



21 March - International Day of the Forest

I am encouraged to hear that many of you are planning a special event to celebrate this special day. The event provides a great opportunity to spread the message of the importance of planting trees, especially amongst children.

Friends in Uganda and Kenya tell me that the weather has been extremely hot and dry. This makes your work very challenging – even your survival. To ensure that newly planted tree seedlings survive, please wait until the rains appear again. Then, whenever you have your special day, take pictures! With your pictures, give me the details of where and with whom you planted trees, and what species of trees. I hope once again to prepare a photo report of all the replies I receive.

Our colleague Makabuli Yusuf works on the Elgon Mountains in Uganda. He could not be more passionate about planting trees, and especially about protecting indigenous species, many of which are threatened with extinction.

His advice to all reflects the spirit of Discover: “Promote, conserve, and protect the environment, then it will also protect us! Plant trees outside your house, at your church or mosque where you pray, at the school your child attends, on the roadside where you pass by, at the pond where you collect water, where



Yusuf stands amongst rich vegetation on a steep slope on the Elgon Mountains

you collect firewood for cooking, where you expect to find timber for construction, on riverbanks, on bare hills, near wetlands, and on contour lines on hillsides.

Plant trees to prevent landslides.

Walking in the forest here in Germany after torrential rains, I noticed that even where there were tall trees, there were several landslips. Looking at the uprooted trees, I saw that those trees had shallow roots.

I realised that any trees planted to secure hillside against landslips must be deep-rooted varieties. Yusuf recently told me about a tree with the name “*Cedrela odorata*”. He wrote, “it has deep roots, can provide red timber and sprouts whenever cut. It is drought resistant. Right now, I have over 20 kg of seeds in stock. Even 1 kg can give you over 10,000 seedlings!”

Interested? Contact Yusuf on 00256 782 607538.

Best regards

Keith Lindsey