



# Eco-Ethics International Union

## EEIU Kenya Chapter Establishment of 'Eco Clubs' in schools under the umbrella of EEIU-Kenya Chapter\*

\*EEIU Kenya is a Chapter of the Eco-Ethics International Union (EEIU; [www.eeiu.org](http://www.eeiu.org))

### Justification

EEIU-Kenya Chapter recognises the importance of the involvement of young people in ecological conservation and environmental education activities. Young people will soon form a part of the adult populace, and will be required to use and plan ecological and environmental values, services and resources. Their involvement at an early age is not only a wise but also a critical investment to ensure that efforts which have already begun continue, and that future generations are intellectually equipped for environmental challenges ahead of them. One of the cardinal aims of ecological and environmental education and conservation is to help conserve the services and resources derived from the environment for future generations. The young generation of today are our immediate link with the future and any activity meant for the future generation should preferably start with the younger generation of today.

Based on the above premise, EEIU-Kenya Chapter is embarking on an ambitious undertaking of enlisting various school children and young adults in participatory environmental and ecological education and conservation activities. This calls for the well-balanced and co-ordinated programme of activities that EEIU-Kenya Chapter intends to develop. It is a big challenge to our chapter, and will create the position of an Educational and Outreach Officer to be in charge of this vital component of our chapter activities. The Chapter Chair, with assistance of both the Social Anthropologist and the Project Enumerator will be responsible for this position initially. The Social Anthropologist, with agreement from the Chair, will co-ordinate the activities of the various 'Eco Clubs', while the Project Enumerator will be involved in recruitments from the rural communities.

In schools and communities where Eco Clubs are formed, it is the responsibility of club members to elect their leaders and undertake various environmental and conservation activities. The clubs, in absence of any locally envisioned leadership, shall adopt the conventional method of having the following officials constituting a management committee:

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- The Club Chair, who shall be in charge of all meetings and deliberations and act as Executive Officer of these clubs
- The Secretary, who shall act as Senior Records Officer and Liaison Person between his/her club and other clubs
- The Treasurer, who will be the Chief Custodian of all assets and resources of the club.
- Any two other co-opted members who would help form a quorum of 5 persons in any club meetings and deliberations and other assigned duties and special occasions e.g. tree planting days.

### Envisioned activities of 'Eco Clubs' under co-ordination of EEIU-Kenya Chapter

#### 1. Essay/ quiz competition on environmental & ecological issues

Several topics related to the clubs' immediate environment would be defined after thorough discussion with School Heads and Teachers. The students will be expected to consult widely with their friends, relatives, libraries and teachers. At the end of the allocated period, a venue (most likely one of the participating schools) will be chosen to host the event, during which certificates of merit and other awards will be given by EEIU-Kenya Chapter officials and sponsors to be arranged by EEIU-Kenya Chapter. The award giving ceremonies will be graced by poems, dances and drama all from the participating schools; this is to make the occasion enjoyable to young participants. Efforts will not be spared to ensure that the topics and themes of all presentations are as relevant to ecological and environmental conservation as possible. In cases where donors are enlisted, T-shirt banners could be issued to all members of participating teams.

#### 2. Clean-up campaigns

Many places in the Third World are choking with litter. This can mainly be attributed to the inability of these economies to cope with the exorbitant costs of waste collection and treatment. Other causes have been a result of rapid population increases and a somewhat lax populace, who seem not to be too concerned primarily with their own immediate environment.

Clean up campaigns that have been graced by various youth groups have been big successes and

have received positive publicity from the Kenyan media. With some basic gadgets like gloves, waste buckets and shovels and spades, these clubs can organise clean up exercises in their immediate vicinity and around public utilities like Chief's offices, hospitals, public gardens and parks, among others. To make it interesting, donations will be arranged to cover costs of soft drinks and some educational videos that could be shown after the completion of these exercises. Ball games between various clubs could also be organised in the evenings of such days to make participation more entertaining.

### 3. Educational ecology tours and visits

Tours and visits is another facet for the Eco Clubs. In fact this is where the exchange programme of students of a country's chapter could travel abroad to exchange ideas with their fellow Eco Club members under the supervision of these country's respective EEIU Chapter Chairs. This is more likely to be possible between neighbouring countries, or cities or provinces of the same country, before it can be tried internationally. Our aim as a chapter is to initiate a kind of exchange programme between the various chapters and to allow room for development of a Youth International Exchange program under the umbrella of EEIU. This task will however be left open to the first youthful beneficiaries of this program to develop it further if they so desire. Future beneficiaries of this kind of arrangements could help to fund it or promote viable environmental activities in countries visited. By this kind of programme, EEIU will not only be capitalising on its international network, but also helping in the real development of the '**one world, one people**' concept, an enviable phrase developed by proponents of Eco Ethics and those who cherish genuine world peace—A world of equal opportunities to all. Within the national boundaries, Eco Clubs in liaison with the EEIU-Kenya Chapter identify areas to visit, with emphasis on conservation areas, rehabilitated environments, game parks, wild animal sanctuaries, arboretums, museums, and coastal areas with unique features. During these tours, the custodians of these facilities will give talks to the participants and free time will be arranged for the participants to ask related questions. It is envisaged that both the teachers as well as the students will find such visits enjoyable.

### 4. Debates and seminars on ecological and educational issues

Eco Clubs in certain schools are encouraged to host debates and discussions on selected and agreeable topics between their leaders and EEIU-Kenya Chapter officials. During these debates, educational videos can be shown and talks given by invited guests including EEIU-Kenya Chapter officials. Winning teams are issued with certificates of merit and prizes, should there be sponsors. Interest should be stimulated with activities like face painting of the participants, dresses in traditional regalia and other creative activities that should help cap-

ture the interest of the participating teams. Seminars are however likely to be of interest to senior groups, such as teachers who are actively involved in co-ordination of the various Eco Clubs. In these seminars, the chance to share their experiences, joys and further expectations and improvements regarding involvement with these clubs and the environmental activities will be given. These seminars could also act as a meeting point for the various members of EEIU-Kenya Chapter.

With some exceptions, these gatherings can recommend ways of generating funds, or could be used to organise dinner dances to help raise funds for certain needy projects of Eco clubs with good project proposals. Other dignitaries could be invited to officiate as guests and all funds raised channelled into useful projects or Eco club goals.

### 5. Dramas, plays and poems related to ecological and conservation issues

As in Number 4 Above, selected schools and Eco clubs shall host dramas, plays and poems on related ecological and environmental issues. Again, winning clubs and participants are issued with certificates and other awards commensurate with the quality of their presentations.

### 6. Tree planting activities

EEIU-Kenya strives to campaign for the planting of trees and reduced wanton destruction of forests. It must be understood that climatic change is impacting very negatively on the African continent, and that the Sahara desert is advancing southwards. The amount of soil erosion is also unprecedented, hence the need to sensitise the people to plant more trees. This is a responsibility that the Eco Clubs cannot elude. Members of Eco Clubs will be mobilised into tree planting activities and will preferably include several, or where possible all, officials of EEIU-Kenya Chapter.

#### Requirements for jump starting the ambitious project of forming Eco Clubs:

- Distribution of the EEIU Brochure in English and Kiswahili
- A video machine with environmental and ecologically related videos
- Travelling costs for preparatory meetings
- Salary to a qualified Education and Outreach Officer
- Search for sponsors for the activities outlined

All the other related activities will be co-ordinated at EEIU-Kenya Chapter headquarters with active participation of all our officials as an added responsibility.

Possible future activities include:  
Internet Eco-club discussion forums  
Environ beauty ambassadors  
Career forums