

**Individual Project****Interim/Final Report¹**

Via e-mail to zivilgesellschaft-international@ada.gv.at

The originals of supporting documentation can be sent to the Civil Society International (ZGI) unit.
Contract number: 2319-08/2018

Contract Partner In Austria	Local Project Partner
Name:	Name: The Jane Goodall Institute - Uganda
Address:	Address: Plot 917 Lake View Crescent Lubowa-Kampala P.O. Box 462, Entebbe
Telephone, E-Mail:	Telephone, E-Mail: +256 392 177117 info@janegoodallug.org
Project Officer/Contact:	Project Officer/Contact: Dr. Peter Apell Tel: +256 772 221 637 Email: peter@janegoodallug.org

PROJECT TITLE: GROWING TOGETHER

Country: UGANDA	Region/Place: Region/place: Kasenene and Nyantonzi Parishes, Budongo Sub-county, Masindi District
Duration From: 01.01.2018	To: 31.12.2020
Report As At (Date): 29.03.2021	Submitted On: 30.03.2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PER (DATE) (EUROS)

Total costs	Cleared items	Submitted for examination	Open items
298 388,66 € -	108.450,34 €	298 501,00 €	-



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABCG-WASH	African Biodiversity Collaborative Group-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
AGM	Annual General Meeting
BCFS	Budongo Conservation Field Station
BUZARDI	Bulindi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CODECA	Community Development and Conservation Association
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTPH	Conservation through Public health
DFO	District Environment Officer
DFS	District Forestry Service
DG	Development Goal
DLG	District Local Government
DNRO	District Natural Resources Officer
DTPC	District Technical Planning Committee
DWO	District Water Office
DWRM	Directorate of Water Resources Management
ECOTRUST	Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda
EU	European Union
FFI	Flora and Fauna International
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FM	Forest Monitor
GAP	Gender Action Plan
Ha	Hectare
HH	Household
HOCADAO	Hoima Caritas Development Organization
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
KANYACODA	Kasenene Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Organization
KTB	Kenya Top Bar
LG	Local Government
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NECODA	Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Organization
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NWSC	National Water and Sewerage Corporation
PoG	Pass-on-the-Gift
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ToT	Trainer of Trainees



UN	United Nations
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
VHCT	Village Health Conservation Team
VHT	Village Health Centre Team
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WSC	Water and Sanitation Committee
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature





DATE, AUTHOR OF REPORT: 27.02.2020, Dr. Peter Apell, Maga. Diana Leizinger

1. Brief Description of Project Progress (German, max. 1 page)

Auch im Projekt “Zusammen Wachsen” spiegelt sich der holistische Ansatz des JGIs der sich mit den SDGs: **Gemeinsam mit lokalen PartnerInnen arbeitet das JGI daran Ungleichheit und Armut zu bekämpfen, Bildung zu ermöglichen, Lebensräume zu bewahren und damit Arten – und Klimaschutzarbeit zu leisten.**

Das Leitziel des Projekts war die langfristige Aufwertung der Lebensraumqualitäten des Waaki Flusses (West-Uganda) und der angrenzenden 12 Dörfer für Mensch und Tier durch Wiederaufforstung und der Implementierung von Wald- und Wasser-Managementplänen. Neben den SDGs 6 und 15 wurden im Rahmen des Projekts auch die Ziele 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 13 und 17 adressiert.

Der Schutz und die Revitalisierung von Waldbeständen zur Verbesserung der Habitatqualität des Waaki Flusses wurde durch Schulungen in nachhaltigem Waldmanagement und dem Aufbau von 8 lokalen Baumschulen gestartet. Im Projektzeitraum konnten

777 000 Baumsetzlinge lokaler Arten gepflanzt werden. Die Umverteilung und Einschulung von 409 Haushalten übernahmen die speziell dafür ausgebildeten 17 „Forest Monitors“. (Ziel 13 und 15). Ein Wasser-/Wald-Management Plans wurde in Zusammenarbeit mit GemeindevertreterInnen, lokalen Vereinen und der Bezirksverwaltung ausgearbeitet und liegt zur Prüfung und Implementierung bei der Behörde vor (Ziel 6, 15 und 17). Um die längerfristige Weiterführung der Projektanliegen zu gewährleisten wurde die CBO “Kasenene-Nyantanzi Conservation and Development Association (KANYACODA)” gegründet. Parallel dazu wurden Veranstaltungen in allen 12 Projektgemeinden zur Sensibilisierung und Aufklärung der Bevölkerung abgehalten (Ziel 5)

Um die Einbußen in der Landwirtschaft durch die Bereitstellung von Flächen für Wiederaufforstung zu kompensieren, wurde der Aufbau alternativer Einkommensmöglichkeiten in den Gemeinden vorangetrieben. Die Pass-on-the-gift (PoG) Methode, hat sich dabei bewährt. 742 Personen wurde zum Thema Feldfrüchte geschult, 85 TeilnehmerInnen wurden über verbesserten Haltungspraktiken bei Ziegen informiert und 36 TeilnehmerInnen (7 weibl.) nahmen an der Ausbildung über Bienenzucht, mit Bereitstellung von entsprechendem Material teil. Darüber hinaus erhielten 52 Personen eine Marketingschulung. (Ziel 1 und 2). Neben der Erschließung neuer Einkommensmöglichkeiten wird auch über nachhaltige landwirtschaftliche Praktiken und Klimawandelanpassungen informiert. (Ziel 1, 2 und 12).

Um den Zugang zu sauberem Trinkwasser für die BewohnerInnen der Region qualitativ und quantitativ zu verbessern wurden 5 Wasserstellen erneuert, die sauberes Trinkwasser für mindestens 750 Haushalte bieten. Damit auch deren nachhaltigen Betrieb gewährleistet ist, wurden 5 „Water User Committees“ (WUCs) gegründet und 55 Mitglieder geschult. Zur Beschattung und Prävention von Erosion wurden in Summe 3.000 Bäume um die Brunnen gepflanzt (Ziel 6).

Von den im Rahmen des Projekts umgesetzten Maßnahmen profitierten 7678 Personen, in den 12 Gemeinden im Einzugsgebiet des Waaki Flusses. Dazu kommen weitere ca. 3783 indirekt vom Projekt Betroffene. Ein besonderes Augenmerk wurde auf die Einbindung von Frauen und Kindern in die Projektumsetzung gelegt und wird mit der Einrichtung des IWRM-Ausschusses über die derzeitigen Prozentsätze steigen (Ziel 5).

Nach wie vor ist die größte Herausforderung für die Umsetzung der Projektanliegen die Ansiedelung von Zuckerrohrfabriken in der Projektregion. Da der Anbau von Zuckerrohr raschere Einnahmen verspricht als die Pflanzung einheimischer (aber häufig langsam wachsender) Bäume entscheiden sich immer mehr Kleinbauern für die Aufnahme von „günstigen“ Krediten bei den Firmen und den Anbau von Zuckerrohr und riskieren damit eine eingeschränkte Lebensmittelversorgung, Armut und Enteignung. Im zweiten Projektjahr stellten die vielen Regenfälle außerhalb in der eigentlichen Trockenzeit eine weitere Herausforderung für die Landwirte dar. Die im Projekt angebotenen Maßnahmen wie Sensibilisierung, Management und Wiederaufforstung erscheinen immer nötiger und entwickeln sich immer mehr zu einem Wettlauf mit der Zeit.



2. PROJECT PROGRESS BY ACTIVITIES

Expected results/ outcome(s), including attribution to SDG target(s) and Gender Action Plan (GAP) II objectives	Results achieved/indicators, including a target value for each indicator; including # of beneficiaries, gender disaggregated			Activities implemented to achieve these results	Reasons for deviations (anticipated/achieved results)	→ Comments/steering measures (in the event of deviations)
	Baseline:	Achievement so far/ progress:	Target:			
By 2020, 115 hectares of Ongo community forest and riparian forest that form the River Waki sub-catchment area reforested	115 ha	Through KANYACODA, approximately 103 ha of Ongo community forest and riparian forest have been reforested.	Target: By Year 3 of project established IWRM systems contribute effectively to conserving ecosystem of Ongo community forest and riparian forest that form the River Waki sub-catchment	Reforested a total of 103 ha of the degraded forests including Ongo community forest and connecting riparian forests (32 ha); riparian connecting forests of Bineneza (43 ha), Ewafala (7 ha), Ensuvara (3 ha) and Tengele (18 ha) that form the River Waki sub-catchment) in the target area where the focus of the project. The remaining 22 ha were left to natural regeneration. Efforts were aimed at strengthening and developing their connectivity through community planting with assorted indigenous tree species aimed at restoring and protecting corridors between these remnant forests. Approximately 280 ha was planted by community on individual land (205 ha and 75 ha). Community action contributed to landscape restoration interventions through natural regeneration, sustainable forest management, agroforestry, reforestation, and enrichment planting).	Lack of mandatory provisions compelling communities to restore the forest has made the process slow. In addition, establishment of IWRM plan by LG as main Facilitators required a lot of their borrowed time against their official work. But the main delay was the need for policy review and guideline by MoWE which never took off till project end.	Tree planting was done spread all over the community forests and on individual land (205 ha by ex-encroachers and 75 ha along R. Waki). IWRM plan was drafted to support restoration efforts on Ongo community and the riparian forests of Ensuvara, Tengele and Ewafala forests. However, alongside the draft IWRM plan, KANYACODA, the precursor institution worked to ensure Ongo and riparian forest restoration as well as planting by communities in target sites.



Result 1.0 Institutional Framework for Integrated water resource management in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes established	Zero (0) institutions for catchment level conservation are in operation in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes	One (1) institution for catchment level conservation is in operation in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes	Target 1.1: By Year 2020, two (2) stakeholder-led institutions for catchment level conservation are in operation in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes;	<p>Activity 1: <i>Establish stakeholder collaborative framework for IWRM in target area</i></p> <p>1.1 Through a rapid stakeholder mapping in 2018, a total of 17 key stakeholders were identified and engaged to establish a collaborative framework for the IWRM and other interventions of the project through a workshop introducing them to the project objectives and establishing the roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>1.2 Workshops with all stakeholders to raise awareness and to present proposed project and establish stakeholder roles and responsibilities were conducted at district and parish levels. At the district, 26 key Masindi District Local Government technical and political leaders attended (5 females). At the parish level, a total of 113 participants (19 females) including religious leaders, Local Council I (LC I) Chairpersons, Councilors, and beneficiaries form across the villages attended.</p> <p>1.3 From both meetings, a system of key stakeholders comprising a total of 24 members drawn from the three (3) riparian districts of Masindi, Bulisa and Hoima through which River Waki flows was constituted to steer development of the IWRM plan for co-management and implementation of proposed interventions. The stakeholders effectively formulated and drew the collaborative framework.</p>	<p>A total of 24 stakeholders drawn from the three (3) riparian districts of Masindi, Bulisa and Hoima through which River Waki flows was constituted to steer development of the IWRM plan for co-management and implementation of proposed interventions.</p> <p>Only one (1) institution was targeted for the IWRM considering that the Waki River whose catchment protection was under plan in three (3) segments feeding into one another. Thus, the creation of KANYACODA, as a precursor institution spanning both parishes for ease of unified management.</p>	One (1) stakeholder-led institution (KANYACODA) for catchment level conservation was developed and operationalized in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes right from 2018. This was technically advised and recommended by the DLG to ensure a landscape-based approach for ease of management.
---	--	---	--	---	--	---



