

Discover Newsletter for colleagues in Africa

April 2025

The International Day of the Forest, 21 March, 2025



The international day of the forest was celebrated by Discover colleagues in Ghana, Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Hundreds of new tree seedlings of many species were planted. At least 18 schools actively took part



And often with great joy! For example, here at Kocheke Primary School in eastern Uganda.

Wonderful!

Some schools wrote songs and poems. To celebrate this day Rehema Namyalo (in the picture below) planted 50 moringa seedlings and founded an environmental club of more than 50 members in the Mustard Seed Secondary School near to Masaka, Uganda.

This was their poem:

*Moringa leaves, a vibrant green,
Rich in vitamins and minerals serene,
Nature's gift, pure and clean.
Healing properties in every part,
Nourishing body and soothing heart,
Curing ailments, a work of art.
In tropical climes, it grows so tall,
A symbol of hope for one and all.
Saving lives, through it all,
Moringa's power in every seed,
A treasure trove of nutrients indeed!
A miracle tree in every need.*



I asked many colleagues, "Is it really important to celebrate this day?"

The answers I received were very clear, "Yes"!

Many echoed the words of George Zokli in Ghana: "It is important to celebrate the world tree planting day since it reminds us of the advantages and importance of planting trees and the health benefits of some of the trees. It's a day to share views about the importance of trees."

Mpuuga Edigar would agree. He used the opportunity to ask pupils and teachers at a school in Mayuge, Uganda, to think about the benefits of the trees planted at their schools in previous years.



In South Nyanza, Kenya, Tamima Omondi planted trees with pupils of two primary schools. I asked her, “Will the pupils who planted the trees really take care of them?” Tamima replied, “I say to the children, if the tree dies, you are in trouble! You will be the laughing-stock of the school! So the children

take good care of the trees. Most of the schools are fenced.”

Some colleagues organised or took part in community events.

This year, Joachem Nyamande chose that Discover Zimbabwe take part in the celebrations organised by Harare City Council in the capital city.

In Kaliro District, Uganda, the International Days of the Forest, of Water and Sanitation were all celebrated together. In the picture the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer holds a seedling while the Deputy Prime Minister for the Bulamogi Chieftdom in Busoga Kingdom, Eastern Region, prepares the hole. Eric Kihuluka said, “The Day of the Forest has given a lot of publicity attached to the importance of trees. Many are learning that it's a crime to destroy trees and the environment.”



Finally, I would like to quote Judith Nambi in Kirimya, Uganda, who planted trees with 4 primary schools, and who said, “Thanks Discover for spearheading the global warming fight; keep it up!”

I thank all who participated so fully in this day. I encourage you all the keep it up! I apologise that I could not mention you all nor include all your pictures in this newsletter.

Keith Lindsey