

Kenya's constitution and economic blueprint, Vision 2030, **requires** that the nation works towards achieving a **forest cover** of at least 10% of its land area to ensure **sustainable** resource use, growth and employment creation.

YET

Collaborative action by **students** in all Kenyan universities through **WSCSD's 'ADOPT-A-FOREST INITIATIVE'** will create a **big impact** in achieving the 10% forest cover.

Yet Kenya's forest is characterised by:

- i. **Scenario 1: Indispensable Resource**
 - Forest ecosystems in Kenya range from montane rainforests, savannah woodlands, dry forests to coastal forests and mangroves.
 - They rank high as the country's natural asset and play critical ecological, social, cultural, and economic functions.
- ii. **Scenario 2: Dwindling Resource**
 - Deforestation is estimated at 50,000 hectares annually, with a consequent yearly loss to the economy of over USD 19 million
 - Current forest cover is 6.99%, which falls below the constitutional requirement of 10%
- iii. **Scenario 3: Untapped Resource**
 - Kenya currently has 67 universities
 - University enrolment currently stands at 400,000 students and is estimated to reach 1 million students by 2020
 - On the other hand, the combined university land resource amounts to thousands of hectares

Objectives

- i. To contribute towards restoration of Kenya's forest cover to the recommended 10%
- ii. To exploit underutilized on-campus land resources
- iii. To engage underutilized on-campus human (student) resources
- iv. To promote green entrepreneurship amongst students and student associations

Key Components

- i. **Production:** Establishment and management of campus tree nurseries
- ii. **Outreach:** Planting in targeted ecosystems and community awareness
- iii. **Research:** Forest cover surveys, carbon footprint measurement and survival rate studies

Delivery Mechanism:

- a. **Campus Tree Nurseries:** Establishing a student-owned tree nursery in every university. Each university buys seedlings from the student-run tree nursery for greening the campus. Proceeds used for the day-to-day operations of the student association.
- b. **'Fresher' Campus Afforestation:** Each first year student plants a tree at a designated spot within campus during the orientation week and commit to nurture it till graduation.
- c. **Student-led Forest Ecosystem Management and Conservation:** Each student association adopts a preferred forest ecosystem, undertakes its long-term conservation and restoration with the support of external stakeholders while creating awareness and involving the communities living adjacent.
- d. **Carbon Offsetting:** Each university commits to offset carbon emissions accrued from travel by its top management through planting a number of trees equivalent to their yearly emissions