	0 representation of women, youth, and disadvantaged groups in decision-making fora	26% representation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups is achieved in decision-making fora	Target 1.2: By 2020, at least a 30% representation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups is achieved in decision-making fora.	<p>In 2018, the project facilitated the establishment of a local CBO, Kasenene Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Association (KANYACODA) with 10 Executive Members (30% women represented in leadership roles).</p> <p>The local CBO, KANYACODA through an AGM approved 11 Executive members (one addition) plus 12 FMs. Of this number, 4 are females (17%). The five (5) WSC have 35 members of which 50% are women while 40 ToTs trained (4 females) representing 10%.</p> <p>However, in terms of participation there was generally 31.1% women participation (slightly above target) in other project activities (<i>see subsequent section for details of activities carried out</i>).</p>	By end of the project, an average of 26% women leadership representation from the two (2) institutions of KANYACODA and the five (5) WSCs; and ToTs and these exclude general activity participation. There is a drop in the proportion of women in leadership following the KANYACODA election of new leaders that has fewer women.	Once review of the policy guideline by the MoWE is completed, this percentage will likely rise as several committees will be created including women positions to operationalize the IWRM plan across the three (3) Districts.
Result 2.0 Degraded catchment forests in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes effectively restored.	Approximately 40% of the Ongo Community Forest and adjoining forests are degraded and/or depleted.	From geo-maps, of planted sites, approximately 80.8% of degraded section of Ongo community forest and riparian forest that form the River Waki sub-catchment area reforested	<p>Target 2.1: Approximately 40% of the Ongo community forest and adjoining forests are degraded and/or depleted.</p> <p>Target 2.2: By 2020, over 75% of degraded section of Ongo community forest and riparian forest that form the</p>	<p>In 2018, an estimated 101.2ha (40%) of 253 ha of the degraded Ongo & Tengele community were mapped. These sites were reforested over the project period. This was in addition to approximately 205 ha of community individual planting by 117 individuals mainly ex-encroachers and non-target planters.</p> <p>The community forests of Ongo (211 ha), Tengele (189 ha), Ewafala (7 ha), Ensuvara (3 ha) and Bineneza (75 ha) totaling 485 ha were the main targets. Of these, approximately 93 ha of the degraded 101.2 ha were planted in the reporting period.</p> <p>In addition, over the period, a total of 413 households planted approximately 75 ha individually along River Waki; and Ongo and Tengele as well as Bineneza community forests and NECODA CFM, Katanga church of Uganda and Kababito Church of Uganda have planted trees. These efforts carried out through</p>	<p>Upon mapping of the community and riparian forests, planting was done by both community individuals including many ex-encroachers who had willingly come out of the forests; institutions including CFM, church and other non-target planters across R. Waki on the Hoima district side.</p> <p>Forest restoration efforts were mainly carried out through enrichment planting, woodlot planting, boundary marking, riverbank restoration planting and general afforestation</p>	Over the period the project planted a total of 777,000 seedlings all raised from procurement and established. In 2018, a total of 519,000 seedlings were planted (supplied from procurement and community nurseries as well as an additional 3,000 seedlings planted around the five (5) protected springs and in 2019, a total of 255, 000 seedlings were planted (supplied from procurement and community Nurseries). In 2019, NFA also supplied 51,000 planted in the target sites, In the last year, a total of 40,000 seedlings supplied to the target area from community tree & reforestation project. achieved through seedling production from (8) community nurseries established across the villages in addition to Year II procurement. Planting under different planting regimes was carried out with tree seedlings supplied from procurement



			River Waki sub-catchment area reforested	enrichment planting, woodlot planting, boundary marking, riverbank restoration planting and general afforestation, augment natural regeneration.	augmented natural regeneration.	and community nurseries established across the target villages. Total restoration will be likely with seedling production from nurseries which is sustainable supply source of seedlings even post- project. Survival rate of planted seedlings estimated from a few sites was estimated at 65% generally. However, this is due partly to the challenges in climate from mainly short rains that interrupted seedling establishment when still young. In some cases, there was an infestation of die back to <i>Maesopsis eminii</i> . This too, caused enormous tree mortality.
Result 3.0 Sub catchment IWRM plans (that cover Ongo riparian and wetlands) are developed and operationalized	Zero (0) catchment plan for Ongo forest and wetlands	One (1) catchment plan for Ongo forest and wetlands is in the process of development	Target 3.1: By 2020, an IWRM catchment plan for Ongo forest and wetlands has been developed and endorsed by the district.	<i>Activity 3: Develop IWRM plans for Kasenene and Nyantonzi Parishes</i> <i>3.1 Create planning team composed of stakeholders</i> In 2018, a planning team was constituted from the list of the key stakeholders identified in the preliminary awareness meeting. The planning comprised participation of both technical and political leaders from Masindi, Hoima and Bulisa districts given that R. Waki is a transboundary resource with its catchment spanning these districts thus, needed to plan for it at a landscape level. <i>3.2 Conduct situation analysis</i> Through a participatory process, a situational analysis was conducted based on: i) a desk review of the previously drafted Waki Sub-catchment plan facilitated by another agency, WWF, and ii) catchment management reports	Based on DLG guidance on adopting a landscape approach, the partners and stakeholders drafted only one (1) plan. In developing the draft, particular emphasis was placed on implementation of sustainable activities and development of Chapter six (6) that includes its Logical Framework, Implementation Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Plan that define the road map for the plan and are key sections to guide its execution.	This draft had gone through an eight (8) member editorial committee consisting of the DEOs, CDOs and District Planners was constituted to review and finalize the plan before presenting to the technical committee of Masindi, Bulisa and Hoima DLGs. The draft plan awaits presentation to the broader stakeholders including the District political leadership based on the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) Policy and National Guidelines. By end of 2020, The draft IWRM Plan that was initiated in 2018 was finalized in 2020 and waiting further guidance and policy review by MoWE.



				<p>of the respective catchment districts. Based on the review emerging needs and challenges were considered for development of the plan.</p> <p>3.3 Formulate plans (awareness raising, participatory and consultative) was conducted through meetings in the 12 target villages with a total attendance of 1,345 people (848 males and 957 females). These meetings were targeted to inform the IWRM Plan process. The village meetings achieved the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assessed communities' forest restoration activities; 2) Selected Village and Parish Integrated Water Resources Management committees; 3) Mapped households in each of the 12 villages; 4) Assessed and mapped livelihood interventions and collected feedback; 5) Collected input on monitoring priorities. <p><i>3.4 Draft plans and obtain stakeholder and political approval</i> By 2020, through a series of meetings/workshop sessions, a Draft IWRM Plan for Ongo riparian forests and wetlands was created by a team of technical and political staff of both Masindi and Hoima DLGs.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Result 4.0 Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods		43.7% households engaged in biodiversity-friendly enterprises	Target 4.1: By 2019, the number of households engaged in biodiversity-friendly enterprises has increased by 50% compared to baseline.	<p><i>Activity 4: Diversify livelihood sources through sustainable enterprises.</i></p> <p><i>4.1 Hold stakeholder consultations and sensitization on sustainable enterprises</i></p> <p>Consultation and awareness meeting was held with 167 potential beneficiaries (92 males and 75 females) of the various livelihood kits (both crops and livestock) across the 12 target villages. Similar consultations were made for interested in 2019 and 2020 mainly for PoG beneficiaries.</p> <p><i>4.2 Select enterprises and prepare a sustainable enterprise plan</i></p> <p>Farmers selected apiculture and, goats for livestock while cassava, beans and ground nuts were the crops as their priority enterprises. Additionally, the farmers have consistently been trained in production technology and offered advisory services.</p> <p><i>4.3 Identify farmers to start production technologies and provide training in selected enterprises.</i></p> <p>In 2018, a village meeting was conducted to discuss potential livelihood activities. There were 167 potential beneficiaries present (92 males and 75 females) from all the 12 target villages.</p> <p>Also, in 2019 a total of 72 farmers (49 males, 23 females) were trained on sustainable enterprises.</p> <p>Of the various sustainable livelihood options (crops and livestock), a total of 54 farmer HHs were identified and trained on livestock while 113 farmer HHs were identified and trained for</p>	<p>In 2018, 347 households engaged in crop husbandry; and 54 households engaged in livestock husbandry practices while another 24 households engaged in apiculture.</p> <p>Through 2019 and by end of end of 2020, these numbers combined for all the enterprises had increased by 450 (i.e. 395 for crops, 24 for apiculture and 31 for goats).</p> <p>Traditional farming practices still dominate the community of 2,784 HHs across the target villages.</p> <p>However, farmers of groundnuts and beans seem to have already mastered and used to the recommended husbandry practices and as such do not demand any trainings and advisory services.</p> <p>In addition, a total of 19 Village Health Teams (VHTs) including 2 females formed an active Village Savings and Scheme (VSLA).</p>	In 2018, Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) were trained to scale-up technology adoption among the farming community. Throughout 2019 and 2020, they were refresher through trainings.
---	--	---	---	---	--	---



			<p>crop production. An additional 36 apiculture farmers including forest monitors were trained in production technology. In 2019, A refresher training was also conducted to a total of 66 goat farmers (51 males and 15 females) in Kasenene Parish focusing on improved husbandry practices. In addition, all goats were dewormed and prophylactics (berenil) were administered to all. Prophylactics including berenil, are medicines administered to the goats as a preventive solution to possible/ common disease infections. In 2019, a total of 102 HHs selected beneficiaries were trained in the various agronomic practices for crop enterprises (beans – 32 HHs, groundnuts- 28 HHs and cassava stems – 42 HHs). In 2020, a similar set of trainings was conducted to a total of 81 HHs (beans - 27 HHs, groundnuts - 25 HHs and cassava stems - 39 HHs).</p> <p><i>4.4 Provide start up support to farmers</i> Following trainings in the first phase, a total of 68 Boer goats (54 Boers and 14 nannies) were distributed to 54 beneficiary households while 24 households received an assortment of apiculture kits in the 12 villages while 347 households engaged in crop husbandry as direct recipients.</p> <p>In 2019, a total of 102 HHs were also trained in the various agronomic practices for beans, groundnuts and cassava and subsequently, received the crop inputs (beans – 32 HHs, groundnuts- 28 HHs and cassava stems – 42 HHs) and for each crop, 160 kg each for beans and ground nuts; and 126 bags of casava stems were distributed. In 2020, a total of 81 HHs were trained and (27 HHs received 108 kg of beans, 25 HHs received 100 kg of groundnuts and 39 HHs received 117 bags of cassava stems.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--



				<p><i>4.5 Establish product enterprise groups, marketing clusters and market linkages and provide training in business management and marketing skills.</i></p> <p>A total of 26 farmers comprising 11 executive members, and 12 forest monitors and 3 church leaders were trained in market linkages, business management and marketing skills. The church leaders are respectively their advisor and mentors in the community that are being looked up to as models in their community.</p> <p>In addition, in the same year, a total of 19 Village Health Teams (VHTs) including 2 females formed an active Village Savings and Scheme (VSLA); The KANYACODA executive of 11 members (9 males and 2 females) and 12 village representatives (10 males and 2 females) corresponding to the 12 target villages started with one village of Rwengabi as a successful pilot but hoping to expand to the other villages upon lessons learned. However, there a new Executive of KANYAKODA replacing the old one whose term of office had expired, and the success of the Savings group was being monitored closely for progress.</p> <p>In 2019, a total of 22 leaders (18 males, 4 females) were trained and equipped with knowledge in group dynamics, leadership, collective marketing and basic bookkeeping. Objectives of the trainings were to enable the leaders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the dynamics and benefits of working in groups. Appreciate the importance of record keeping. 		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--



