REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Powering Growth

Tree Planting and Greening Report

Naivasha Special Economic Zone

Financial Year 2025/2026 | 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026



Participants during the tree planting exercise at Naivasha Special Economic Zone.

Executive summary

During FY2025/2026, the Special Economic Zones Authority undertook a tree planting exercise at Naivasha Special Economic Zone as part of its commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable industrial development and stakeholder engagement. The exercise supported the integration of green spaces into the zone's development, contributing towards a more environmentally resilient industrial ecosystem.

The initiative forms part of the Authority's target of planting 29,000 trees within an 85-acre green buffer zone. During the exercise, each participant planted at least 100 seedlings, contributing towards the overall greening target. The buffer zone is intended to enhance vegetation cover, support biodiversity, reduce soil erosion and improve the environmental quality of the industrial landscape. As the trees mature, they are also expected to contribute to carbon sequestration and provide a natural separation between industrial activities and surrounding areas.

Stakeholder engagement was a central component of the exercise. By bringing together staff, government institutions and other participating stakeholders, the Authority provided an opportunity for collective participation in the sustainable development of Naivasha SEZ. The activity encouraged shared responsibility for environmental conservation and reinforced the importance of incorporating sustainability into the planning, development and operation of special economic zones.

Beyond tree planting, the exercise provided a platform for interaction, relationship building and collaboration among participating institutions. It supported awareness of the Authority's greening programme and encouraged stakeholders to contribute to its long-term implementation. Such engagement provides a foundation for continued collaboration in annual planting exercises, seedling maintenance and other environmental initiatives within the zone.

The exercise marked progress towards the Authority's greening target while strengthening stakeholder participation in the programme. However, the long-term environmental benefits will depend on the successful establishment and survival of the planted seedlings. Regular watering, weeding, protection from damage and replacement of seedlings that fail to establish will therefore be necessary.

Follow-up measures should include assigning maintenance responsibilities, conducting periodic survival assessments and maintaining records of planting and replacement activities. Continued engagement with participating stakeholders will also be important in sustaining support, reviewing progress and coordinating subsequent planting exercises. These measures will help translate the planting activity into lasting improvements in tree cover and environmental quality at Naivasha Special Economic Zone.

1 Background and reporting scope

The Special Economic Zones Authority promotes the development of Special Economic Zones as centres for investment, industrial production and employment creation. In undertaking this mandate, the Authority recognises the importance of integrating environmental conservation into the planning, development and operation of the zones. Establishing green spaces and vegetative buffers supports sustainable industrial development by improving the working environment, protecting soil, supporting biodiversity and enhancing the resilience of the surrounding landscape.

The tree planting exercise at Naivasha Special Economic Zone during FY2025/2026 formed part of this commitment. The activity contributed towards the Authority's target of planting 29,000 trees within an 85-acre green buffer zone. It provided an opportunity to advance the zone's greening programme while encouraging collective responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of tree cover.

Stakeholder engagement was an integral part of the exercise. The participation of staff, government institutions and other stakeholders provided a platform for strengthening institutional relationships and promoting a shared understanding of environmental sustainability within the SEZ Programme. The exercise also created an opportunity to build partnerships that can support continued tree planting, maintenance and monitoring.

This report presents the objectives, implementation and outcomes of the tree planting exercise undertaken at Naivasha SEZ during FY2025/2026. It outlines stakeholder participation, contributions to the greening programme and the activity's anticipated environmental benefits. It also identifies follow-up measures required to improve seedling survival and sustain stakeholder involvement. The report supports institutional performance reporting and provides a basis for planning and coordinating subsequent greening activities.

Reporting basis

The Naivasha SEZ greening programme targets the planting of 29,000 trees within a designated 85-acre green buffer zone. These figures reflect the programme's overall scope rather than the number of trees planted or the acreage covered during FY2025/2026.

During the exercise, each participant reportedly planted at least 100 seedlings. The total number planted remains subject to verification through consolidated attendance and planting records. Accordingly, the activity's contribution towards the overall programme target will be established upon verification of these records.

Item	Position recorded
Reporting period	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Location	Naivasha Special Economic Zone
Programme planting target	29,000 trees
Designated greening buffer	85 acres
Reported individual contribution	At least 100 trees per participant
Continuation	Intended to be maintained as an annual project

2 Objectives of the initiative

The overall objective of the initiative was to promote environmental conservation and sustainable industrial development through collective tree planting within the designated green buffer zone at Naivasha SEZ.

