

Manica Youth AssemblyTrust (MAYA)

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ReGreening Zimbabwe

Introduction

Zimbabwe used to be a place of harmony, a place surrounded by different types of trees both indigenous and exotic trees. Our Mother Earth could fight natural disasters like cyclone Idai and fight diseases like Covid-19. Our mountainous areas used to act as wilderness therapy. We used to have areas named due to plenty of trees for example in Manicaland areas like NYIKAMITI. However, due to massive human activities, expansion of urban areas (urban sprawl) and massive deforestation our mountains have been left bare, both land and aquatic ecosystems have been disturbed to a greater extent. It is not too late to act given the background that trees contribute to curbing climate change, which is one of the most urgent environmental issues today. A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Manica Youth Assembly has embarked on ReGreening Zimbabwe project. This is in accordance with SDG goal 13 which specifies climate action to curb climate change and deforestation.

It is against this background that Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) have chosen to contribute to this cause for a safe and clean environment through afforestation and re-afforestation projects to plant 50,000 trees in Zimbabwe for the next 8 years. MAYA already has a piece of land measuring 1.5 hectares in Mutare, and this is a critical advantage where seedlings can be planted awaiting replanting to the sites around the Country. These pieces of land we have are an added advantage to the project as we are going to establish a tree nursery, vegetable garden projects, construction of caretaker cottages, and grafted fruit trees to be planted at project sites. MAYA already has a successful partnership with Mutare City Council, Global Tree Initiative and Mother Earth Project in planting trees around Manicaland Province and especially around Mutare urban and rural areas. Several environmental school clubs were established that are still functional up to today. The project aims at planting various types of trees, improving biodiversity, and to further diminish the effects of natural disasters. Planting trees will reduce the risk of siltation and soil compaction due to direct heat to the surface and soil erosion. MAYA has also been involved in creating community-based monitoring and awareness campaigns on tree planting and the environment in general.

MAYA observed that a robust afforestation and re-afforestation programmes through land preparation (that will result in planting of both exotic and indigenous trees) will help keep the mountains intact and attractive. Our idea is to champion environmental conservation, afforestation in urban and rural communities, protection of wetlands, and sustainable principles. It is a transformative project that will help to re-green the mountains and cities and increase the circulation of air in Zimbabwe. The mountains and trees act as wind barriers which prevent the prevalence of natural disasters. Trees help to keep the soil intact which reduce soil erosion. The mountain will also help preserve various species since they are at the verge of extinction.

MAYA envision a situation of transformative initiative which will become an ongoing event and expand to every Province of Zimbabwe. For sustainability of this project, MAYA have already partner with local communities and Local Council Authorities municipal police and parks department for the afforestation and re-afforestation project.

Organization Profile MAYA

The Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) is a non-profit, non-partisan, solution-centred, youth and women, grassroots-based advocacy organisation which seeks to empower young people to participate in public affairs and proffer solutions actively and holistically. MAYA was established in 2018 after realising the exclusion of youths in public affairs, wanton destruction of the environment, and the effects of climate change upon society, especially young people who will carry the burden on their shoulders for a long time. MAYA will harness the youth and women dividend in demanding social, political, and environmental and climate accountability from duty bearers and relevant key stakeholders.

Mission

We are rooted in the transformative power of young people and women in creating lasting change for socioeconomic empowerment to reach their full potential in a healthy environment.

It's critical that we join hands with other progressive Citizens and Partners to respond to environmental challenges and curb climate change, which has become a real existential threat to the people of Zimbabwe.

Activities

Activity	Rational	Expected Outcomes
1. Education and awareness Workshops	<p>To bring awareness to the community on the benefits of preserving forests. Traditional leaders, Students, Faith Groups, Women, Men, and Youths.</p> <p>Workshop will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives to firewood • Bee keeping for nutrition, environment and economic benefits • Cultural, environmental, social, and economic aspects of forest/trees. • Forest preservation methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities suggest their own solutions to forest and woodland resource conservation. • Incorporating Scientific and indigenous solutions to preserving forests. • Increase knowledge on forests-related issues raised at workshops • Increase the reach of the program by number and geographically
2. To plant 50,000 trees (both indigenous and exotic) in Zimbabwe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create an indigenous tree arboretum in different parts of Zimbabwe. • To create an exotic tree arboretum in different parts of Zimbabwe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase vegetation cover • Increase knowledge on indigenous tree species.

Duration

This project will commence in 2022 and continue until 2030

Sustainability

1. Community to continue maintaining the woodlots.
2. Monthly visits from MAYA in all 10 Provinces.
3. Weekly visits to maintain, prune, and water the various types of trees.
4. School based visits to the projects and generate funds for sustainability.

Management Team

Jussa Kudherezera Country Coordinator jussa@plantgrowsave.org

Mellissa Mhaka Environment Officer

Tinashe Muzama Programs Manager trosomuzama92@gmail.com

Budget

Subject:	Quantity	Cost per Unit	MAYA Plot 1.5 Hectares Costs
FENCING OF 3HA PLOTS			
Barbed Wire 50kg	10	\$80	\$800
Iron Poles 2meters	50	\$6	\$300
Small Gate	1	\$50	\$50
Big Gate	1	\$100	\$100
Cement 50kgs	10	\$15	\$150
CONSTRUCTION OF CARETAKER COTTAGE- 2 ROOMS			
Bricks	8000	\$50/1000	\$400
Door Frames	2	\$25	\$50
Doors	3	\$40	\$120
Window Frames ND4F	3	\$50	\$150
Roofing Sheets	15	\$20	\$300
Beams	6	\$12	\$72
Cement	30	\$15	\$450
CONSTRUCTION OF Office/Storeroom – 1 ROOM			
Bricks	4000	\$50/1000	\$200
Roofing Sheets	8	\$15	\$120
Door Frames	1	\$25	\$25
Door	1	\$40	\$40
Window Frames	3	\$35	\$105

Beams 6m	3	\$12	\$36
Cement 50kg	15	\$15	\$225
Roofing Sheets	9	\$20	\$180
CONSTRUCTION OF TOILETS			
Bricks	3000	\$50/1000	\$150
Cement	10	\$15	\$150
Roofing Sheets	5	\$20	\$100
Reinforcement rods 6m	10	\$6	\$60
Beam	2	\$12	\$24
WATER CONNECTION & SOLAR POWER			
Water connection from ZINWA		\$400	\$400
500Watt Solar Panel		\$200	\$200
Inverter	1	\$90	\$90
Solar Battery	1	\$250	\$250
Other connections including cables		\$150	\$150
CONSTRUCTION OF TREE NURSERY SHADE			
Treated Gum-Poles 3m	10	\$4	\$40
Beams 6m	10	\$8	\$80
Cement	5	15	\$75
Shade Net 21m x 6m	1	\$150	\$150
Tools			
10 Hoes, 5 Spades, 5 Forks, 5 Shovels, 5 Hand Forks, 5 Hand Trowels, 5 Rakes, Watering cans, 2 Wheel-burrows, 5 Saws, 5 Axes, 5 Picks, Hoses, 5 Pruners, 2 Knapsacks, 5 Picks (repeated)		Estimate Cost	\$600
Other Requirements			
50 Tree planting pockets @\$20/1000; Tree planting pots; Seeds; Seedlings; Cuttings; Transport		Estimate Cost	\$3 000
Construction Labour			
	2	\$300	\$600
Overheads 6%			\$599.52
TOTAL			\$10,591.52

NB: all activities will be conducted observing the Covid-19 WHO guidelines.