

ABCP Projects - 2022-2023

In 2023 the African Blackwood Conservation Project distributed and facilitated the planting of mpingo trees and other indigenous species in five districts of northern Tanzania. In Rombo District, we distributed 5,475 seedlings, in Kikatiti, 4616, in Moshi, 1380, in Mwangi, 6372 and in Siha, 1137. Of these, 7,023 were indigenous seedlings and 11,953 were African blackwood. A total of 18,980 seedlings were distributed this year.

In addition to *Dalbergia melanoxylon*, species included commercial trees like mahogany, food producing trees like avocado, passion fruit and guava, nitrogen fixing species and trees used for medicines, bee forage and firewood.

In addition to seedling production and dispersal, a number of long needed infrastructure projects were undertaken. The building on the plot that was begun two years ago was completed, the perimeter of the Mpingo Plot was newly fenced and the nursery area was enlarged.



Young Daniel Mallya, who lives next door to the Mpingo Plot, shows up for a visit.

A water well was dug and two tanks for water storage were erected. One will supply water to the house and the other will store water for the nursery. A suitable and reliable water supply is essential for nurturing young seedlings, particularly during dry seasons or periods of low rainfall. By ensuring consistent access to water, the project can effectively sustain the health and lives of the planted trees, leading to increased survival rates and overall success in the tree planting initiatives.



Installation of water storage tank for the house at the Mpingo Plot.

Langoni Church - Moshi

Langoni Church in Moshi owns about 12 acres of land and operates a farm. Church officials have decided to plant trees along the boundaries of both the church area and the farm as well as the open space surrounding this area. In the photo are ABCP tree seedlings delivered to the Church. To the right is an irrigation ditch providing water to the farm's agricultural areas.



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St. Angela Ursulan Primary

St. Angela Ursulan Church operates a Primary School in the Siha District of Moshi. This is the first year we have supplied trees to this school and we look forward to working with them.

Mr. Julius (Rt) is the groundskeeper of over 60 acres of church property. The ABCP delivered over 1600 mpingo, acacia, avocado, guava, *Felicicia* and mahogany seedlings to the church this spring.



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.



African Blackwood Exhibit at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

The Houston Center for Contemporary Craft is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to advancing education about the process, product and history of craft. During the last three months of 2023 it sponsored an exhibit featuring the artistic uses of African blackwood in the arts, i.e., for woodwind instruments, African carvings and Ornamental Turning.

The exhibit was entitled “The Tree of Life” by exhibit curator, Cydney Pickens, who has a background in pre-colonial African art and lived in Senegal for a year to conduct research for her undergraduate thesis. Sarah Darro, Exhibitions Director reported that “This important exhibition had a wonderful reception from our audiences.” It was well attended and merited an article as one of Houston’s top ten September Art exhibitions in the online review *Culturemap*.

In October Ms. Pickens gave a virtual tour of the exhibition, explaining her own focus in its conception and execution and describing the various artworks in it. In December a chamber music concert was presented by members of the Young Artist’s Program. Both can be viewed online at:

Virtual Tour: <https://youtu.be/HtQUvUUt-qE?si=j3QRVtZmJzmFmtRz>

Young Artist’s Concert: <https://youtu.be/cQPRgZkgrfE>



Left– Buffet Crampon mpingo clarinet with instrument blanks in the case below.
Below: Ornamental turned hollow vessel by James Harris.
Right: African carving by Mombassa Hewa entitled “Mama na Mwana.” The meaning in Swahili is “Mother and Child.”



Ensuring the Future of the Tree of Music

In April of this year the ABCP was invited to give a presentation about its work by LCAfrica (Leadership for Conservation in Africa), and its affiliate ShareScreen Africa. Founded in 2006, LCAfrica has two primary goals: 1) to positively influence, accelerate and bring about the protection of rainforests and selected eco-systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 2) to launch various educational projects in a number of African countries. Since 2018 there has been a particular focus on climate issues, with an aim to creating awareness and generating programs for change, especially among African youth.

ShareScreen Africa is a digital initiative launched by the LCA. It issues invitations to academics, researchers, conservation specialists and practitioners donate their time to share their knowledge with others within the African context. It has become a valuable platform within which the ideas and methodologies of numerous specialists who have found solutions to environmental problems facing the world today can be recorded and preserved in ShareScreen’s impressive digital library.

The ABCP thanks these dedicated groups for the opportunity to participate. Since the ABCP often receives requests for planting instructions for mpingo, a short video was produced giving step by step instructions. This can be found at timestamp 24 minutes in the LCAfrica presentation, posted on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0C_k3VvVEA&t=1444s



Jeremiah Joffrey sows mpingo seeds in the ABCP tree nursery at Mijongweni.



Rombo - Maweteta Primary School

Mawateta Primary is a school located close to the boundary of Kenya. This is the first year to work with the school authorities and the ABCP provided them with 1800 seedlings of various species, including African Blackwood, yellow passion fruit, Markhamia-Lutea, Red-Tulip (*Felcium*), and others.

The school has excellent grounds to plant trees, a dedicated environmental teacher, Mr. Michael Rafael, and students who are eager to become involved in helping to assure that the school will not only maintain the plant life surrounding the school, but also plant new species that will provide for the school needs.

Mr. Rafael is committed to instilling a strong environmental consciousness among the students and fostering a nurturing and preserving of the local environment. Above, he is showing students how to care for tree seedlings until the time that they are replanted in permanent locations.



