

## **Collaborating with Maasai Community in Protecting the Environment**

For a long time, the Maasai Community has been engaging in raising livestock such as cattle, goats and sheep. This, as well, has been their major source of income since livestock plays a vital role of serving as a social utility in their community.

Being a Nilotic ethnic group of semi-nomadic people, livestock raising is an inclination that has been passed on from generations. Their growth in population and the fact that they are best known to reside near game parks makes them encroach into forests in search of pasture for their livestock. As a result, environmental degradation becomes inevitable.

In an effort to reclaim destroyed lands, CAVS embarked on a mission to sensitize the Ngong Hills Maasai elders, youth and women, on the importance of protecting the forest and planting trees for sufficient vegetation cover. Besides, they were trained on the advantages of engaging in healthy agricultural practices other than over relying on livestock keeping.

Over four hundred indigenous tree seedlings were donated to the Ngong Maasai community and nearby primary schools. Presently, the College is engaging the community in proper farm practices and livestock keeping activities apart from promoting environmental awareness. It is an initiative aimed at changing the nomadic lifestyle of the Maasai community and empowering them to adopt mixed farming for increased income generation and a healthy living.

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