				<p>c) Acquire basic knowledge and skills in financial management and be able to keep basic records and books of accounts to enhance financial prudence for their Associations.</p> <p>d) Acquire basic knowledge, traits and skills required in the leadership and management of their Associations.</p> <p>e) Acquire basic knowledge and skills in business and collective/group marketing to ensure commercial sustainability to their Associations.</p>		
	97% Subsistence farmers do not practice sustainable agriculture	All enterprises including goats, beans, groundnuts and cassava as apiculture were adopted and sustainably practiced by end of year 2.	Target 4.2: At least one project-promoted sustainable agricultural practice adopted by 30% of subsistence farmers in project sites by Year 2.	<p>In 2018, 167 community members, including 92 males and 75 females were trained in sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>Following the trainings in production technology, a total of 24 farmers (17 males and 7 females) from across the 12 villages were provided with various apiculture equipment. A total of 347 households benefited from crop enterprise kits (cassava cuttings, beans and groundnuts) while 54 households benefited from boer goats.</p>	<p>Throughout the project period, production and post-harvest data was collected by KANYACODA for the various crop enterprises and apiculture. Notably, the goats were distributed in the last month of Year I. However, <i>Pass-on-the-Gift (PoG)</i>: From the increments on each enterprise each season, was given to the next 426 beneficiaries. Cassava with a different sequence given its long rotation in the garden was harvested twice and thus, PoG of 460 bags of cuttings was passed on to a total of 153 beneficiary households. A total of 654 kg of groundnuts was passed on to 131 beneficiaries while 1,115 kg of beans was passed</p>	<p>Placement of various technologies (crops and livestock) was done at different times of the year. Similarly, their maturity or harvest times including all relevant data were different and available at different times. Placement of various technologies (crops and livestock) was done at different times of the year. Similarly, their maturity or harvest times including all relevant data were different and available at different times.</p>



					on to 111 beneficiaries. For the goats, a total of 31 beneficiaries benefited from a corresponding number of goats (79 in 2019 and 14 in 2020).	
Result 5.0 Improved Knowledge and awareness of forest and water resource management	30.8% of communities have knowledge and awareness of forest and water resource management	By end of 2020, the project had registered over 90% population with knowledge and awareness and over 50% increase. This was assessed from rapid community assessments during validation exercise and on-site assessment of change in community practices.	Target 5.2: By 2020 there is a 50% increase in knowledge and awareness of forest and water resource management compared to baseline.	<p><i>Activity 6: conduct climate change and forest awareness conservation campaign</i></p> <p><i>6.1 Conduct participatory appraisal to determine the existing capacities and training needs for vulnerable communities on long term climatic and environmental change</i></p> <p>Prior to the environmental education and engagement meetings, a participatory needs assessment was conducted in 2019 across the 12 villages. A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted to 139 respondents (120 males and 19 females) to appraise the communities to determine existing capacities and training needs on climate and environmental change.</p> <p><i>6.2 Develop an informal education and outreach program, to include targeted education and awareness materials related to local climate change issues</i></p> <p>Following this activity, an informal education and outreach program was developed revolving around the key findings from the participatory needs assessment.</p> <p><i>6.3 Disseminate education and awareness materials in the targeted villages in cooperation with local institutions such as schools and local councils</i></p>	<p>By end of the project, a total of 802 individuals (567 males, 235 females) had been reached through climate change and forest awareness conservation meetings and this includes sensitization through the FGDs. Key findings were recorded under the following areas during the appraisal and FGDs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate change meaning and related aspects.</i> • <i>Observed weather patterns in project target villages over time</i> • <i>Main source of energy fuel</i> • <i>Understanding forest degradation, deforestation and tree planting and</i> • <i>Environmental change</i> <p>By end of 2020, the project had registered over 90% population with knowledge and</p>	<p>Based on the findings of the appraisal and FGDs, a number of recommendations were made including: The fact that increasing stock scarcity (e.g., due to deforestation) coupled with the negative socio-economic and environmental outcomes of inefficient production and consumption technologies make it imperative to identify alternative energy solutions that benefit people without harming the environment.</p> <p>Tackling energy poverty is crucial to efforts aimed at meeting sustainable development goals at the household level.</p> <p>As a recommendation, interventions aimed at reducing energy poverty must simultaneously seek solutions that might reduce people's carbon footprint. This was noted since carbon footprints, or the amounts of greenhouse gas emissions linked to particular activities, are associated with climate change and its impacts. It also follows that globally, calls have intensified to reduce the carbon footprint of energy use, including use of biomass fuels.</p>



			<p>The first meetings to disseminate the environmental awareness message were conducted in the first quarter of 2020 with a total of 323 community members (216 males, 107 females) in seven villages of Kibali, Ejinga, Simba, Bisaju, Onieni, Rwengabi and Ogadra and was completed later in November 2020 in the rest of the villages including Katugo I, Katugo II, Katanga, Onieni, Rwengabi, Ogadra and Ejinga with the objective, <i>'Improving environmental knowledge, attitude, and understanding of sustainable forest management practices through environmental education and awareness in community'</i>. Educational materials including 150 t-shirts with the messages, <i>'Save trees and waters sources, we are the guardian of nature'</i>; and 800 educative posters were printed and distributed to the community during the sensitization program. The topics discussed mostly focused on water conservation, riverine forest protection, conservation, and management, impacts of global warming, and public health altogether. A total of 340 community members (231 males, 109 females) were reached during the sensitization meetings.</p> <p>The first meeting was conducted in seven (7) villages with a total of 323 community members participating (107 females and 216 males). With the main objective of creating awareness in communities on the need to conserve water catchment areas for River Waki, the meeting focused on issues of climate change, afforestation, re-afforestation of degraded forests, water conservation and home hygiene. In addition, the meetings were attended by Local Council I Chairpersons (LC I)</p>	<p>awareness and over 50% increase. This was assessed from rapid community assessments during validation exercise and on-site assessment of change in community practices and drawing inferences from the interactions.</p>	
--	--	--	---	---	--



				<p>of the respective villages and the Health Assistant of Kasenene Parish.</p> <p><i>6.4 monitor the effectiveness of awareness programs</i></p> <p>Monitoring of the effectiveness of awareness program was continuously conducted throughout the project period. This was done by site visiting and interacting with beneficiaries and stakeholders to understand and see what happened after conducting awareness sessions and comparing their practices and making inferences from beneficiary responses.</p>		
<p>Result 6: Improved access to potable quality sustainable water supply for household us in target community.</p>	<p>Baseline 6.1: 63.8% of the household s obtains water from open and unprotect ed sources.</p> <p>Baseline 6.2: TBD</p>	<p>By end of 2018, there was already a 30% increase in people with access and use of safe drinking water;</p>	<p>Target 7.1: By 2019, there is a 30% increase in people with access and use of safe drinking water;</p> <p>Target 7.2: 5 new portable water sources developed in target community by year 1.</p>	<p>Activity 7: Develop potable water sources in target area</p> <p><i>7.1 Conduct water needs assessment to identify level of water stress in the target villages</i></p> <p>In 2018, a participatory water needs assessment was conducted by the District Water Office (DWO) and the community. This was done to confirm the information on community water stress level that had earlier been profiled by the District Water Office (DWO).</p> <p><i>7.2 Identify potential water sources for prioritization and conduct water quality assessment.</i></p> <p>In 2018, five (5) villages of Onieni, Ogadra Lower and upper; and Kibali 1 and 2 with the worst water stress level were prioritized for water sources development through a participatory exercise involving the DWO and community.</p> <p>7.3 Develop and renovate at least 5 water sources including spring and shallow wells</p>	<p>At baseline provided by the DWO in 2018, an average of 150 HHs per water source had access to safe drinking water, that is, 759 HHs in total for the five (5) protected springs. On average an increase of 54 HHs (36%) per water source was realized by end of 2020.</p> <p>However, lot of deficits are still visible in Onieni since DWO recommends a water source for 150 HHs and the additional 366 HHs at baseline would require at least 2 protected springs.</p>	<p>The DWO has plans to include this deficit among other water source needs in the DLG annual planning cycle and also, lobby other development partners to fill the gap.</p>



				<p>In 2018, five (5) water springs were constructed and protected in the priority villages of Onieni, Ogadra Lower and upper; and Kibali 1 and 2.</p> <p><i>7.4 Establish water user committees (50% women) and train community members including youth for better management of water sources</i></p> <p>A total of 55 members of Water User Committee (WUCs)/ Water Sanitation Committee (WSC) members comprising 30 males and 25 females were. Of this number, 35 members (17 females representing 45%) were WSC members, 10 were reserve WSC members while another 10 are artisans who will carry out basic maintenance and repairs of the water sources in case of breakdown. The artisans were selected by the beneficiary community members themselves, trained and equipped with relevant tools to do basic repairs in case of break down. The following were the specific training topics for the artisans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper use and handling of tools; • Materials used in construction of the spring wells; and • Defects that occur on the wells and how to handle them. <p>The five (5) Water and Sanitation Committees (WSCs) with seven (7) members each were established of which 45% are women. The WSCs were also trained in hygiene and sanitation, group dynamics; and financial management for better management of water sources.</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--



				<p><i>7.5 Plant areas around water sources with native protect them from erosion and provide shading o well as help retain soil moisture.</i></p> <p>A total of 3,000 assorted indigenous trees were planted around the five (5) water sources (each planted with 600assorted tree species) to protect them from erosion, provide shading over the water, and help to retain soil moisture.</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--



3. PROJECT GOAL ACHIEVED/DISCERNIBLE IMPACT

The long-term objective of the project was to contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem function (products and services) of catchment forests in the Albertine Rift region of Uganda through reforestation and an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach.

Notably with support from KANYACODA and local government (LG) sector offices, a total 103 ha of the degraded riparian forests (Ongo community forest and connecting riparian forests of Bineneza, Tengele, Ewafala, Ensuvara and Bineneza that form the River Waaki sub-catchment) were planted. Natural regeneration and the community forest planting accounting for the 103 ha, as well as individual planting of up to 75 ha along R. Waaki plus 205 ha planted by ex-encroachers, efforts with various indigenous tree species helped to strengthen and develop corridor connectivity. Community forest planting already contributed some 80.8% of the target 101.2 ha or 19.6% of the combined 485 ha of all the entire community forest estates. In addition, a draft IWRM plan is in place and it is envisaged that once approved as a working document by the DLG political and technical staff, it will legally commit communities and other stakeholders to ensure sub catchment protection.

In terms of women participation, 31.1% of the participants were women, with their involvement increasing because of a growing interest in project activities. This was due in part to the need for their livelihood improvement through the direct incentives, namely apiculture, agricultural crop husbandry and animal husbandry or PoGs of these kits to support those households considered to be champions or overly disadvantaged. In showcasing women's empowerment and inclusion, 26% of women sit on various leadership positions including KANYAOCAO, ToTs, WSCs and VSLAs. This demonstrates the extent to which women are steadily more empowered to the extent of participating in decision making processes. This further explains the 133 women tree planters, contrary to the old norm that women have no landholding of their own and thus, would not plant trees.

Through sensitization and awareness, the traditional practices of setting bush fire during dry seasons were noticed to be on the decline at least with anecdotal evidence and visual assessment. Other soil and natural resource management practices on the increase include less farming on the edges of rivers and streams while also encouraging use of mulching as well as adoption of mulching as a soil moisture conservation practice.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Result 1.0: Increased collaboration between stakeholders (public-private) driving strengthened Coordination of watershed management in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes.

Target 1.1: By Year 2020, two (2) institutions for catchment level conservation are in operation in Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes.

Target 1.2: By 2020, at least a 30% representation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups is achieved in decision-making fora.

Activity 1: Establish stakeholder collaborative framework for IWRM in target

In 2018, as a starting point, the project facilitated the establishment of a local CBO, Kasenene Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Association (KANYACODA) with 10 Executive Members - three (3) women (30%) represented in leadership roles. The meeting facilitated by Sub County Development Officer, was attended by a total of 213 local community members attended. Of these, 128 were males and 85 were females. Further, 60 representatives (including a 10-person Executive Committee) were identified and



provided with governance training by the Sub County Community Development Officer and District Commercial Officer. Various topics relating to organizational management of the CBO were covered with the goal of improving its functionality and processes. Of these participants, 30% were female. The establishment of the CBO aimed at facilitating delivery of the project and to help sustain its outcomes even after project completion.