Top: Teacher coordinator, Michael Rafael, instructs students on seedling care. Above: Festo Chuwa, Mr. Rafael's assistant, distributes seedlings to students.

Rombo - Ikuini Primary School and Ikuini Parish Church



Over 1500 seedlings were delivered to Ikuini Primary School and Ikuini Parish. Above: New headmistress Beatrice Williams oversees delivery. Rt: School grounds with trees planted in past years. Far Rt: Ikuini Students.

Under the leadership of the dedicated headmaster Mr. Fadhili Kidaya, Ikuini has shown a robust dedication to environmental education and tree conservation in the years that the ABCP has worked with them. Ms. Beatrice Williams (left) will now be assuming the role of headmistress because Mr. Fadhili is currently on leave for further studies. Ms. Williams will continue the efforts in maintaining the trees, which are flourishing because they have been well cared. After providing the school with trees, we also provided Ikuini Parish Church with tree seedlings, primarily focusing on the cultivation of African blackwood, Acacia, avocados, guavas, and Mahogany.



The Society of Mangalore Africa Mission - SMAM



Leadership team of The Society of Mangalore Africa Mission. President of SMAM, Rev. Fr. Alwyn M. J. D'Souza, is second from the left.

The ABCP continues to provide tree seedlings to SMAM farm. This dedicated group of environmentalists is situated on the slopes of Mount Pare in the Kifaru area, Mwanza District, within Kilimanjaro region. It is a farm that has been dedicated to tree planting for several years.

The farm has worked with communities in the surrounding area and sponsored numerous well-conceived environmental programs that provide education to the rural communities. The trees on the farm serve as a source of inspiration, not only to us but also to the surrounding community, which has come to actively embrace organic farming practices. In the current year, the program continues to flourish and is supporting further tree planting which is having much positive effect in protecting and preserving the local natural habitat.

See a video with the work of the SMAM team here:

<https://www.mangaloreafricamission.org/2012-11-06-17-37-13/videogallery/397>



Lt: Michael Chuwa delivers tree seedlings to SMAM farm. Rt: Sr. Marley and Mr. Samson Paul, a groundskeeper at SMAM farm.



Nazareth Church members with ABCP worker, Daniel Mollel, on right.

Kikatiti - Nazareth Church

Nazareth Church has a piece of land that is around 20 hectares (50 acres) in size. and they are in the process of planting large numbers of trees there. But since the acreage is so large, they know they can't do it all at once.

Because of this they are taking their time and planting trees bit by bit. This shows they have a long term commitment to taking care of the environment into the future. They are not just doing it once; they're committed to keeping things green and healthy for the long term.

They are also working closely with the local community to make sure everything goes smoothly. In this way, everyone in the community plays a part in taking care of the environment. It has developed into a team effort to make the area greener and more productive for everyone.

Kikatiti and Mwanga School Groups



Kikatiti - Nazareth Primary requested over 1,000 trees, emphasizing the school's continuing dedication to environmental sustainability and active community engagement.



Kikatiti—Valesca Primary received 800 trees this year. Above photo shows acreage beside school that has been dedicated to tree planting for conservation.



Mwanga - Kwanyange Primary has a large acreage and a dam for water catchment to water the growing seedlings. The ABCP has worked with the school for a number of years.



Mwanga - Kivisini Primary school has benefited from the provision of over 1,000 trees, School authorities foster a culture of individual tree care and responsibility among students.

AFRICAN BLACKWOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT

- Please accept my tax-deductible donation to ABCP in the amount of: \$ _____
DONATIONS MAY ALSO BE MADE ONLINE AT: <http://www.blackwoodconservation.org/donate/>
The ABCP accepts contributions through PayPal and the PayPal Giving Fund.

• **DONATION FORM** •

(100% OF FUNDING COLLECTED IS SENT TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT IN AFRICA)

Mail this form and donation to:

**ABCP c/o Bette Stockbauer
1361 Sand Hills Rd.
Red Rock, TX 78662 USA**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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Please make check or money order payable to **ABCP**.
Thank you for your support.

College of African Wildlife Management - Mweka

The College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM) is located on the southern slope of Mount Kilimanjaro 14 kilometers north of Moshi. Following the independence of Tanganyika in 1963, it was established as a pioneer institution for the training of African wildlife managers, offering instruction to local and international students. The coursework covers the expertise needed for work within the many national parks and reserves of Africa as well as offering courses of study for work with the safari industry. The majority of its graduates are working in protected areas throughout sub-Saharan Africa.



The College of African Wildlife Management is also referred to as Mweka, the name of one of the popular hiking trails leading to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

ABCP TZ Director, Cyril Chuwa, received a certificate in Wildlife Management from CAWM in 2018 and was offered a job at Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area in 2019. This summer he resumed studies with the objective of completing the coursework for a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. Some of the curriculum courses that he will study are botany, comparative biology, wildlife inventory and ecology, strategy management planning and environmental impact assessment.

Commenting on his aspirations for the future, Cyril writes: "I envision collaborating with interdisciplinary teams to develop and implement effective conservation strategies, ensuring sustainable practices and biodiversity preservation. My goal is to make a meaningful impact on wildlife conservation, balancing ecological preservation with the needs of local communities. Through a combination of practical experience, ongoing education, and community engagement, I aim to be a dedicated and effective advocate for the sustainable management and conservation of our planet's diverse ecosystems."

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 Tree of Music
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