

# Schools Initiative to Conserve Mt. Elgon Ecosystem

An increase in population around Mt. Elgon has increased competition for land use and has led to occurrence of environmental disasters like landslides, mudslides and soil erosion or aggravated their impact.

Large areas of land are without trees, households are lacking fuelwood and soil degradation is on the rise because of poor farming practices. There is also a lack of extension service delivery to farmers around this area.

Environmental education is lacking especially in primary schools whose curriculum does not fully incorporate environmental issues of this landscape.

## CATEGORY

[Climate Change and Environmental Protection](#)

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## LOCATION

[Uganda](#)

## WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE OR NEED YOUR PROJECT WILL ADDRESS AND WHAT INNOVATIVE METHODS WILL YOU EMPLOY?

### WEBSITES

<http://www.treetalk.or.ug>

### MEET THE TEAM

**Project owner**  
[Jonathan Kisakye](#)  
[Uganda](#)  
[Professional Fellows](#)

**Project members**  
[Manage members](#)  
[Nathan Kariuki](#)  
[Kenya](#)  
[Professional Fellows](#)  
[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Mahmoud Suliman](#)  
[Israel](#)  
[Fulbright Student Program](#)  
[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Syed Faraz Liaquat](#)  
[Pakistan](#)  
[International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#)  
[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Jean Claude MAHINDO](#)  
[Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#)  
[International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#)

**Describe the specific need or challenge that your team will address with this project**

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[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Kwikiriza Kassa Jr.](#)

[Uganda](#)

[Professional Fellows: Empower Program](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Sebastian Ssebowa](#)

[Uganda](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

**Briefly describe the specific solution or approach to address the need or challenge and explain why it is innovative**

Two tree nurseries will be established within two schools to produce **30,000 seedlings**.

**10** Environment Clubs will deliver communication on environmental awareness to their communities.

The project will support communities to plant coffee for agroforestry and fast growing indigenous trees to conserve soil and enhance crop production.

This will be exciting to both pupils and the community as the pupils will get a change to engage the community on conservation issues while the community members are more likely to listen and appreciate the knowledge of their children.

[Jean-Noel Koffi](#)

[Côte d'Ivoire](#)

[Study of the U.S. Institutes](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Joyce Nabisaalu](#)

[Uganda](#)

[Professional Fellows](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

**How will the project impact your community? What changes (in people, institutions, attitudes, practices) do you think you will see?**

The project will increase tree cover within the landscape, providing sources of firewood and reducing dependency on Mt. Elgon National Park for firewood.

Farm productivity will be improved under agroforestry systems and soil erosion and mudslides can be reduced.

Coffee will be a future source of income for households.

Attitudes towards tree growing will change, trees are generally seen as naturally occurring in this area, environment club activities are likely to change this mindset.

If the project is embraced, there is a likelihood that occurrence of mudslides and landslides disasters will reduce.

[Robert Muwawu](#)

[Uganda](#)

[Professional Exchanges - American Fellows Program](#)

[\[remove from project\]](#)

Communities are bound to start living in harmony with Mt. Elgon Park authorities as they will be fuelwood sufficient and this will result into reduced access to the park.

## **WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?**

**Beneficiaries: who are your target groups (or communities) and how many people will directly benefit from your project?**

Ten schools including Ngasire parents Secondary school, Ngasire parents Primary School, Tangwen Secondary School, Tangwen Primary School, Gamatui girls Secondary School, Kabore Primary School, Chema Primary School, Sipi Primary School, Sipi Secondary School, Bugimotwo Primary School all in Sipi sub county that is located near Mt Elgon National Park. The schools have a total of **7,684 pupils. Each of these pupils will plant and manage one tree in their school.**

Each school has got environment clubs that comprise of **20 members**; these will be in charge for environmental education in communities. A school head and a school patron for the environment club will also be engaged in guiding the school and the club in their operations. The project will donate a total of **30,000 tree seedlings** (including coffee) to **60 farming households** in four parishes around these schools.

### **Local partners**

- **Tree Talk Plus**  
Tree Talk Plus already works in this area and has Environment Clubs in the aforementioned schools. These clubs will be used to carry out activities in communities under this project. I have worked with this organization to establish these environment clubs.
- **District Forestry and Environment Offices of Kapchorwa district**

These will ensure that our activities are discussed at the district level in their planning meetings and also that the activities of the project can be incorporated in the district development plan to ensure continuity.

- **Kwot Bee-keeping Association (KBA)**

KBA operates near River Atari and are implementing model farming practices. We have influenced the organization to start a small tree nursery through provision of tree seed. This organization will help in mobilising households for project activities because of its close association with Sipi sub county leadership.

- **Local Council Leaders**

these will provide local leadership guidance and include and/or own project activities as part of the sub-county development initiative.

- **Schools**

Schools already have existing environment clubs that will need to conceptualise this new concept and implement the project.

#### **Alumni team**

##### **1. Jonathan Kisakye (Team Leader)**

Responsible for managing and delivering the project.

##### **2. Robert Mumwawu (Agriculturalist)**

Robert is the key contact person for the schools in the project area. He will be responsible for mobilisation for community Outreach and school Clubs.