1.1 Conduct rapid stakeholder mapping.

Through a rapid stakeholder mapping, the project identified and engaged other key stakeholders working within the target area of intervention to provide insight into the conservation status of River Waki where their respective activities are located and these include among others, beneficiary communities from the 12 target villages of the two parishes of Nyantonzi and Kasenene, private sector and NGOs as follows:

- Kasenene-Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Association (KANYACODA);
- Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST);
- Tengele Community Forest Association;
- Community Development and Conservation Association (CODECA);
- Ongo Community Forest Association and Budongo Conservation Field Station (BCFS);
- Nyangtonzi Environmental Conservation and Development Association (NECODA);
- Wild Wide Fund for nature (WWF);
- Fauna and Flora International (FFI);
- Hoima Catholic Caritas Development Organization (HOCADDO);
- Tobacco Companies (Alliance One, Uganda Tobacco Services (UTS); Continental, Tropical Leaf Tobacco, Nima Tobacco Services, Global Alliance;
- Sugar Companies (Kinyara Sugar Limited, Bwendero Sugar Company);
- Faith Based Organizations;
- Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom;
- Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA);
- National Forestry Authority (NFA);
- Oil Companies (Tullow, Total E & P, Chines National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC); and
- Local Government.

These stakeholders were further engaged to establish a collaborative framework for the IWRM and other interventions of the project through a workshop introducing them to the project objectives and establishing the roles and responsibilities for coordinating the delivery of the project.

1.2 Conduct workshops with all stakeholders to a) Raise awareness and introduce projects; and b) Present proposed project components and establish roles and responsibilities.

Later, stakeholder meetings for institutional frameworks were conducted at district and parish levels: At the district, 26 key Masindi District Local Government technical and political leaders attended (5 females). At the parish level, a total of 113 participants (19 females) including religious leaders, Local Council I (LC I) Chairpersons, Councilors and beneficiaries from across the villages attended. In both meetings, a system of key stakeholders was established including community leadership (CBO established for this), Sub County and District LGs.

1.3 Formulate system of key stakeholders and draw up collaborative framework.

Subsequent work on this was done by a team of 24 stakeholders (20 males and 4 females) in all including three Community Development Officers (CDO), three District Forestry Officers (DFO), three District Environment Officers (DEO), three District Planners, three District Secretaries for Production, three District Natural Resources Officers (DNRO), one Sub Country Chiefs, three Clerks to Council and two Entomologists was established. This team from the three riparian districts of Masindi, Bulisa and Hoima through which River



Waki flows was constituted to steer development of the IWRM plan for co-management and implementation of proposed interventions. Only one institution was targeted for the IWRM considering that the Waki River whose catchment protection is under plan is three segments feeding into one another. Establishment of a stakeholder collaborative framework for IWRM was premised on the following objectives: 1) to strengthen existing development plans; 2) to compile integrated support; 3) to define targeted procedures; and 4) to ensure vertical national support.

This activity was preceded by a desktop review led by the Senior Environment Officer to establish the levels of degradation of the Waki Catchment by reviewing satellite imagery. This showed almost 75% of the riparian vegetation along River Waki had been cleared and the remaining forests were heavily degraded. The next exercise was a mapping of stakeholders within the catchment who include the local communities that depend on natural resources in the sub catchment area, local leaders of the Districts of Buliisa, Hoima and Masindi and the Small Power Hydro dam that was being constructed to generate Hydro power downstream. Ten (10) Forest Monitors were trained and dispatched to collect baseline data on community attitudes towards management of the catchment and assess the social, political, and economic status of the communities of 12 villages within the catchment in the parishes of Kasenene and Nyantonzi. Data was collected and analyzed by a consultant and a report was submitted to JGI. This data was then triangulated with data from an assessment of the Waki catchment to determine the levels of pollution and degradation. In the same period 12 sensitization meetings were conducted in the two villages to solicit their support and identify priority interventions for the local communities.

The District and Sub County local government leadership including the DFS, DNRO, the political leadership and DWO among others, were key participants in the development of a precursor Waki Sub-Catchment Plan funded by WWF about six years ago. Their involvement was important in reviewing this document to include new insights and amendments for the development of an updated IWRM as a key output for this project. Subsequently, 12 stakeholder meetings were conducted in all 12 villages with a total attendance of 1,805 people (848 males and 957 females). These meetings:

- Assessed communities' forest restoration activities;
- Selected 48 Villages and 12 Parish IWRM committee members;
- Mapped households in each of the 12 villages;
- Assessed and mapped livelihood interventions and collect feedback; and
- Collected input on monitoring priorities.

Towards ensuring broad-based reach and sustainability, throughout the team worked with the stakeholders that were involved in the early stages of the consultation on IWRP and these include the following key institutions and personalities among others: beneficiary community from the 12 target villages of the two (2) parishes of Nyantonzi and Kasenene, these are Kasenene Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Association (KANYACODA), Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST), Community Development and Conservation Association (CODECA), Ongo Community Forest Association, Nyantonzi Environmental Conservation and Development Association (NECODA) which is a Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) group, Budongo Conservation Field Station (BCFS), Tengele and Ongo Community Forest Association, Sugar Companies (Kinyara Sugar Limited), Faith Based Organizations, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

Through this iterative process, a draft IWRM plan was therefore finally developed with LG as key stakeholder and facilitator and by end of the project, the draft for technical review by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) upon changing the national framework. Approval can only be affected after this input of the ministry but that has been delayed because of policy issues.



In terms of representation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups in decision-making fora, by end of the project an average of 26% women leadership representation from the two (2) institutions of KANYACODA and the five (5) WSCs; and Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) was achieved as follows: In 2018, an average of 40% women were represented from the two (2) institutions of KANYACODA and the five (5) WSCs/WUCs. During its AGM in 2019, KANYACODA, approved 11 Executive members (one addition), plus 12 FMs. Of this number, four were females (17%). The five WSC have 35 members of which 50% are women; while 40 ToTs pegged to this CBO were trained (4 females) representing 10% and all these collectively produced approximately 26% women representatives by end of 2019 and 2020. The drop in the proportion of women in leadership in the last two years was alluded to the drop in women numbers following the KANYACODA re-election of new leaders from the AGM that presented with fewer women. However, it is projected that with implementation of the IWRM plan after completion of the policy review of the IWRM guideline by the MoWE, this percentage will rise as several committees will be created including women positions to operationalize the IWRM plan in the target landscape.

Result 2.0: Rehabilitation target watershed including increase in land area rehabilitated in Ongo community forest, and establishment of riparian buffer zones in adjoining riparian forests.

Target 2.1: Approximately 40% of the Ongo community forest and adjoining forests are degraded and/or depleted.

Target 2.2: By 2020, Over 75% of degraded section of Ongo community forest and riparian forest that form the River Waki sub-catchment area reforested.

Activity 2.0: Native tree seedlings planted in degraded riparian forest

2.1 Facilitate participatory location/mapping of sites for planting and regeneration

In 2018, prior to mapping, a total of 17 people including 12 Forest Monitors (FMs) from across the 12 target villages; Ongo and Tengele Community Forests adjacent to River Waki, Collaborative Forest Management group of Kasenene (NECODA CFM); and the District Forestry Service (DFS) were trained in the use of Survey 123; and equipped with basic forestry knowledge, tools and equipment. Subsequently while working with the DFS, project staff and the 12 FMs, a total of 101.2 ha (40% of 253 ha) of community forests of Ongo, Ensuvura, Tengele and Ewafala forests were mapped out as degraded. Mapping was also done for the forest under NECODA CFM for planting, and other areas for regeneration. This included georeferencing to delineate sites for enrichment planting and restoration within the catchment area.

2.2 Train target community in forest replanting and natural regeneration establishment

In 2018, in preparation for the community planting season and the need for natural regeneration, a total of 346 tree farmers (231 males and 75 females) were trained. These included 40 KANYACODA leaders, Forest Monitors, and village chairpersons (36 males and 4 females) were trained as ToTs; and 306 other interested tree farmers (227 males and 39 females), all drawn from KANYACODA. The aim of this exercise was to increase outreach to and build capacity of communities for continued training, forestry extension and advisory services post project on diverse aspects of tree planting including natural regeneration practices, silvicultural and other tree management practices (pitting, seedling selection, planting out, tending operations) as well as nursery establishment and management.

In 2019, prior to distribution and planting of these assorted tree seedling species, 916 beneficiary farmers were trained in natural regeneration practices, silvicultural and other tree management practices. These practices included planting out, tending operations, as well as nursery establishment and management. In the same year, an additional 422 individuals were reached out by FMs through training in tree planting, management of planted trees as well as natural regeneration.



2.3 Propagate/provide native tree species seedlings and tools for forest planting/replanting.

In addition, upon training, a total of eight (8) communally owned nurseries were established in seven (7) villages of Katanga, Rwengabi, Kibali, Abangi (2 nurseries), Ejinga, Onieni and Katugo. These nurseries were also supplied with the following necessary start-up inputs:

- seeds including *Maesopsis eminii* (40 kg), *Khaya anthotheca* (21 kg), *Cordia africana* (21 kg), *Makhamia lutea* (14 kg), *Antiaris toxicaria* (21 kg), *Pordocarpus latifolia* (21 kg), *Prunus africana* (5 kg), *Milicia excelsa* (5 kg) and *Albizia coriaria* (35 kg);
- tools and equipment include: *Wheel burrows* (7), *Watering cans* (7), *Polythene pots* (400 kg), *Spades* (7), *Sisal* (7 rolls), *Assorted nails* (21 kg), *Panga* (7), *Rakes* (7), *Hoe* (7); and *Pickaxe* (7).

Establishment of communal nurseries aimed at training farmers to have hands-on skills to be able to raise seedlings after the end of the project for their own planting and also to diversify household income from the sale of seedlings. This ensures sustainability in two dimensions: 1) continuity of forest regeneration; and 2) household income. These tree nursery groups have 83 members (29 females and 54 males). From these nurseries and procurements, a total of 777,000 seedlings including *Maesopsis eminii*, Mahogany, *Albizia species*, *Milicia excelsa* and *Terminalia superba* were planted in the target project area explained as follows: In the April/ May 2018, a total of 173,000 seedlings and a supplementary 93,000 seedlings were distributed while 85,000 seedlings were distributed in September 2018 plus an additional 3,000 seedlings planted at the protected water sources. In 2019, a total of 123,000 seedlings were planted from procurement. In the two years, the eight (8) community nurseries established in the first-year supplemented planting with 168,000 seedlings and 132,000 seedlings in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Meanwhile, additional planting support came from NFA in form of 51,000 seedlings planted in the target sites in 2019. Finally, Community Nursery & Reforestation Project complemented community planting with 40,000 assorted seedlings. Post project, the three nurseries established under this project will supply an estimated 120,000 assorted seedlings. Summary of seedling source and year of planting is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Tree seedling source supplied by year

The community forests of Ongo (211 ha), Tengele (189 ha), Ensuvara, Ewafala and Bineneza (75 ha), altogether total 475 ha however, were the main targets. Of these, approximately 103 ha of the targeted 115

Year	Seedling Source				Total Seedlings
	Seedling Procurement	Community/ Nurseries	Community Tree Nursery Project	NFA	
2018	173,000(April/May), 93,000 (April/May), 85,000 (September)	168,000	0	0	519,000
2019	123,000 (May) + 3,000 for water sources protection	132,000	0	51,000	309,000
2020	0	0	40,000	0	40,000
Total	477,000	300,000	40,000	51,000	868,000

ha were planted in the reporting period and this includes a total of 40% of 253 ha of the degraded Ongo and Tengele community forests. By end of the project, mapped out parts of Ongo, Tengele and Bineneza were planted with a total of 320,200 seedlings (i.e., Ongo Community forest, 120,000; Bineneza Community Forest, 80,000; and, Tengele Community Forest, 120,200 seedlings). The Kababito and Katanga Church of Uganda which together took the remaining 545,800 seedlings, planted these seedlings along with 671 private individuals, all located within the target sites. The community nurseries also supplied seedlings to 17



interested individuals in the non-target site across River Waki in Hoima District. This would help to reduce possible leakages from non-target sites and also contributed to the sustainability of corridor restoration and natural regeneration efforts.

