

## ABCP Planting Projects - 2021-2022

In 2022 the African Blackwood Conservation Project distributed and facilitated the planting of mpingo trees and other indigenous species in three districts of Mwanga, Rombo, and Kikatiti. In Mwanga District, we distributed 6,951 seedlings, in Rombo District, we distributed 6,558 seedlings and in Kikatiti District we distributed 3,992 seedlings. This means that a total number of 10,682 Mpingo seedlings and 6,819 Indigenous tree seedlings were distributed to the community, bringing the total seedlings distributed to all three Districts to 17,501.

The ABCP produces seedlings not only from its Mijongweni Mpingo nursery south of Moshi, but also from one on Mt. Kilimanjaro, called the Kibosho East Environmental Group (KEEG) nursery. Tree species that thrive in the lowland planes beneath Kilimanjaro are cultivated at the Mijongweni site and those that prefer a higher altitude at the KEEG nursery. Local residents have come to rely on being able to obtain seedlings from these nurseries for their domestic and agriculture needs. The ABCP extends its gratitude to the teachers and students who have been so helpful in organizing tree planting initiatives and in sharing their ideas. We thank, as well, all of our supporters around the world – TZ Directors, Michael and Cyril Chuwa



### Rombo District – Munga Primary School

Munga Primary is a government school located on the eastern slope of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Rombo District. Because it is an ecological area of great importance, governmental and school officials and residents of the area alike are concerned about protecting the Kilimanjaro watershed, and are working to establish environmental programs for tree planting throughout the region in

order to enhance land productivity and provide a safe future for their children. They have been very receptive to the tree planting projects of the ABCP.

This year Munga students participated in planting mpingo and a variety of other species such as yellow passion fruit, Red-Tulip, avocado, guava and mahogany.

**Left: Mr. Emmanuel, Environmental teacher at Munga Primary, briefs students on environmental importance of trees to be planted and on planting procedures and care of trees.**

**Below – Students with tree seedlings.**



The ABCP receives support from France's leading woodwind manufacturers, Buffet Crampon, Henri Selmer Paris, Marigaux and F. Lorée, who work in association with CSFI, which is organizing efforts for mpingo conservation. French musical instrument groups ALADFI, UNFI and APLG are also supporters.





## SJS Ecological Organic Agriculture Farm – Center for Excellence



Michael Chuwa (I) delivers ABCP tree seedlings to be distributed to participants in the SJS Organic Farming Seminar. Sr. Marley (5th in line) arranged for their distribution.

**SMAM**—The ABCP has been working with the Society of Mangalore Africa Mission (SMAM) since 2019. Sister Marley, a teacher in the order, has been uniquely helpful to ABCP efforts by taking on the work of coordinating schools in the vicinity interested in tree planting efforts and assisting in liaison work. She is also involved in agricultural efforts on the SMAM Butu Farm which covers almost 50 hectares (124 acres) near Kifaru. Her group is planting mpingo trees from the ABCP nursery around the periphery of the farm and utilizing a number of other trees from our nursery within the farm.

St. Joseph Sustainable (SJS) Organic Agriculture Farm is a unit of SMAM, which offers training to the public in organic agriculture, animal husbandry, apiculture and aquaculture. Fr. Alwyn M. J. D'Souza and his associates offer a series of instructional seminars to train local farmers who wish to learn about and adopt such techniques. This year the ABCP supplied tree seedlings to distribute to participating land owners in one of the SJS Organic seminars.



Local landowners attend SJS seminar on sustainable agriculture. The ABCP supplied tree seedlings for participants.

**One-Acre Farm** – Another concept with which SJS has been experimenting is that of teaching farmers and families how to design and manage a one-acre sustainable farm. If done properly it can provide food for a family of six at a relatively low overhead because the use of organic pesticides and wise farming practices are cheaper and produce larger yields. Different species of compatible plants at different heights can be



grown on the same field at the same time, and all farm waste goes back into the system as fertilizer. Part of the design is the planting of agroforestry and food producing trees.

Since over 80% of Tanzanians rely on agriculture for their livelihood, such low-cost, multi-dimensional farms can go a long way towards providing food security for its citizens. A variety of ABCP tree seedlings are ideal for use within this system. See **SJS website** with linked video of Fr. Alwyn at bottom of page: <https://www.sjsorganic.org/index.php/training-programs/one-acre-oa-eoa-farm>



Above: Fr. Alwyn (2nd from left) demonstrates best-practices techniques for one-acre farms.

Below: SJS One-Acre Farm, which has been established for experimental and training purposes to demonstrate its efficacy in enhancing livelihood security and ecosystem protection.





### Rombo District – Ikuini Primary School

**Ikuini Primary School** has a staff and administration dedicated to the cause of teaching its 600 students the principles of environmental protection. Its headmaster, Fadhili Kidaya (left above) ensures that students learn skills they can carry into adulthood. They have cooperated with the tree planting projects of the ABCP for the past several years and have a large area within the school complex which is being targeted for tree planting. Despite the inconveniences they have faced during the past two years during the health crisis, they have carried through on their usual planting projects and upkeep for trees already in the ground. This year the ABCP supplied over 1,700 trees to Ikuini.

Above—Headmaster Fadhili Kidaya (l) and Michael Chuwa (c) with Ikuini students and ABCP seedlings. Right: Enthusiastic student on school grounds.