The specific objectives were to:

1. **Advance the zone's greening programme** by planting seedlings towards the overall target of 29,000 trees within the designated 85-acre green buffer zone.
2. **Strengthen stakeholder engagement and collaboration** by bringing together the Authority, participating institutions and other partners in a practical environmental conservation activity.
3. **Promote shared responsibility for environmental stewardship** by encouraging stakeholders to participate in subsequent planting exercises and support the care and maintenance of planted seedlings.
4. **Enhance environmental awareness** by highlighting the importance of integrating green spaces and conservation practices into industrial development and zone operations.
5. **Support long-term ecological improvement** through increased vegetation cover, soil protection, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration as the planted trees establish and mature.
6. **Encourage continuity of the initiative** through coordinated maintenance, monitoring of seedling survival and replacement planting where necessary.

The anticipated environmental benefits depend on successful seedling establishment, sustained maintenance and tree maturity. Biodiversity improvements and carbon sequestration were therefore long-term objectives rather than measured outcomes of the planting exercise.

Mobilisation and Participation

The tree planting exercise brought together SEZA staff, partners and stakeholders to support the greening of Naivasha Special Economic Zone. The engagement provided an opportunity to strengthen institutional collaboration, promote environmental awareness and encourage shared responsibility for sustainable zone development.

Participants were addressed before taking part in the field activities, which included planting and watering seedlings. Their collective involvement translated the Authority's commitment to environmental conservation into practical action and provided a foundation for continued stakeholder participation in the greening programme.

Planting in the Greening Buffer

Participants planted seedlings within the designated green buffer zone at Naivasha SEZ. Planting involved positioning the seedlings in prepared planting holes and returning soil around them using hand tools to support their establishment.

Each participant reportedly planted at least 100 seedlings, contributing towards the programme's overall target of 29,000 trees within the designated 85-acre buffer zone. The total number planted during the exercise remains subject to confirmation through consolidated attendance and planting records.

Watering and Establishment

The newly planted seedlings were watered as part of the exercise to support their initial establishment. Watering cans and planting tools facilitated the field activities, with participants contributing to both planting and immediate seedling care.

Continued maintenance will be necessary to support seedling survival and growth. This should include regular watering according to weather and soil conditions, weeding, protection from damage and replacement of seedlings that fail to establish. Clear maintenance responsibilities and periodic survival assessments should guide follow-up activities and inform subsequent planting exercises.

4 Stakeholder support and contributions

Stakeholders contributed through attendance and direct involvement in planting and watering seedlings. Their participation supported the implementation of the exercise and reinforced shared responsibility for the zone's greening programme. The activity also provided an opportunity for representatives from different sectors to interact, strengthen institutional relationships and engage with the Authority's environmental sustainability objectives.

The involvement of financial institutions, government agencies and private SEZs broadened engagement beyond the Authority and provided a foundation for future collaboration. Continued engagement with these institutions can support subsequent planting exercises, seedling maintenance and monitoring, helping sustain progress towards the programme's overall greening target.

The Authority acknowledges the contribution of all participating institutions and their representatives. The institutions and their respective sectors are listed on the following page. Contributions are reported in terms of participation and practical support; no monetary values have been assigned to donations or sponsorships, as these were not documented in the information available for this report.

Support documented	Evidence and scope
Participation and engagement	Gathering, address and group photographs
Practical planting	Participants handling seedlings and using planting tools
Initial watering	Watering of planted seedlings shown in the photographic record
Programme continuity	Activity account states an intention to continue annually

Participating institutions

The Naivasha SEZ tree planting exercise brought together representatives from the following seventeen institutions, reflecting collaboration between government and private sector stakeholders in support of the Authority's greening programme. The list identifies participating institutions and does not indicate the total number of individuals who took part.

Institution or organization	Sector
State Department for Investment Promotion	Government
Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA)	Government Agency
Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest)	Government Agency
Kenya Development Corporation (KDC)	Government Agency
Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)	Government Agency
KCB Bank	Commercial Bank
Equity Bank	Commercial Bank
Co-operative Bank of Kenya	Commercial Bank
Geminia Insurance	Insurance Company
First Assurance	Insurance Company
CIC	Insurance Company
Tatu City	Private SEZ
Nairobi Gate Industrial Park	Private SEZ
Kenya Revenue Authority	Government Agency
Kenya Ports Authority	Government Agency
Kenya Bureau of Standards	Government Agency
Kenya Railways	Government Agency

The Authority appreciates the participation of all the institutions listed above and their contribution to the collective tree planting effort.