Tree species selection was based on 1) site suitability according to species-site matching; 2) individual and community demands; and 3) the purpose of planting, such as afforestation (restoration planting), woodlot planting, boundary marking, enrichment planting and riverbank (riparian) restoration planting. The riparian planting was along River Waaki from Bineneza community forest to Budongo CFR in the villages of Katanga, Simba, Onieni, Abangi, Ejinga, Ogadra, Kibali, Nyakabingo, Nyantonzi, Katugo I & II, Kababito, Byasiku, Bisaju and Simba on the Masindi side while Mbarara and Kyabisagazi were planted on the Hoima side. The Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) group of Nyakase Environmental Conservation and Development Association (NECODA) planted in the grasslands of Budongo CFR neighboring villages of Katugo and Rwengabi. In addition, natural regeneration was also encouraged interspersed within these areas.

2.4 Monitor and approve extension for replanted areas

The monitoring of planted trees was effectively conducted throughout the year. A team of 17 Forest Monitors (FMs), project staff and new FMs were deployed for the monitoring. They were all equipped with basic knowledge of forestry, as well as the relevant field gear and equipment. The additional numbers were the result of emerging parameters for monitoring, as well as the extensive geographical coverage. These FMs were trained in the use of a new software, Survey 123 which is more user friendly than ODK and this continued to be used for monitoring planted trees for survivorship and growth performance. In addition, the FMs provided required extension education and advisory services for the planted trees; and trained landowners on the ways of enhancing natural regeneration.

Additional training was conducted to enhance collection of priority monitoring data on paper forms and be able to georeference that data for crops, livestock, wildlife, and forestry using Garmin GPS handset. In consultation with the District Technical Committee (DTC), the Budongo Sub County leadership, the IWRM committees, local communities, the FMs and the leadership of KANYACODA, a data collection tool was developed for the following monitoring priorities (classification):

- **Wildlife Data:** Baboons, Chimpanzees, other monkeys, elephants, and buffalos
- **Environmental Data:** Crops in wetlands and riparian areas, firewood collection, both domestic and commercial, charcoal burning evidence, timber cutting, sand mining, forest clearing, poles for construction and encroachment within 200m of riparian area
- **Infrastructure Development Data:** Road construction, water springs, wells, ponds, protected water sources, fishponds, path into forests, etc.

Further, the FMs were also trained in basic forestry extension skills and tasked to map the various project interventions including the livelihood enterprises. Using this technology, they would help to identify:

- Planting sites per farmer with geo-coordinates and pictures;
- Approximate land size for planting as well as
- Continuous monitoring of the planted seedlings to provide basic extension services and information for management actions; and
- Data generated to inform implementation of the IWRM plans.

Result 3.0 Sub catchment IWRM plans (that cover Ongo riparian and wetlands) are developed and operationalized

Target 3.0: By 2020, an IWRM catchment plan for Ongo forest and wetlands has been developed and endorsed by the district.



Activity 3: Develop IWRM plans for Kasenene and Nyantonzi Parishes

3.1 Create planning team composed of stakeholders.

In 2018, a planning team was constituted from the list of the key stakeholders identified in the preliminary awareness meeting. The planning comprised participation of both technical and political leaders from Masindi, Hoima and Bulisa districts given that R. Waaki is a transboundary resource with its catchment spanning these districts thus, needed to plan for it at a landscape level.

3.2 Conduct situation analysis

Through a participatory process, a situational analysis was conducted based on: i) a desk review of the previously drafted Waaki Sub-catchment plan facilitated by another agency, WWF, and ii) catchment management reports of the respective catchment districts. Based on the review emerging needs and challenges were considered for development of the plan.

3.3 Formulate plans (awareness raising, participatory and consultative)

Awareness raising, participatory and consultative meetings were conducted in the 12 target villages with a total attendance of 1,345 people (848 males and 957 females). These meetings were targeted to inform the IWRM Plan process. The village meetings achieved the following:

- Assessed communities' forest restoration activities;
- Selected Village and Parish Integrated Water Resources Management committees;
- Mapped households in each of the 12 villages;
- Assessed and mapped livelihood interventions and collected feedback;
- Collected input on monitoring priorities.

3.4 Draft plans and obtain stakeholder and political approval

By 2020, through a series of meetings/workshop sessions, a Draft IWRM Plan for Ongo riparian forests and wetlands was created by a team of technical and political staff of both Masindi and Hoima DLGs. With the wider community input, an eight-member editorial committee consisting of the DEOs, CDOs and District Planners reviewed and finalized the plan before presenting to the technical committee political leadership of Masindi, Bulisa and Hoima DLGs for their input and by end of project, the draft is under policy review and scrutiny by MoWE for the revised national guidelines. In drafting of the River Waaki catchment plan, particular emphasis was placed on development of its Logical Framework, Implementation Plan, and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan to clearly define the road map for the plan and are key sections to guide its execution.

Result 4.0: Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods

Target 4.1: By 2019, the number of households engaged in biodiversity-friendly enterprises has increased by 50% compared to baseline.

Target 4.2: At least one project-promoted sustainable agricultural practice adopted by 30% of subsistence farmers in project sites by Year 2.

Activity 4: Diversify livelihood sources through sustainable enterprises

4.1 Hold stakeholder consultations and sensitization on sustainable enterprises Consultation and awareness meeting was held with 167 potential beneficiaries (92 males and 75 females) of the various livelihood kits



(both crops and livestock) across the 12 target villages. Similar consultations were made for interested in 2019 and 2020 mainly for PoG beneficiaries.

4.2 Select enterprises and prepare a sustainable enterprise plan

Farmers selected apiculture and, goats for livestock while cassava, beans and ground nuts were the crops as their priority enterprises. Additionally, the farmers have consistently been trained in production technology and offered advisory services.

4.3 Identify farmers to start production technologies, and provide training in selected enterprises

In 2018, a village meeting was conducted to discuss potential livelihood activities. There were 167 potential beneficiaries present (92 males and 75 females) from all the 12 target villages. Of the various sustainable livelihood options (crops and livestock), a total of 54 farmer HHs were identified and trained on livestock while 113 farmer HHs were identified and trained for crop production. An additional 36 apiculture farmers including forest monitors were trained in production technology. In 2019, A refresher training was also conducted to a total of 66 goat farmers (51 males and 15 females) in Kasenene Parish focusing on improved husbandry practices. In addition, all goats were dewormed and prophylactics (berenil) were administered to all. Prophylactics including berenil, are medicines administered to the goats as a preventive solution to possible/ common disease infections. In 2019, a total of 102 HHs selected beneficiaries were trained in the various agronomic practices for crop enterprises (beans – 32 HHs, groundnuts- 28 HHs and cassava stems – 42 HHs). In 2020, a similar set of trainings was conducted to a total of 81 HHs (beans - 27 HHs, groundnuts - 25 HHs and cassava stems - 39 HHs).

4.4 Provide start up support to farmers

Before the distribution of any livelihood kit, the beneficiaries were trained in agronomic, apiculture and livestock husbandry practices. In the latter case, a demonstration of the goat shed was constructed in each of the 12 villages for farmers to aid farmer learning and benchmarking. Given the high interest, more goat sheds were constructed than required with the excess number waiting to benefit from the PoG scheme. In the first arrangement, a total of 68 Boer goats (54 Boers and 14 nannies) were distributed to 54 beneficiary households while 24 households received an assortment of apiculture kits in the 12 villages while 347 households engaged in crop husbandry as direct recipients.

In 2019, a total of 102 HHs were trained in the various agronomic practices for beans, groundnuts and cassava and subsequently, received the crop inputs (beans – 32 HHs, groundnuts- 28 HHs and cassava stems – 42 HHs) and for each crop, 160 kg each for beans and ground nuts; and 126 bags of casava stems were distributed. In 2020, a total of 81 HHs were trained and (27 HHs received 108 kg of beans, 25 HHs received 100 kg of groundnuts and 39 HHs received 117 bags of cassava stems.

Details on livelihoods enterprises

Livestock enterprise: Subsequently. To support the farmers in zero-grazing their goats, the project distributed the following pasture and legumes to: 0.5 kg of *Calliandra calothyrsus*, 10 kg of Lablab, 10 kg of Mucuna and 3,000 kg of Napier grass. Out of the 54 households, 16 farmers selected as model farmers received two goats (Boers and nannies). These farmers worked to promote mating of the female goats in the aforementioned villages. Through the PoG agreement, households (HHs) that received a goat were obliged to hand over the first kid to the next beneficiary who did not receive initially. Other pre-conditions for receiving goats included having been trained in goat husbandry practices and shed construction, household observation of good sanitation and hygiene; and being able to send children to school. These criteria are used as proxies to assess the household's ability to sustain the technology which required time and other resources.



- *Apiculture enterprise:* In addition following the trainings in production technology, a total of 24 farmers (17 males and 7 females) from across the 12 villages were provided with the following apiculture equipment, tools and supplies: 1) 240 Kenya Top Bar (KTB) hives standard made of Cordia/Musizi timber with 24 top bars all baited with suspension wires and all branded with logo; 2) 12 KTB Catcher boxes; 3) 24 Bee suits - top niche American kaki with non-tear proof mesh (Silver back bee-suit Brand); 4) 24 Industrial gumboots in white color; 5) 24 Honey jars/lids in food grade plastic 250 g in bags (105 pieces); 6) 24 Honey jars/lids in food grade plastic 500 g in bags (90 pieces); 7) 24 Hive tools in food grade Stainless Steel with hook at end; 8) 24 Bee brush with soft bristles; 9) 24 Smokers in stainless steel with guard; 10) 24 Air tight buckets (re-sealable 20 liter); 11) 24 Beekeeping guide books; 12) 6 Honey press in food grade stainless steel (250mm diameter) with straining sieve bag; and 13) 12 Weighing scales (100 kg capacity). Each of the beneficiaries received 10 hives and at least one of piece of basic production accessories, including bee suits, honey jars, hive tool, bee brush, gumboots, smokers; and airtight re-sealable buckets. In addition, catcher boxes, honey press and weighing scales were also delivered to the farmers for sharing under their umbrella association of KANYACODA.
- *Crop enterprise:* A total of 1,350 kg of groundnuts were distributed to 80 households while 129 households benefitted from 1,400 kg of beans. Also, a total of 187 sacks of cassava cuttings (NASE 14 variety) were distributed to 138 beneficiary households. This variety was preferred because it is high yielding, mosaic resistant and drought resistant. As such, it is a good choice for promoting food security and household incomes.
- *Cummulative yield and income:* The total cumulative yields of these crops over the project period were as follows: 47,410 kg of ground nuts and 69,200 kg of beans. For cassava, an estimate of 10 tonnes were realized during two harvests. Of these harvests households averagely consumed 50% of the harvests and sold the remaining 50% from which the estimated income worth UGX 187,420,000 (€ 44,623.80) was generated as follows: UGX 84,820,000 (€ 20,195.23) from groundnuts, UGX 86,500,000 (€ 20,595.23) from beans, UGX 2,500,000 (€ 595.23) from cassava flour, UGX 6,600,000 (€ 1,571.43) from the sale of 220 bags of cuttings; and another UGX 5,200,000 (€1,238.09) from the sale of 260 kg of honey while UGX 1,800,000 (€ 428.57) from the sale of four (4) goats.
- *Pass-on-the-Gift (PoG):* From the increments on each enterprise each season, PoG for each enterprise was given to the next 426 beneficiaries. Cassava with a different sequence given its long rotation in the garden was harvested twice and thus, PoG of 460 bags of cuttings was passed on to a total of 153 beneficiary households. A total of 654 kg of groundnuts was passed on to 131 beneficiaries while 1,115 kg of beans was passed on to 111 beneficiaries. For the goats, a total of 31 beneficiaries benefited from a corresponding number of goats.

