

Small-Scale Farmers Reforest Forests in Uganda



Dummy cheques indicating all the money received from carbon so far in Kiziranfumbi subcounty Kikuube district Uganda. Photo: Jjumba Martin

This community led initiative promotes sustainable management of forestry resources encouraging small-scale landholders to reforest and implement community-based forest management plans. This leads to increased biomass and carbon sequestration and reduces emissions from deforestation thereby restoring and conserving biological diversity, while at the same time enhancing social welfare.

The people of the Albertine Rift (Western) and Mt. Elgon (Eastern) in Uganda are mainly subsistence small-scale farmers who depend on forests for their basic livelihood needs of water, building materials, medicine and fuel wood. The general project area is a mosaic of farmland and protected forests in form of National Parks and Forest Reserves as well as unprotected forests on community land. The community (unprotected) forests harbour valuable tree species for timber, poles and other non-timber forest products like papyrus, rattan canes and shrubs, which can yield economic returns to the community. The community forests in Masindi are of particular importance as they maintain the main sources of water and provide the connectivity between the different protected areas. This allows wildlife populations to migrate through this natural biological corridor. Corridor connectivity facilitates the flow or movement of individuals, genes and ecological processes, improving species richness and density, which is important particularly for the flagship endangered species, the eastern chimpanzee.

Protection and restoration of forests to preserve biological corridors

Currently, the community forests have very limited protection and decrease continuously due to the expansion of small-scale and large-scale agriculture. Some of the corridor forests have been cut down completely to make way for cultivation. The fragmentation crisis for biodiversity is

Project type:

Land Use and Forestry

Project location:

Albertine Rift & Mt. Elgon, Uganda

Project status:

In operation, credits available

Annual CO₂ reduction:

1,487,664 t (2022)

Situation without project

Degradation and deforestation, less CO₂ storage

Awards



Project standard



Impressions



Twinomujuni Jane Treasurer. Photo: Jjumba Martin

severe, especially for the eastern chimpanzee. Astonishingly, a few groups of chimpanzees continue to move through farmlands between forest patches, with some having their entire home ranges in community land. The project mobilizes the communities to protect their forest by controlling fires and illegal activities. Forest rehabilitation includes planting of heavily degraded areas and the planting of fuel wood to reduce pressure on existing forests.

Multiple benefits

Further, the project promotes the development of agroforestry systems of mixed native and naturalised tree species on smallholder lands. As the economic value of the forest increases for farmers they are committed to conserve them. At the same time, deforestation pressure on the surrounding forests is decreased as sustainably grown wood can serve as marketable fuel wood source. In addition, the project is building the resilience of the communities to the effects of climate change through improved land management and diversification of sources of income to reduce dependency on crops vulnerable to droughts thereby contributing to the Millennium Development Goal of improved livelihood.

I'm a millionaire! At least in Ugandan shillings.

Farmer Ojitti Binayo

Micro-loan systems are established in addition to capacity building for ecotourism and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as apiary and crafts-business. The project is strengthening the organisational structures through which the communities can be mobilized to undertake improved forest management laying the foundation for long-term sustainable land-use, which continues to sequester and store carbon in its biomass.

Project partner and carbon fund

myclimate works closely with the project partner Ecotrust in Uganda. The Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST) is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1999 to champion and promote environmental conservation. ECOTRUST's mission is 'To Conserve biological diversity and enhance social welfare by promoting innovative and sustainable environmental management' and its goal is 'To Provide Sustained funding for conservation in Uganda'. ECOTRUST delivers conservation finance "where it matters most" to thousands of smallholders undertaking restoration as a business in rural poor communities. The ECOTRUST TGB model won the 2013 SEED Award for its innovation and entrepreneurship, its promising efforts to promote economic growth, social development and environmental protection in Uganda, and the potential of its partnership to inspire others.



Twinomujuni Jane Treasurer. Photo: Jjumba Martin



Tumwebaze Bulandina. Photo: Jjumba Martin



One of the Bee keeping projects by KIDOMA conservation and development association. The group is able to supplement their income from honey harvested here. Photo: Jjumba Martin

Monitoring and verification of the project (MRV)

The project is registered with Plan Vivo, the most rigorous standard for LUF projects. Without the Certificates, the people would not be able to gain access to the voluntary carbon market, which is a significant source of pre-financing that eventually enables these communities to gain access to local, national and regional markets for building poles, fuel wood, fruit, medicinal extracts and fodder. On a yearly base, the project is being monitored and every five years being verified by an independent third party. See more details under "Documentations".

This project contributes to 11 SDGs (as of end 2022):

Find out how myclimate reports these SDGs in our FAQ.

The following SDGs are verified by Plan Vivo:



Over USD 4.1 million were paid to 15,119 small farmers and their families.



The project partners with World Vision and USAID to deliver HIV/AIDS initiatives to rural communities.



Protecting the forest contributes to securing clean water sources.



Enables farmers to access energy efficient cook stoves at a subsidised price.



Sequestration of 2,402,499 t CO₂ since project start (2003).



11,462 hectares of forest have been reafforested since the project began. This corresponds to about 16,052 football pitches.

These SDGs have been approved by myclimate:



The security and stability of land ownership is promoted by encouraging community ownership.



In 2018, 55 training sessions on climate-smart farming practices reached 2,297 people.



Women are actively involved in project activities, i.e. in training and the establishment of sustainable enterprises.



The project employs 22 full-time and 69 part-time workers.



7,057 households have improved their adaptation strategies to climate change.