##### **3. Marcus Kwikiriza (Agriculturalist)**

Marcus will be in charge of tree nurseries. He operates an agricultural input business and also runs nurseries for coffee tree seedlings. He will be responsible for teaching teachers about seed collection, woodlot establishment and maintenance.

##### **4. Joyce Nabisaalu (Lecturer)**

Joyce, a lecturer of design in Kyambogo University will be responsible in connecting the project with the education department at the district and career guidance of students.

##### **5. Ssebowa Sebastian (Entrepreneur)**

Sebastian has hearing impairment and will be responsible for motivation of children with disabilities who are members of the club (one of the schools is for disability children)

**Proposed Project Dates:** July 01, 2015 - June 30, 2016

# HOW AND WHEN WILL YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT?

## Implementing Plan and Timeline

### 1. Project inception, July 1st to 30th 2015

**Activity 1.1:** Contact District Education Office and Environment Office on the project activities in schools. **Responsible Persons:** Joyce Nabisaalu and Jonathan Kisakye.

**Activity 1.2:** Meeting with school Patrons on the project. **Responsible Persons:** Jonathan Kisakye, Robert Muwawu, Ssebowa Ssebastian

**Activity 1.3:** Mobilize school clubs for project inception, this will include a gathering for representatives from 10 environment clubs (including only the leadership of the club). **Responsible person:** Robert Muwawu, Jonathan Kisakye

**Activity 1.4:** Meeting Community members: **Responsible Persons:** School patrons, All almunii team

**2. Nursery establishment and training of pupils** (August, 2015), includes purchase of tree seed and nursery equipment.

**Responsible person:** Kwikiriza Marcus, Joyce Nabisaalu, Robert Muwawu

**Activity 3:** Debates of Environment Clubs on specific topics of concern, September 2015. **Responsible person:** Sebastian Ssebowa, Jonathan Kisakye and Muwawu Robert

**Activity 4:** Community Outreach and training **August, September, December, January, February, April, June**

4.1 Training on soil conservation techniques. Robert Muwawu and Jonathan Kisakye with school environment clubs.

4.2 Training on nursery establishment, woodlot establishment and micro-entrepreneurship. Responsible persons Kwikiriza Marcus, Ssebowa Sebastian and Muwawu Robert.

4.3. Environmental Awareness meeting with communities, **Ssebowa Sebastian, Environment Clubs and Jonathan Kisakye.**

4.4 Radio programs **(July, December (2015), April, June (2016)**

**Activity 5: Tree planting, December, February, March, 2015 - 2016**

5.1 Tree Planting in schools: Responsible persons : **Muwawu Robert, Jonathan Kisakye, Kwikiriza Marcus and Ssebowa Sebastian.**

5.2 Tree Planting with Communities: Responsible persons: **Muwawu Robert, Jonathan Kisakye**

Activity 6: Quarterly Reporting to district authorities and partners, Responsible persons: **Joyce Nabisaalu and Jonathan Kisakye**

## **Communication Plan**

### 1) Beneficiaries

#### 1.1 Radio programmes

The best way to reach farming communities is through radio due to lack of access to electricity, therefore no television or internet services. Radio will be used during inception of the project, planting season and at the end of the project to share their experiences.

#### 1.2 Using school children/schools

Schools are centres for knowledge transfer into communities, pupils engaged in the project will talk about its activities with their parents and other community members while there will also be an opportunity for them to share with communities during outreach activities

#### 1.3 Community Outreach

During community outreach many communities will gather to hear the message on conservation while others will be interested in tree seedlings. The team will use these to talk about the project and its desired outcomes.

### 2) Public

2.1 Tree Talk Plus publishes a conservation newsletter that is sent to over 10,000 schools across Uganda. This project will feature in two of Tree Talk Plus' publications that are also shared online on the website and on social media.

2.2 A report on the project will be shared on the alumni website

2.3 The project will also be featured on the Partnership for African Youth in Agriculture website (a consortium organization for ProFellows Alumni from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) that is being developed in conjunction with Oklahoma State University.

## **Evaluation**

A project indicator matrix that will be capturing project progress against set objectives will be developed and will continuously be filled by the project team (this activity will be led by Joyce Nabisaalu).

A project survey will be carried out in all project schools and in 20 households that will plant trees. The product of this will be lessons learnt briefs from the project and these will be shared with district authorities for possible replication of the project.

## **Sustainability**

Tree Talk Plus has a full time staff that will help in extending services to tree planting households and schools.

Schools are supposed to ensure that trees planted are continuously tended by the students. Schools will continue running tree nurseries as businesses where communities can go to purchase seedlings. These seedlings will be used to gapfill in case of failure of survival of trees.

The government of Uganda, has plans to distribute coffee tree seedlings to farmers in the country in future. This is a good prospect of helping to consolidate the achievements of this project.

The district forestry officer and the district education officer will be requested to discuss this project with district staff in the district planning meeting and also asked to help in supervising schools and farmers who are part of the project.

## **TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED**

\$23,370.00

## **PROPOSAL DOCUMENT:**

[Download budget \(XLS\)](#)