In 2019, a total of 26 farmers comprising 11 executive members, and 12 forest monitors and 3 church leaders were trained in market linkages, business management and marketing skills. The church leaders are respectively their advisor and mentors in the community that are being looked up to as models in their community. In addition, in the same year, a total of 19 Village Health Teams (VHTs) including 2 females formed an active Village Savings and Scheme (VSLA); The KANYACODA executive of 11 members (9 males and 2 females) and 12 village representatives (10 males and 2 females) corresponding to the 12 target villages started with one village of Rwengabi as a successful pilot but hoping to expand to the other villages upon lessons learned. Additionally, in 2019, a total of 22 leaders (18 males, 4 females) were trained and equipped with knowledge in group dynamics, leadership, collective marketing and basic bookkeeping. Objectives of the trainings were to enable the leaders:

- Understand the dynamics and benefits of working in groups.
- Appreciate the importance of record keeping.
- Acquire basic knowledge and skills in financial management and be able to keep basic records and books of accounts to enhance financial prudence for their Associations.



- Acquire basic knowledge, traits and skills required in the leadership and management of their Associations.
- Acquire basic knowledge and skills in business and collective/group marketing to ensure commercial sustainability to their Associations.

Meanwhile in 2018 and 2019, a total of at least 36 apiculture participants (29 males and 7 females) including forest monitors were trained in production technology. Some specific topics covered in the trainings include: 1) Beekeeping equipment and usage; 2) Colony division and unification; 3) Bee forage establishment; 4) Apiary management practices; 5) Apiary lay out; 6) Beehive installation and inspection; 7) Types of beehives and how to make them; and 8) Bee biology. A refresher training was also conducted to a total of 66 goat farmers (51 males and 15 females) in Kasenene Parish focusing on improved husbandry practices. In addition, all goats were effectively dewormed, and prophylactics (Berenil) were administered to all throughout the project period. Prophylactics including Berenil, are medicines administered to the goats as a preventive solution to possible/common disease infections.

In 2018, 241 households engaged in crop husbandry; and 54 households engaged in livestock husbandry practices. Traditional farming practices still dominate the community of 2,784 HHs across the target villages. However, farmers of groundnuts and beans seem to have already mastered the technology and used to the recommended husbandry practices and as such do not demand any trainings and advisory services. In addition, a total of 19 Village Health Teams (VHTs) including two females formed an active Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). Meanwhile, in 2018, Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) were trained to scale-up technology adoption among the farming community.

In providing the start-up kits for farmers, the project used two distinct, but complementary, approaches to diversify livelihoods for the community. The first was the direct distribution of livelihood kits to target beneficiaries; and secondly, scaling up of the livelihood sources through pass-on-the-gift (PoG) scheme. The second approach involves a process whereby the first beneficiaries of a given livelihood kit passes on a portion of his/her first 'harvest/produce/livestock offspring' to another beneficiary who did not benefit the first time of distribution as provided by the KANYACODA constitution. However, given the resource constraint priority was given to households that are conservation champions and/or disadvantaged households along River Waaki and its tributaries.

In 2020, towards the project end and sustainability, a total of 72 households (represented by 49 males and 23 females) were conducted through a refresher training on sustainable enterprises already being practiced by the farmers which seemed economically profitable to them. Using the pair-wise ranking method to select the best enterprises to deal with, farmers had more preference for perennials (coffee, bananas, and cocoa) than annuals given their potential for long-term gains. Among the livestock, piggeries emerged the best choice partly because they are more prolific and better financial gains can be realized in the short-term.

Continuous monitoring of livestock and prophylactic treatment was conducted during the project period. In December 2020, a total of 82 goats were dewormed using Albendazole 10%. This was the first treatment of a routine deworming conducted every three months. Routine livestock monitoring was important and aimed at demonstrating to farmers what was required to have a healthy goat. Notably, without deworming, goats become emaciated, thereby becoming more susceptible to pests and diseases as well as mortality in extreme cases.

Result 5.0: Improved knowledge and awareness of forest and water resource management.

Target 5.1: Biodiversity conservation education imparted in 100% of schools in project area by Year 3.

Towards promoting soil conservation measures and sustainable agricultural techniques



In 2018 following a participatory needs appraisal to determine existing capacities and training needs for vulnerable communities, another appraisal was conducted regarding soil conservation and sustainable agricultural techniques. Subsequently, tailored trainings on promoting sustainable agricultural practices were conducted to a total of 175 members (85 males and 90 females) of KANYACODA focusing among others on preparation and use of organic fertilizers. Organic fertilizers are ecofriendly and do not alter the nature of the soil. Additionally, individuals along River Waki, Budongo Forest Reserve and Ongo Forest Reserve have been encouraged to plant indigenous trees putting in mind not to dig adjacent/near the river or forest; and this has taken effect to the extent of at least 60% of the adjacent households. As a result, at least 70% of the 52 households along River Waki and its tributaries surrounding Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes are now practicing the use of organic fertilizers, mulching, planting of cover crops, rainwater harvesting, digging, and practicing contour farming, all geared to achieving ecological, social, and economic outcomes and overall productivity of the land. These households are also planting cover crops and other sustainable agricultural practices though average parcel size is still low due mainly to limited available land.

In 2020, additional training in the form of a refresher was conducted on soil and water conservation to a total of 40 households (represented by 24 males and 16 females). This focused on mulching, planting, and cover crops, having legumes to will enrich soils with nitrogen, the need for water bunds for the sloppy areas, preparing and adding organic manure, and sensitization to discourage bush burning. Farmers appreciated the activity and were excited to remember the practice using the slogan of *fanya "Ju" and fanya "Chini"* which is used to enhance memory in digging water bunds.

Further, the KANYACODA leadership throughout the period, continued with campaigns to stop bush burning and shifting cultivation practices that destroy soil and forest cover, all geared to achieving ecological, social, and economic outcomes and overall productivity of the land. This was made possible given that within the KANYACODA's executive structure, there is a member responsible for water and soil conservation and performing other cross-cutting roles. This results area related to soil and water conservation was linked to the IWRM plan still in its draft form. Once signed by the political and high level technical DLG leaders, this will serve beyond the bylaws for soil conservation and sustainable agricultural practices consistent with existing national and local policies. Further, the community and Local Government structures to enforce soil conservation and sustainable agricultural practices was incorporated into the draft IWRM Plan that awaits presentation to the political and higher level of the DLGs for adoption.

Result 5.0 Improved Knowledge and awareness of forest and water resource management.

Target 5.1: By 2020 there is a 50% increase in knowledge and awareness of forest and water resource management compared to baseline.

Activity 5: Conduct climate change and forest conservation awareness campaign

5.1 Conduct participatory appraisal to determine existing capacities and training needs for vulnerable communities on longer-term climatic and environmental change.

In 2018, a participatory appraisal to determine existing capacities and training needs for vulnerable communities was conducted through a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to 139 respondents (120 males and 19 females) was conducted to appraise the communities to determine existing capacities and training needs on climate and environmental change. The following key findings were reported:

Climate change meaning and related aspects: Most people understood climate as: 1) a prolonged dry season (16.1%); 2) variations in weather patterns (14.8%); 3) average weather conditions recorded for a short period of time (14.1) and others a long period of time (12.8%); 4) weather worsening from the norm (10.1); 5)



reduction in rainfall and prolonged dry season (8.7%); 6) change in natural setting; and 7) increased change of rainfall and coming erratic rains with hailstones. These results indicate that majority of the residents have some level of understanding of climate change.

Observed weather patterns in project target villages over time: It was acknowledged due to climate change, the people of Kasenene have noticed a number of changes in the weather patterns, climate, way of living of people, and other changes in the behavior of wildlife as told by the people of Kasenene and Nyantonzi Parishes. From the table below all the observations mentioned by the respondents indicate that the climate of the place has changed over time. Respondents further noticed that, reduction in the water levels is also another change observed that local's believe has been exacerbated by climate change. The water levels have greatly reduced; most of the streams and wells have dried up leading to the reduction of water levels available for home use.

In what appears to be an indication of climate change, communities in Kasenene Parish reported that during morning hours, the area used to be covered with fog and daily activities used to start at around 7:30 AM. This has changed and the local communities attribute this to climate change. They further reported that seasons have changed from two to one rainy season in a year. Also, the rains resume later than it used to (a shift from March to April, and even later) with reduced reliability in terms of amount that is even unable to retain soil moisture for a considerable number of days after cessation. Relatedly, this also means prolonged drought that makes the soils and plants (and crops) to dry up faster, resulting in low yields due to low water uptake.

Main source of energy fuel: People in rural areas use energy for heating/cooking. Due to its availability and affordability for poorer populations, wood-based biomass energy remains vital in meeting local energy demands especially for cooking fuel.

According to the survey findings, 94.6% of the respondents use firewood as their main source of energy for cooking with exception of only 2.7% who use charcoal and 2.7% who use electricity. These results indicate that most people depend on biomass for energy in their homes and this has direct negative impacts on community, government, and private forests. Sensitization and promotion of energy saving stoves could be a direct remedy for reducing firewood use in homesteads.

Based on this finding a number of recommendations were made including:

- The fact that increasing stock scarcity (e.g., due to deforestation) coupled with the negative socio-economic and environmental outcomes of inefficient production and consumption technologies make it imperative to identify alternative energy solutions that benefit people without harming the environment.
- Tackling energy poverty is crucial to efforts aimed at meeting sustainable development goals at the household level.
- Interventions aimed at reducing energy poverty must simultaneously seek solutions that might reduce people's carbon footprint. This was noted since carbon footprints, or the amounts of greenhouse gas emissions linked to particular activities, are associated with climate change and its impacts. It also follows that globally, calls have intensified to reduce the carbon footprint of energy use, including the use of biomass fuels.

Understanding forest degradation, deforestation and tree planting and Environmental change: To test the knowledge and understanding of environmental issues within the project target villages, respondents were asked to respond to a set of statements that required them to say whether they were true or false. When asked whether cutting trees destroys animal habitat, a vast majority (98%) of respondents reported that it was true as opposed to a meagre 2% reportedly saying it was false. It was clear that respondents were



generally aware that large scale tree cutting can lead to deforestation, and the apparent need for conservation of forests as a habitat for wild animals. They also recognized that plants create oxygen and absorb greenhouse gases and therefore destruction of trees may, therefore, encourage global warming and changing temperatures can in turn alter composition of organisms in an ecosystem.

Relatedly, another 89.9% of respondents recognized that planting trees reduces the need to utilize natural forests and ensure conservation of the same and this contrasted with 10.1% of the respondents who argued that this was not true. The majority continued that, decreased timber production and quality of timber indicate that forests no longer have the capacity to provide those products. In support of this notion, a resident of Onieni village stated, *“Few years ago there was a lot of timber produced and the quality was of hard wood but nowadays timber is not easy to get and even the quality is not that hard.”*

5.2 Develop an informal education and outreach program, to include targeted education and awareness materials related to local climate change issues.

Following this activity, an informal education and outreach program was developed and conducted to include targeted education and awareness materials related to local climate change issues. Subsequently, an *awareness-raising and a formal project launch meeting was conducted at the district and parish levels*. At the district event, 26 key Masindi District Local Government technical and political leaders attended, of whom five (5) were females. At the parish event, a total of 113 participants (with 19 females) including religious leaders, Local Council I (LC I) Chairpersons, Councilors, and beneficiaries from across the villages attended. Representatives from Masindi District Local Government, Sub County Local Government were also present.