5 Results and environmental significance

Results Reported for the Financial Year

During FY2025/2026, the Authority conducted a tree planting exercise at Naivasha SEZ, contributing towards the development of the designated green buffer zone. The exercise brought together seventeen institutions from government and the private sector, with participants directly involved in planting and watering seedlings.

Each participant reportedly planted at least 100 seedlings, supporting progress towards the programme's overall target of 29,000 trees. The exercise also strengthened stakeholder engagement by providing a practical opportunity for participating institutions to collaborate in environmental conservation. This involvement established a foundation for continued participation in subsequent planting and maintenance activities.

The aggregate number of seedlings planted, the proportion of the programme target achieved and the acreage covered during the financial year remain subject to verification through consolidated planting records. Seedling survival will similarly need to be established through follow-up assessments to provide a reliable measure of the exercise's sustained results.

Expected Environmental Contribution

The planted trees are expected to enhance vegetation cover and support the development of a greener industrial landscape at Naivasha SEZ. As they establish and mature, they can help protect soil from erosion, provide habitats for wildlife and support biodiversity within the designated buffer zone. These benefits will depend on the suitability of the species planted, their survival and continued maintenance.

The green buffer is also expected to improve the visual quality of the zone and contribute to a more conducive working environment. Its development supports the Authority's efforts to integrate environmental conservation into industrial growth and demonstrates a practical commitment to sustainable zone development.

Tree growth will also contribute to carbon sequestration over time. However, the extent of this contribution will depend on species, growth rates, survival and site management. Any future quantification should be based on appropriate measurements and an established assessment method.

6. Sustainability and Establishment Risks

The sustainability of the initiative will depend on the successful establishment and continued growth of the planted seedlings. Potential risks include inadequate moisture during dry periods, competition from weeds, physical damage, pests and diseases. Without consistent maintenance, these factors could reduce survival and limit progress towards the greening target.

Priority should therefore be given to regular watering during establishment, weeding where necessary, protection from damage and timely identification of unhealthy seedlings. Seedlings that fail to establish should be replaced during suitable planting seasons, with species selection informed by local conditions and observed performance.

Maintenance responsibilities should be clearly assigned and supported by adequate personnel, water, tools and other necessary resources. Periodic inspections should record seedling condition, survival and replacement needs, enabling the Authority to address emerging problems and plan subsequent activities.

Continued stakeholder engagement will complement these arrangements by encouraging participation in follow-up planting and maintenance. Sustained coordination, reliable records and

regular monitoring will be essential to translating the exercise into lasting improvements in tree cover at Naivasha SEZ.

Risk to manage	Recommended response
Moisture stress	Set a watering schedule based on site and seasonal conditions
Seedling mortality	Inspect survival and replace failed seedlings
Damage from site activities or grazing	Mark planting areas and apply appropriate protection
Incomplete records	Maintain planting blocks, quantities and inspection records
Unclear maintenance responsibility	Assign a lead officer and routine reporting arrangements

These risks are planning considerations. They are not presented as incidents observed during the reporting year.

7 Recommended follow up and monitoring

To sustain the annual tree planting initiative, the Authority should integrate future planting exercises into a structured maintenance and monitoring programme. This should provide for regular watering, weeding, protection of seedlings and replacement planting, with clearly assigned responsibilities and adequate resources.

Records should capture the number and species of seedlings planted, planting dates and locations, maintenance activities and survival rates. Periodic assessments will enable the Authority to track progress towards the greening target, identify areas requiring corrective action and report on both planting outputs and successful tree establishment. Continued stakeholder engagement should support participation in subsequent planting exercises and follow-up care.