### Kikatiti Ward – Valesca Primary School



Daniel Mollel (l) is a dedicated environmentalist who has been working with the ABCP for the past several years and is now employed as a nursery attendant. His children attend Nazareth Primary and he assists as liaison with other schools in the area. On left he shows mpingo planted on grounds of Valesca Primary. Below, teachers at Valesca receive seedlings for this year's planting.





### Mtimhoo Parish

Fr. Antipas Kilasara has worked with the ABCP since 2019 in establishing tree planting projects for environmental renewal in Mtimhoo Parish. He is dedicated to the idea of re-



forestation for lands that have been clear cut with no thought of future generations and has been an active voice in his community in helping citizens establish sound agricultural practices that will provide for their families. He has also been a big advocate in educating the community about the importance of mpingo, both ecologically and commercially.

In 2021 the church obtained 11 hectares (27 acres) of land adjoining their parish where they will establish sustainable farming and forestry practices. Of the land, 6 hectares will be allocated to crop cultivation based on sustainable practices, and 5 hectares (12.4 acres) to tree planting. ABCP directors, Michael and Cyril Chuwa, are working with Fr. Kilasara to supply him with trees from the ABCP nursery for the reforestation of this acreage.

**Left: Mr. Joseph, of Mtimhoo outstation, has been appointed to take care of trees on 11 hectare plot.**

**Below: Cyril Chuwa with mpingo tree in front of 5 acres of Mtimhoo land allocated primarily for the planting of mpingo, along with a mixture of commercial and domestic tree species.**



### Lositeti Primary

Located in Kikatiti Ward, Lositeti Primary school planted over 1,200 seedlings this year, 1,000 of which were *Dalbergia melanoxylon*. Below Daniel Mollé, ABCP nursery attendant, delivers trees to Lositeti teacher.



### Nazareth Primary

Nazareth Primary is located in a community which is highly motivated to implement projects for environmental renewal. This year we delivered 900 mpingo trees, along with others such as Passion fruit, guava, avocado and mahogany.





## ABCP Mijongweni Mpingo Nursery Plot

Although the ABCP is primarily dedicated to mpingo planting, in order to increase its outreach and to supply communities with trees for domestic needs, it has always propagated seedlings of species that supply food, firewood, timber and medicine. Some species in addition to *Dalbergia melanoxylon* that are now being cultivated and distributed are listed below:

**Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*)** – The Neem tree is quick growing and highly drought resistant, and has long been used in traditional medicine. All parts of the neem tree – leaves, flowers, seeds, fruit, roots, and bark – have been used traditionally for the treatment of inflammation, infections, fever, skin diseases, and dental disorders. Neem oil, pressed from its fruit and seeds, is also becoming widely used among organic farmers as a pesticide.

***Albizia schimperiana*** – This is a nitrogen-fixing tree that is widely used for firewood, timber and medicine.

**Yellow Passion Fruit (*Passiflora edulis*)** – A drought resistant species which is easy to grow and bears fruit within the first year. It produces a sweet, seedy fruit that is popular in countries throughout the world.

**Nile Tulip tree (*Markhamia lutea*)** – This tree is drought resistant, has large bright yellow flowers and produces an edible fruit. Uses: firewood, timber (furniture, boats), poles, posts, tool handles, medicine (leaves), bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, soil conservation, windbreak, tobacco curing, banana props.

Other species grown are mahogany, *Grevillea robusta* (Silk oak) for timber, and the avocado and guava for their fruit.



ABCP nursery workers produce and distribute over 15,000 tree seedlings per year, primarily *Dalbergia melanoxylon*.



Cyril Chuwa, center, discusses nursery procedures with ABCP nursery workers, Jeremiah Joffrey (l) and Daniel Mollel (r).



## AFRICAN BLACKWOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT



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### Ngorongoro Conservation Area – Tanzania

Two of the ABCP Directors in Tanzania, Cyril Chuwa and Dismas Macha, work at Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). Established in 1959 and covering an area of 8,292 km<sup>2</sup>, the NCA is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa. It borders the Serengeti National Park and within its perimeter are Oldupai Gorge and Laetoli, where early hominid finds were discovered by Mary and Louis Leakey. NCA is named for Ngorongoro Crater, the



Ngorongoro Leopard

world's largest inactive, intact volcanic caldera, and is home to 25,000 large animals, included Cape Buffalo, hippopotami, zebras, gazelles and waterbuck. It is most famous for the yearly wildebeest migration that spans the Serengeti ecosystem. From December to May over one million wildebeest and hundreds of thousands of zebras and gazelles travel a great migratory route to take advantage of seasonal grazing.

Ngorongoro is a multi-purpose land use area, integrating wildlife, people, forestry, archaeology, tourism, education and conservation research. Masai pastoralists are permitted to graze their cattle, and park tourists can see their livestock grazing alongside the big game animals in the caldera area.

Cyril and Dismas are both involved in several programs that have to do with environmental protection. Among their duties are assisting in the implementation of strategies for managing endangered flora and fauna, conducting censuses for animal species, identification and management of various habitats in NCA, collecting and storing plant specimens, establishing and maintaining tree nurseries for both indigenous and exotic plant species and restoration of plant species in NCA and adjacent areas. They also conduct patrols and provide tourism services to park visitors.

Cyril reports that in some parts of the NCA there is a huge woodland habitat of mpingo. These trees are bearing seeds every year, and every season the seeds continue to propagate and raise more seedlings.

**African Blackwood Conservation Project**  
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So that  
 the song  
 of the  
 Tree of Music  
 will not go  
 silent...