5.3 Disseminate education and awareness materials in the targeted villages in cooperation with local institutions such as schools and local councils.

Following this, the first awareness meetings were conducted in the first quarter of 2020 with a total of 323 community members (107 females and 216 males) in seven (7) of the 12 villages of Kibali, Ejinga, Simba, Bisaju, Onieni, Rwengabi and Ogadra and was completed in November 2020 in the rest of the five (5) villages including Katugo I, Katugo II, Katanga, Onieni, Rwengabi, Ogadra and Ejinga with the objective, *‘Improving environmental knowledge, attitude, and understanding of sustainable forest management practices through environmental education and awareness in community’*. Educational materials including 150 t-shirts with the messages, *‘Save trees and waters sources, we are the guardian of nature’*; and 800 educative posters were printed and distributed to the community during the sensitization program. The topics discussed mostly focused on water conservation, riverine forest protection, conservation, and management, impacts of global warming, and public health altogether. A total of 340 community members (231 males and 109 females) were reached during the sensitization meetings (Table 4. below).

Table 4. Number of Participants Sensitized during Mobile Education per Parish

Parish	Date	Venue	Female	Male	Total	No. of Villages Attended
Nyantanzi	09/11/2020	Katugo 1 C.O.U.	28	35	63	3
Kasenene	10/11/2020	Onieni C.O.U.	13	55	68	6
	11/11/2020	Rwengabi C.O.U.	25	41	66	1
	12/11/2020	Ogadra T.C.	17	57	74	3
	13/11/2020	Ejinga C. Church	26	43	69	2
Total			109	231	340	15

In addition, a total of 440 households (represented by 320 males and 120 females) were sensitized on water and forestry resources management across the 12 target project villages.



5.4 Monitor the effectiveness of awareness programs.

Effectiveness of the awareness program was continuously monitored throughout the project period. This was done by site visiting and interacting with beneficiaries and stakeholders to understand and assess what happened after conducting awareness and sensitization sessions and comparing their practices and making inferences from beneficiary responses. It could be estimated that over 90% of the target population had knowledge and awareness of forest and water resource management with an over 50% increase compared to baseline. This was assessed from rapid community assessments through interactions with communities as part of validation exercise and on-site assessment of physical change in community practices.

Result 6: Improved access to potable quality sustainable water supply for household us in target community.

Target 6.1: By 2019, there is a 30% increase in people with access and use of safe drinking water.

Target 6.2: 5 new portable water sources developed in target community by year 1.

Activity 6: Develop potable water sources in target area

6.1 Conduct water needs assessment to identify level of water stress in the target villages

In 2018, a participatory water needs assessment was conducted by the District Water Office (DWO) and the community. This was done to confirm the information on community water stress level that had earlier been profiled by the District Water Office (DWO). This effort supported the District Plan for water sources development which faces budget constraints that prevent it from meeting all its objectives. The water springs were protected based on a number of criteria including severe water scarcity, safe water access, population, and water-borne disease risk among others. The development of functional water sources was informed by water needs assessment in the area to identify the level of water stress in the target villages. Subsequently, potential water sources were prioritized, and their water quality assessment conducted.

6.2 Identify potential water sources for prioritization and conduct water quality assessment.

In 2018, five (5) villages of Onieni, Ogadra Lower and upper; and Kibali 1 and 2 with the worst water stress level were prioritized for water sources development through a participatory exercise involving the DWO and community. Analysis of water samples drawn from the identified open water wells showed that the contents had high Colour, Turbidity and Ecoli beyond the acceptable maximum levels recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and therefore unsafe for human consumption. This result was further used to facilitate the decision-making for protection of the identified water sources.

6.3 Develop and renovate at least 5 water sources including spring and shallow wells

In 2018, five (5) water springs were constructed and protected in the priority villages of Onieni, Ogadra Lower and upper; and Kibali 1 and 2.

6.4 Establish water user committees (50% women) and train community members including youth for better management of water sources A total of 55 members of Water User Committee (WUCs)/ Water Sanitation Committee (WSC) members comprising 30 males and 25 females were. Of this number, 35 members (17 females representing 45%) were WSC members, 10 were reserve WSC members while another 10 are artisans who will carry out basic maintenance and repairs of the water sources in case of breakdown. To ensure the functionality of these water sources, five Water and Sanitation Committees (WSCs) consisting of seven members each were established, trained, and equipped with basic maintenance tools. Objectives of the training were:

- To create awareness to the WSC members on effective operation and maintenance of their water sources for sustainable management; and



- To equip the WSC members with skills to facilitate communities to have improved hygiene and sanitation in their homes.

With the above objectives, the following topics were considered for the training:

- Hygiene and sanitation education;
- Roles and responsibilities of WSCs;
- Safe water chain;
- Operation and maintenance;
- Community sensitization and mobilization;
- Management and accountability; and
- Gender and HIV/AIDS main streaming and promotion of improved hygiene and sanitation.

The artisans were selected by the beneficiary community members themselves, trained and equipped with relevant tools to do basic repairs in case of break down. The following were the specific training topics for the artisans:

- Proper use and handling of tools;
- Materials used in construction of the spring wells; and
- Defects that occur on the wells and how to handle them.

6.5 Plant areas around water sources with native tree species to protect them from erosion and provide shading over the water as well as help retain soil moisture.

A total of 3,000 assorted indigenous trees were planted around the five (5) water sources (each planted with 600 assorted tree species) to protect them from erosion, provide shading over the water, and help to retain soil moisture.

With development of water sources, a total of additional 150 HHs have access to safe drinking water from the five (5) protected springs. These are Onieni (516), Ogadra (93) and Kibali (150) HHs. A lot of deficits are still visible in Onieni where additional 366 HHs require at least 12 protected springs. However, the DWO plans to include this in the next DLG planning cycle and to lobby other development partners to fill the gap. At baseline provided by the DWO in 2018, an average of 150 HHs per water source had access to safe drinking water, that is, 759 HHs in total for the five (5) protected springs. On average an increase of 54 HHs (36%) per water source was realized by end of 2020. However, lot of deficits are still visible in Onieni since DWO recommends a water source for 150 HHs and the additional 366 HHs at baseline would require at least 2 protected springs.

Number of people reached directly and indirectly with the project activities

Initially for direct beneficiaries of the project, focus was placed on a total of 2,025 HHs with 10,833 people in nine target villages of Onieni, Rwengabi, Bisaju, Simba, Ogadra, Kibali, Byasiko, Abangi and Ejinga villages in Kasenene parish, and another 261 HHs with 1,305 people in Nyantonzi Parish (Nyantonzi, Rwentale II and Katugo II villages). These are immediately close to River Waaki. Similarly, additional five (5) villages were added to the initial project list considering their closeness to River Waaki. Therefore, in terms of the catchment protection through restoration planting and natural regeneration, as well as the creation of the IWRM plan, all the villages became direct beneficiaries. However, during implementation it became critical as the River Waaki is a transboundary resource between Masindi and Hoima Districts as well as Bulisa District downstream. Accordingly, one IWRM plan was drafted focusing on the first two Districts. Therefore, through the assessments made, the River Waaki riparian and catchment villages in Hoima District eventually became potential beneficiaries of the plan development.

As shown in the summary Table 1. below, a total of 11,114 beneficiaries were reached with project activities for this reporting period. Of these, the direct beneficiaries were 7,678 while the remaining 3,783 were indirect beneficiaries.

**Table 2. Summary of Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries of the Project by Category**

No.	Activity	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries	Total Beneficiaries	Comment
1	Enterprise selection	167	45	212	Initial meeting to introduce and select enterprises. Indirect beneficiaries were mainly from across River Waaki.
2	Water sources development	750	3,045	3,795	Each protected water spring supports up to 150 people, but the village populations are bigger, thus supporting an additional 3,045 people.
3	Crop husbandry training and supplies	742	177	572	This includes 347 in year 1 and 395 in years 2 and 3 who benefited from PoGs. An additional 177 beneficiaries were reached through ToTs
4	Livestock training and supplies	85	39	124	85 direct beneficiaries, 4 suppliers from the neighboring Kasongoire parish and 1 transporter as well as non-targets (that is, comprising those initially not selected but interested in the training and includes those from across R. Waaki).
5	Seedling beneficiaries	409	23	432	4 seedling beneficiaries from neighboring Nyantonzi and Kasongoire parishes; 2 transporters and 17 beneficiaries on the Hoima side of R. Waaki. The direct beneficiaries are target recipients of seedlings and indirect ones are those outside the project target area plus those who supported the availability of seedlings.
6	Apiculture	24	12	36	Of this number only 24 received equipment, tools & supplies
7	Training in the use of organic fertilizers	156	19	175	Farmers trained to convert wastes from farmland into organic fertilizer to boost nutrients
8	Training in soil and water conservation	40	56	96	Indirect beneficiaries from neighbouring parishes and across River Waaki
9	Sensitization on water and forest resources management	440	66	506	Indirect beneficiaries from neighbouring parishes and across River Waaki
10	Training in sustainable agricultural practices	175	43	218	Indirect beneficiaries from neighbouring parishes and across River Waaki
11	Training in tree planting and natural regeneration	346	0	346	Target planters who had expressed interest in planting additional tree
12	Group dynamics and financial management	24	0	24	KANYCODA leadership trained in various aspects of group dynamics and financial management



13	Village Savings & Loan Scheme	19	0	19	Participated in training supported to complement the project work
14	Training of Forest Monitors	17	0	17	Training in Survey 123 to replace the use of ODK.
15	Community sensitization and awareness on the need for IWRM	1,805	0	1805	Mobilizing communities for initial data
16	IWRM plan drafting	24	0	24	Stakeholders who participated in drafting of the IWRM plan
17	Community engagement on IWRM	1,345	0	1,345	Collecting feedback information from community
18	ToTs trained	54	0	54	Trained in various enterprises
19	Annual General meeting (AGM)	111	0	111	Successful conducted. Also, 11 new Executive members were elected.
20	Training in tree planting and management training	346	0	346	A total of 346 tree farmers (133 females and 271 males) planted seedlings
21	Education and awareness	618	239	857	From across the target villages
	Total	7,678	3,783	11,461	

RISKS/ STEERING MEASURES (IF APPLICABLE)

- Once the draft IWRM plan gets approved by the political and higher level technical DLG staff and adopted as a working document, it commits communities including KANYACODA towards sustainability of the reforestation/restoration efforts of 115 ha of Ongo, Tengele and Bineneza community forests;
- The institutional framework for the IWRM plan for Kasenene and Nyantonzi parishes was established with three DLGs of Hoima and Bulisa as key stakeholders and implementers;
- The proportion of women, youth and disadvantaged in the project is likely to shift upwards above the current 26% with the establishment of the IWRM committee whose membership will comprise all these categories;
- Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) have been retrained and new ones trained to scale-up technology adoption based on emerging challenges among the farming community. Using the locally trained ToTs that are trusted by the communities helps to expedite adoption.

However, it is key to note that changing rainfall patterns due to apparent climate change effects is a constant challenge that negatively impacts project planning for activities that follow seasonal calendars for example, tree planting and agricultural cropping. As a remedial action, a number of the activities determined by season were brought forward to the first season which usually has a more reliable rainfall intensity and distribution.

4. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED/CHANGES IN EXTERNAL SITUATION

- Emerging economic opportunities, including the increase in number of agro-companies in the project area seemed to provide quicker options for would be interested communities and this in some way continued to challenge implementation especially when farmers began to compare the rates of return and the payback periods of various enterprises. There is hope for remedial action once the draft IWRM plan is passed and approved as a working document with prescriptions for all actors including these industries to embrace.



