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## **TREE OF LIFE** **REFORESTATION INITIATIVE**

### **JULY-AUGUST 2020 PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **ACACIA NURSERY**

All Acacia seeds for the second phase of the ZEITZ foundation's Tree of Life reforestation initiative were sourced from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). These certified high-quality seeds are now being germinated on Segera, Laikipia, in preparation for the second phase of planting 150,000 tree seedlings during the October-November 2020 rains.

The new seedbed and nursery on Segera is protected from wildlife by a solar electric fence. After securing this dedicated area, soil preparation was carried out by mixing dry soil, manure and lime in equal ratio. Other items procured for the germination project were 2,000 crates and 150,000 biodegradable fabric planting bags.

Seventeen women from rural communities surrounding Segera were employed to fill these planting bags with the sifted mixed soil. By 19th August 2020, all 150,000 bags were filled and the actual planting of seeds is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Scarification of the seeds is also being carried out before planting by pouring boiling water over the seeds and allowing them to soak for 24 hours. This helps soften their tough exterior and enhance germination.



*Secure germination area / seedbed nursery with solar electric fence*



*Ready sifted soil, a mixture of dry soil, manure and lime in the ratio of 1:1:1*





*Locally employed women filling the biodegradable fabric planting bags*

## **WATER ACCESS**

In order to ensure water availability for the seedling nursery, the Acacia trees already planted, as well as wildlife in the southern part of Segera, the possibility of an additional water source on Segera was investigated through multiple hydrogeological surveys and an environmental study to ensure it would not have any negative impact on the water table and surrounding areas. Following approval and the issuing of a borehole permit, work began on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

This new water source will be able to provide 40,000 litres per day of solar pumping, and water samples have been analyzed and found fit for use for domestic, wildlife and environmental use. The next stage of this project is to fit the borehole with a solar pump, solar panels, probe sensors and other plumbing works, which will start in early September 2020.

This water will also be used by the ZEITZ foundation's All-Women Anti-Poaching Ranger Unit accommodation, supplemented by their rainwater harvesting.



*Clean water yielded from the new water source for reforestation and wildlife on Segera*

## **NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY FOR FORESTRY AND PERMACULTURE**

Subject to Kenya's COVID-19 restrictions, our plans to launch the ZEITZ foundation's new Vocational Training Academy for Forestry and Permaculture have been forced to postpone until January 2021. The academy's first curriculum is however still being designed by Joseph Lentunyoi, Founder and Director of the Laikipia Permaculture Centre, who will be leading the training with multiple 1-week workshops on Segera. Each workshop will be attended by 20 trainees from the surrounding communities, selected by the communities' joint Management Committees.

The practical side of this training will also be carried out on a Permaplot, which the ZEITZ foundation is currently identifying in the region. Several viable pieces of land have been identified and site visits have been conducted, now awaiting a final comparison and decision before purchase.