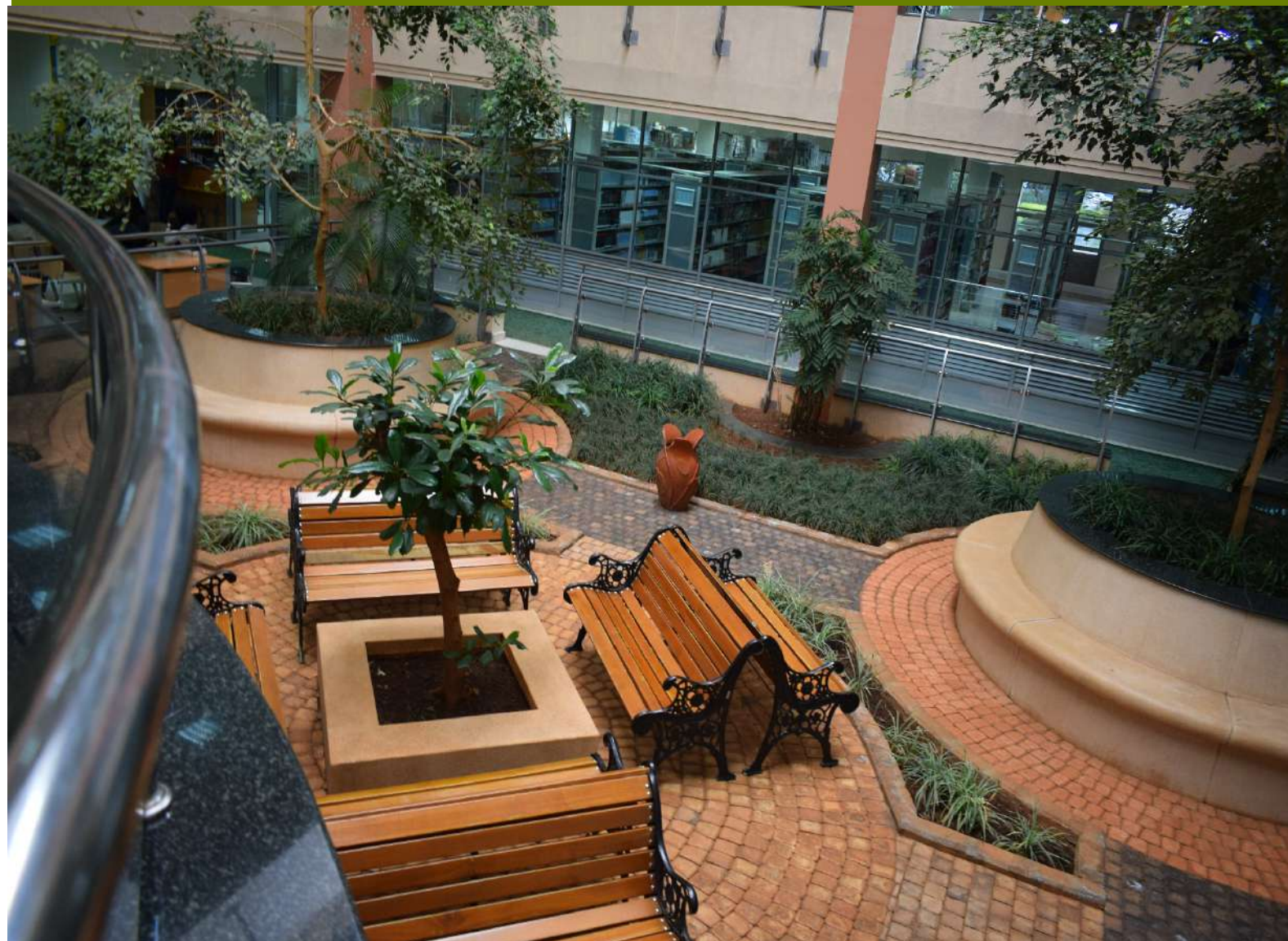




# USIU-AFRICA – GARDEN IN THE LIBRARY



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions



**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY-AFRICA LIBRARY**

**IFLA GREEN LIBRARY AWARD 2018**



**Submitted by :  
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University Librarian**

# USIU-Africa – Who We Are

- Registered in 1969 as United States International University - Africa
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Kenya in 1970 and began offering business programs not offered by public universities
- Began offering fully accredited degree programs in 1977 and was affiliated to a university in San Diego
- 1979 saw the first batch of students graduate from Nairobi
- 1991 was the year that the University settled in its current location on the outskirts of Nairobi CBD
- In 2005 USIU-Africa became an independent institution and received its accreditation from Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in the USA
- Student population is about 6500 from over 70 nationalities
- 25 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs
- Dual accreditation from WASC and the Commission for University Education (Kenya)
- An inclusive university, providing equitable quality education, with lifelong learning as a core value

# The Library

The USIU-Africa Library is a modern university library, providing a full range of high quality services and resources based on both print and electronic media to university students, faculty, staff, alumni and external readers.

It operates within the vision of making "USIU-Africa the premier institution of academic excellence with a global perspective

# The Library Building

The building has an area of 10,000 sq. m

- Sitting capacity of over 1200
- Can house up to 300,000 information materials
- Provides accommodation for the university library on four floors.
- State of the art library building, infrastructure and facility that is conducive for study and research.

## Current View of the Library surrounded by plants and well manicured lawns



# The Library Gardens at Infancy



# The Library Green Garden

- The garden is a focal point in the building
- It is at the centre with a stairway running between the two 'gardens'
- The gardens have trees and flowers giving the library an outdoor effect
- Benches are strategically placed to provide library users with a place to relax and unwind or hold controlled discussions due to the open set-up
- The plants give the library an ambience and homely feeling

# The Garden Today – View from the Top Floor





# The Central Stairway



# THE GREEN BUILDING

- Libraries are by nature 'green' but we have extended the environmental benefit further by having a green building as well as sustainable practices
