

Discover Newsletter – November 2021

Discover Zimbabwe forges ahead



Dear Friends,

Discover Zimbabwe (DZT) are planting trees on the sites of 5 newly established schools and churches in high density suburbs in the town of Mutare. They will also plant trees on a small badly eroded mountain.

DZT works closely with school authorities, the Mutare council and church leaders to ensure a broad commitment to

environmental development and protection.

Many indigenous species are being planted, making a valuable contribution to the conservation of those species and the biodiversity of insect and bird life, as well as providing traditional fruits and medicines. Mango and guava trees are also planted as a contribution to the nutritional needs of growing children. Involving pupils and teachers from the schools provides valuable education in the essential contribution that trees make to the environment and the wellbeing of the community, especially today as the temperatures are increasing and dry periods becoming longer.



Seedlings of *Azanza garckeana* ready to be planted. Locally known as Mutohwe, in English snot apple (!), this tree is drought resistant, medicinal and bears nutritious fruits.



A member of the Discover Zimbabwe team planting trees with pupils at Feruka Primary School near Mutare. Note the treeless landscape and the dense housing area in the background.

Leucaena trees are also being planted to increase soil fertility. The quality of home-grown vegetables will improve, and the trees will provide fodder for cows and goats.

In Marondera West, DZT is establishing an eco-farm. They will establish a demonstration garden of fruit and vegetables, plant many trees and fence other areas off to allow the natural regeneration of native species from roots and seeds. The project will be a training facility for the surrounding neighbourhood. Traditional beehives will be introduced for honey production and community members will be shown how to construct and use small-scale biogas units.

We would be pleased to receive contributions, large or small, to help finance this very valuable work.

With my best wishes

Keith Lindsey



Mr Moses Dambudza showing his recently planted and well cared for wild loquat, *Uapaca kirkiana*, an indigenous fruit tree, on the eco-farm.