojuok), and,
  - ✓ Albizia ziyia (Otur-bam) (Oloo et al., 2013)
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- *Balanites* spp,
  - *Grewia vilosa*,
  - *Diospiros abyssinica*,
  - *Candelibrum* spp,
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The common exotic tree species in the area are;

- ❖ *Thevetia peruviana* (Achak/Maua),
- ❖ *Eucalyptus* spp (Bawo/ Kaladal/ Nyar-maragol),
- ❖ *Grevillea robusta* (Bole bole),
- ❖ *Mangifera indica* (Mawembe) and,
- ❖ *Ocotea americana* (Avocado).

(Oloo et al., 2013)

Any planned increase in vegetation cover should give the identified species of trees priority for they have adapted themselves to local climatic conditions.

# Protection of Indigenous tree seedlings

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- Generation of tree seedlings and seed collections from the natural forests.
- Capacity building of tree nursery operators
- Issuance of tree cutting and movement permits.
- Handling of forestry related complaints and Valuation of trees
- Surveillance of the ecosystems and provision of recommendation e.g ESIA documents – Environmental social impact assessments.
- The tree seedlings are usually sourced from local tree nursery operators, who are required to register with KEFRI- Kenya Forestry Research Institute Based in Maseno and KFS website using E registration.

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- Forest rangers protect gazetted forests by enforcing laws (arrests and valuation) in Siaya county namely: - Got Abiero and Got Ramogi
- They assist Community Forest Associations CFAs in community forests to enforce agreements.

There are **two tree planting campaigns** in Siaya county.

- ❖ Long rains (MAM)
  - ❖ Short Rains (OND)
  - ✓ During these times, stakeholders ranging from NGOs, national and county government departments donate tree seedlings to farmers and institutions for tree growing.
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# Biodiversity monitoring

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- ✓ Flag out endangered indigenous tree species

Such as **African wild olive (*Olea europaea subsp.africana*)**, known as Kango in Luo.

**(According to national museums of Kenya)**

- ✓ Enabling county specific policies to protect the species such as the **draft from Siaya county forestry development strategy**
  - ✓ Through KEFRI- use research to inform its activities within the different conservancies- Head of Conservancy in Nyanza- Kisumu
  - ✓ Need for a database to document the biodiversity within its jurisdiction for information over time for ecosystem stabilization.
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*Thank you*

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***Got Ramogi Forest, Siaya County***