- An environmentally friendly building that takes full advantage of natural air movement in, through and out of the top of the building
- Atrium designed to allow natural light to easily penetrate all corners of the library including the lower floor
- Well ventilated building with mechanized windows at the roof that are controlled from the ground floor
- Carpeted floors that muffle noise
- Double glazed solar windows that embrace aesthetic reflections and green energy by glazing to provide sunlight, shading and security
- External finishes which comprise a maintenance free wall

# SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES



- The flat roof enables rain water harvesting which is stored and used for irrigating the lawns all year round
- Eco-friendly bags were introduced for students to carry books that they have borrowed
- The indoor gardens improve the air quality by absorbing gases and emitting oxygen
- The clean oxygen-rich air keeps our library users healthier and happier
- The plants are not only pleasing to the eye but help to reduce stress – both for staff and library users

Potted Plants are Scattered all over the Building



# The Atrium



# LIBRARY STAFF AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Library staff are conscious of their environment and contribute in their own way in offering solutions to combat climate change and its impacts.

- Our staff are experts in 'Environmental Literacy' and are often called upon during workshops to sensitize participants in this area
- Four library staff have won the AfLIA "Call to Action: African Libraries and the Effects of Climate Change."

Below is an extract from the AfLIA website:

- *We are delighted to announce that the poster of **Moses Munyao, Stephen Ario, Ednah Omare and James Nyakundi** all of **United States International University Library, Kenya** won the call for posters to be used for publicity by the Academic and Public/Community Libraries Sections of AfLIA joint activity - Titled "Deforestation: Save the Land", the poster clearly spells out what deforestation is, what causes it, how it affects the land and solutions to deforestation. Congratulations to the quartet - Moses, Stephen, Edna and James!*

- *The poster is available at this link*

<http://aflia.net/web//pages/news-events/winners-for-the-poster-and-clip-competition-african-libraries-and-the-effects-of-climate-change>

Our library identifies with the late Prof. Wangari Maathai: an eminent Kenyan Noble Prize laureate and environmentalist. This mural of her reminds us of our responsibility to protect the environment

*"We tend to put the environment last because we think the first thing we have to do is eliminate poverty. But you can't reduce poverty in a vacuum. You are doing it in an environment."*

*Wangari Maathai*

TheFamousPeople.com



**THANK YOU  
ASANTE SANA**