Action	Suggested responsibility	Timing
Confirm event date, attendance and total planted	Activity coordinator and records custodian	Before final performance certification
Map planting blocks and compile species register	Zone technical team with forestry support	At the next site verification
Allocate watering and protection duties	Zone management	During establishment
Record survival and causes of loss	Designated monitoring officer	At agreed seasonal intervals
Replace failed seedlings	Zone management and participating partners	Next suitable planting season
Review progress towards 29,000 trees	Programme coordinator	Annually

Indicators for Subsequent Reports

Subsequent reports should track planting progress, seedling survival and maintenance to provide a clear assessment of the greening programme's performance. The key indicators should include:

- **Annual planting:** Number of new seedlings planted during the financial year, recorded by planting date and location.
- **Cumulative planting:** Total new planting undertaken since the programme began, with replacement seedlings reported separately.
- **Area planted:** Acreage brought under planting during the year and cumulatively within the designated 85-acre buffer zone.
- **Species composition:** Species planted and the number of seedlings of each species.
- **Seedling survival:** Number and percentage of surviving trees for each planting cohort, indicating the inspection date and assessment method.
- **Replacement planting:** Number of failed seedlings replaced, their locations and subsequent survival.
- **Maintenance activities and expenditure:** Watering, weeding, protection and other maintenance undertaken, together with the associated costs.

- **Stakeholder participation:** Number of participating institutions and individuals, alongside their documented contributions to planting and follow-up care.

Replacement planting should be recorded against the original planting locations to distinguish restoration of failed seedlings from expansion into new areas. These records will enable the Authority to report accurately on progress towards the 29,000-tree target and assess the long-term establishment of the green buffer.

7. OTHER TREE PLANTING INITIATIVES

a. Tree Planting Exercise at Tengecha Boys and Tengecha Junior Primary School

To mark Mazingira Day, SEZA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kenneth Chelule, EBS, joined students and members of the local community for a tree planting exercise at Tengecha Boys and Tengecha Junior Primary School in Kapkatet, Bureti Sub-County.

Participants planted several tree species, including cocoa, avocado and loquat. The exercise brought the schools and the local community together to support environmental conservation and reflected SEZA's commitment to integrating environmental stewardship into its work to promote economic growth.

b. Tree Planting Exercise at Chebukaka Girls School in Bungoma County

To mark National Mazingira Day 2025, the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) joined students and members of the local community for a tree planting exercise at Chebukaka Girls School in Bungoma County. The Principal Secretary for Trade, Juma Mukhwana, led the event and emphasised the importance of environmental conservation and supporting learners.

Alongside the tree planting exercise, SEZA partnered with Mt. Elgon Orchards SEZ to distribute books to students. The Authority acknowledges Mt. Elgon Orchards SEZ for its contribution to the initiative


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8 Evidence and records to complete

The report is supported by the activity narrative, a confirmed list of seventeen participating institutions and seven photographs documenting participation, planting and watering. Together, these records support the account of the Naivasha SEZ tree planting exercise.

To complete the performance reporting file, these records should be supplemented with the dated event programme, attendance register, seedling delivery or issue records, planting register and follow-up inspection reports. Any partner contributions should also be documented, specifying the nature and extent of support provided.

The available information does not establish the exact event date, total number of participants, aggregate number of seedlings planted, species composition, expenditure or post-planting survival rate. These details should be verified from the relevant records before inclusion as confirmed annual results.

Any additional tree planting activities supported by the Authority outside this Naivasha exercise should be recorded separately, with supporting documentation, before consolidation into the Authority's annual performance totals.

9 Conclusion

The Naivasha SEZ tree planting exercise undertaken during FY2025/2026 advanced the Authority's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable industrial development. Through the

participation of seventeen institutions, the exercise brought together government and private sector stakeholders in planting and watering seedlings, contributing towards the programme target of 29,000 trees within the designated 85-acre green buffer zone.

The initiative also strengthened stakeholder collaboration and encouraged shared responsibility for the zone's environmental sustainability. Sustaining these gains will require continued engagement, regular maintenance, replacement of failed seedlings and systematic monitoring of survival and growth. Integrating these measures into the annual greening programme will support the establishment of lasting tree cover and a more resilient industrial environment at Naivasha SEZ.

Annex Photographic record



Photograph 1 Address to participants during the exercise.



Photograph 2 A participant planting a seedling, with planting tools and a watering can available.

Photographic record continued



Photograph 3 Participants returning soil around a planted seedling.



Photograph 4 Watering a newly planted seedling during the exercise.

Photographic record continued



Photograph 5 Participants at the gathering associated with the planting exercise.



Photograph 6 Stakeholder participation during the event



Photograph 7 Tree planting exercise at Tengecha Boys and Tengecha Junior Primary School in Kapkatet, Bureti Sub-County



Photograph 8 Tree planting exercise at Tengecha Boys and Tengecha Junior Primary School in Kapkatet, Bureti Sub-County



Photograph 9 Tree planting exercise at Chebukaka Girls School in Bungoma County

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