

Environmental Stewardship at Amani



Making Charcoal - Two people from Dar es salaam conducted a Charcoal Making Seminar at the Amani Center. We have ten local people learning how to make charcoal from dry grass, sawdust and wood shavings, maize cobs and stalks, sunflower trash, and any dry weed which can be found. This will reduce the deforestation in the area by providing charcoal for cooking from available biomass. There is much excitement. The trainers are impressed by the abilities of the local people. Our hope is that the income from the sale of charcoal will assist with the care of children at Children of Peace Preschool and Primary program.

The first photograph shows the 'kiln', made from two large oil drums. The second displays the contents, now ready to be mixed with a small amount of prepared cassava flour and then put through an 'extruder', a converted meat grinder! This method produces excellent quality charcoal. The group has a vision of six kilns, operating at maximum production!



The picture at the left shows the finished charcoal drying in preparation for sale. The group plans to prepare as much charred materials as possible during the dry season and continue making charcoal into the wet season. The 'kilns' can be taken to the piles of 'biomass' the material is prepared there, and then the much less bulky material is taken back to the center for making into the prepared charcoal. We have local people offering their heaps of waste material now. We are very hopeful that this will greatly impact our ability to care for the local children.

Forestry Project - The Tanzanian Government is encouraging people to plant trees and many are responding. The initial effort at Amani was to plant 200 Congo Trees. These are a native tree, tall and straight, useful for timber when mature. In 2008 Gordon Matthews from Australia assisted with the construction of a Shade House (seen at right) for the propagation of tree seedlings. Later in 2009, Richard Ince from Great Britain came to continue development of the Tree Nursery/Forestry Project. The plan now is to embark on a district program with nurseries to be established in Makang'wa Village, Mvumi Mission and Mvumi Makulu.