- With sugarcane growing, bees for an alternative to insufficient floral pollen materials continue foraging on molasses and juices from cut sugarcane before it is collected. As in previous cases in other sugarcane growing areas, over time this may affect the quality of honey as it begins to have the taste of sugar molasses. This is likely to get worse with time as sugarcane growing is increasing to the point where it covers much of the area, thereby further reducing floral materials for honey. However, following additional trainings, farmers were able to integrate other melliferous plants in their apiaries in addition to supplementary feeding and watering to improve beehive productivity (and quality).
- While the community was all embracing of the project, the influx of agro-companies in the area especially the new sugar factories, was a strong agricultural competitor. These take up a lot of the land within the target catchment and could as well have negative spillover effects as sections of the communities began to realize the short-term financial opportunities from growing sugarcane as opposed to the returns from the long-term rotation of the indigenous planted trees. This slows down the uptake of tree planting and will continue to require continuous sensitization.
- With adverse changes in weather patterns, especially unpredictable rainfall, there was relatively poor performance of some of the agricultural crops provided (especially groundnuts). The bad weather also facilitated the onset of groundnut mosaic virus that negatively impacted productivity and yield.
- While the IWRM plan development has reached the final draft stage with even full participation of the District Local Governments (DLGs) of the three riparian districts of Hoima, Masindi and Bulisa, further progress and implementation is likely to be constrained by budgetary issues in the DLG's line departments. Accordingly, the operationalization of the IWRM plans may be constrained by the lack or inadequate funding at the Local Government (LG) level since this may not be over-masked by competing priority activities.

However, the District planners and other technical staff from the three participating DLGs as representatives of their respective Districts during the planning process have provided hope for inclusion of IWRM in the annual budget planning process.

Throughout the post-project phase, JGI together with DWO will also continue to support additional water sources in the future and through a successor project to fund support initial implementation of the IWRM plans once the policy review by MoWE is completed.

5. COOPERATION/NETWORKING

- Masindi District Local Government (DLG): Through the District Forestry Services (DFS), the DLG provided training assistance for tree planters as well as the identification of additional planting sites to augment their tree planting requirement in Ongo, Ewafala, Ensuvura and Motokayi which they had no budget for;
- Both the DLG and Sub County LG remained supportive of the project and were always willing to participate in every phase of it. However, they were under-resourced to provide adequate technical support in form of technical backstopping and monitoring as they often requested for funding from the project that did not have such a budget line;
- Community members have initially had low interest to participate in tree nursery work as they prefer to participate in the more lucrative tobacco growing activities which give them quick returns in the short-term. However, the completion and adoption of the IWRM plan now in draft form, will compel them to embrace tree planting as a District-wide policy requirement;
- Community participation in tree nursery was also low because of preference of fast-growing exotic tree seedlings like pine and/or eucalyptus species that the project was unable to supply as



constrained by contractual obligations with the donor to grow only indigenous tree species. There is a continued and heightened need for fast growing exotic trees to supply the additional and emerging community demand. Notably though, community nursery members having sold seedlings in 2018, interest continue to develop in it. In addition, farmers are now aware of the growing benefits of trees especially from potential carbon finance in the future. However, JGI will continue to explore alternative funding sources to support this cause.

▪ **Other Organizations: Synergies, Information Exchange, Etc.**

Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH): In 2018, JGI worked with CTPH as their work complemented JGI activities in Budongo Subcounty, including in the parishes of Nyantonzi and Kasenene. CTPH with funding from the Darwin Initiative implemented the project titled, '*Can health investments benefit conservation and sustainable development?*' which evaluated the CTPH conservation model over the past ten years. The project strived to promote conservation by enhancing community reproductive health - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices, as well as livelihood promotion. JGI, as a sub-grantee of this project, did most of the livelihood promotion activities. Through this one-health approach to conservation, a total of 19 Village Health Teams (VHTs) were trained in goat shed construction, goat management, and each was given a pure Boer goat and assorted drugs. In addition, the VHTs were formed into a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLAs) that were empowered to contribute funds for loans and savings. While this one-health approach supports both community and wildlife health to achieve holistic socio-economic and conservation goals concurrently, the VSLAs also enhances the team to continue working together and so ensures sustainability.

Supporting integration of the community-led forest monitoring initiative into National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in five (5) Parishes in Hoima District, Uganda, funded by Food and Agricultural organization of the United Nations (UNFAO): Through this project, the 12 FMs were trained in the use of Survey 123 which is linked to ArcGIS online. This has the advantage of less editing and cleaning; yet the software also provides an opportunity for quick statistical analysis which was not available with ODK. All tree planting data was effectively migrated to the survey 123 data base which is a more robust platform.

African Biodiversity Conservation Group-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (ABCG-WASH) Project funded by USAID: This phase of the project-built capacity of the District Local Government (DLG) broadly to ensure the governance of WASH and freshwater conservation. This was important in ensuring sustainability of the water infrastructure work done in the five (5) villages in year one of this project.

Community Reforestation & Tree Nursery Project, funded through the Jane Goodall Institute-Austria: The project with the specific objective of establishing three decentralized tree nurseries to help farmers raise tree seedlings according to their needs, thus producing better quality and cheaper seedlings. In addition, nursery skills are disseminated, thus reducing future dependence on centralized production at a private supplier. As a complimentary support, the project delivered through KANYACODA that was established by the Growing Together Project, it mobilized a total of 340 participants (231 males, 109 females) representing an equivalent number of households from the 12 target villages under Growing Together Project. This was in addition to training a total of 130 (32 females, 98 males) trainees representing 130 households from the three nurseries in nursery bed establishment and Management. Further, the project also supplied a total of 40,000 assorted indigenous tree seedlings, including *Maesopsis eminii*, *Prunus africana*, Mahogany spp, *Mitigyna stipulosa*, *Milicia excelsa*, *Cordia africana*, Albizia spp and Terminalia spp. to 326 planters including the 12 villages of Nyantonzi and Kasenene parishes.

Environmental Conservation Trust (ECOTRUST): Support to Ongo Forest Community Forest with additional trees for planting was also provided by ECOTRUST. In addition, it created an opportunity for the farmers to benefit from potential carbon finance from the trees planted. Carbon financing is hoped to provide a good and sustainable incentive for tree planting especially for the long rotation indigenous species planted by the



community since they begin to realize returns early as opposed to waiting for the trees at maturity. However, the fund was limited and therefore still inaccessible to many tree planters, but it was important for the community knowing about this potential. The criteria for choosing beneficiary tree owners were also not very clear but noting this as a challenge, ECOTRUST was headed for a revised modality.

Environmental Education and Roots & Shoots funded by Disney: The effort to improve public awareness and understanding of the environment and the plight of great apes and their forest habitats with a view to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources among the adjacent communities was funded by Disney. A successful environmental sensitization was conducted on three main topics: woodfuel consumption, forest degradation and water catchment management. The construction of energy efficient cooking stoves was demonstrated to 209 participants in three villages of Kibali – 80 (42 males and 38 females), Onieni – 68 (37 males and 31 females) and Ejinga – 61 (26 males and 35 females), all in Kasenene parish, between 30th April and 2nd May 2019. This aimed at empowering community members with skills to construct energy saving stoves within their respective homes as an alternative to reduce on over-consumption of wood fuel (forest exploitation), reduction of chances to interact with wildlife which may otherwise result into conflicts and contraction of zoonotic diseases in protected areas.

From this activity, it was clear the response and the desire to have energy saving stoves is very strong among the community most especially women who are the sole users of these stoves, therefore turn up for the meeting was very encouraging; women attended the training in large numbers and they were very keen and active in learning, as a result so far 59 new stoves have been constructed since from the time of training to date and the number is still increasing. It is expected that all households shall be having energy saving stoves by the end of this year 2019. The following is the breakdown of stoves constructed per village: Kibali (19), Onieni (30), and Ejinga (10). Despite all the achievements, however, there is still a very strong traditional belief among men that placed the responsibility of kitchen utilization in total hands of women and therefore, they associated the activity with women, and this resulted into low turnout among men.

A baseline survey of these respondents (105 males and 104 females) was also carried out on livelihoods of the people living in the respective villages reached. In addition, all the stove demonstration sites were georeferenced to aid development of map for the villages reached during the training and sensitization.

Environmental Education and Roots & Shoots Program funded by Sorger Bakery: The primary focus of the program is girls' empowerment with the overall goal of supporting girls in their critical period of growth, in view of mitigating drop-out and ensuring retention in primary schools within Budongo-Bugoma Forest Corridor. Specific objectives of the project were: to support girls with basic sanitation facilities and scholastic materials in their schools as a way of increasing their retention in school; to increase family, peer, and community awareness and support of girls' education; and to equip girls and teachers with knowledge on sexual reproductive health and menstrual hygiene management. This was done through the peer-to-peer education trying to reduce the gap in levels of knowledge and enhance adoption of practices through peer to peer interaction; distribution of re-usable sanitary towels and menstrual hygiene care to girls in poverty-stricken communities. These efforts aim at increasing girls' enrolment, retention, and completion rates of girls in focal school and in turn, reduce their reproductive years vis-à-vis a family control method for reduced population that over time, is all expected to reduce pressure on wildlife habitats.

A community sensitization meeting targeting teachers, students, parents, and local leaders in the target villages were conducted on menstrual hygiene management and the need for girls' education. The education team worked with mentor teachers and parents to conduct community outreach through speaking in churches and parents' meetings about the importance of girls' education and providing them needed support to enhance their stay in school. A total of three primary schools including Karongo, Nyantonzi and Siiba were reached with modesty kits (bag, reusable sanitary pads i.e., each packet contains 3 maxi pads + 1 super maxi pad + 1 carrying pouch which are used for one year; and four under wears), books, pen and pencils as summarized in Table 4. below:

**Table 5. Number of items received by each school**

	Primary School	Kits	Pens	Pencils	Books
1	Karongo Primary School	12	120	300	192
2	Nyantanzi P/S	15	120	300	192
3	Siiba P/S	16	120	300	192
	Total	43	360	900	576

Following recommendations from this activity, as a long-term measure, a more sustainable model, which entails training girls and women to make sanitary pads themselves using materials sourced from Ugandan markets, rather than giving them finished products was preferred. This implies that the locally produced modesty kits would cost much cheaper than the commercially produced ones which have previously been provided to the girls. Target girls and women will be provided hands on training on how to independently make, clean and care for reusable sanitary pads. This will improve girls' access to cost effective, sustainable, affordable, and eco-friendly menstruation hygiene management sanitary pads. These re-usable pads are made of absorbent cotton fabric material which is durable and holds up well to washing.

**Figure 1. Girls Pose with the Roots & Shoots teacher/patron after receiving sanitary kits and scholastic materials**

- **Local Authorities/Ministries: Policy Level Coordination, Lobbying, Etc.**
 - *Budongo Sub County Local Government.* This worked with the project to train and mentor the community groups. While monitoring activities of KANYACODA the Local Government through its relevant department provided guidance and added extension, education, and advisory services to farmers under the association especially on the livelihood enterprises (goats and crops)
 - The DLG (both technical and political leadership) with support of the project, spearheaded and supported the development of the IWRM for Waaki catchment protection. In this reporting period, the three District Local Governments of Masindi, Bulisa and Hoima that jointly development of this



plan. Representatives of the District Local Governments in the plan development process also considered as key, some of the activities in the six-year draft IWRM for inclusion in their annual planning process

- Meanwhile, in recognition of the work so far done on the IWRM plan development, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) through the coordination office for the Albertine Catchment Management Zone has had discussions with JGI to consider drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JGI for Albertine Water Catchment Zone upon a review of the draft IWRM Plan after the new policy guidelines from the Government of Uganda (GoU).

6. SUSTAINABILITY

▪ **Specific Capacity Building Measures So Far Undertaken**

With additional support from Budongo Sub County LG, the project in 2018 facilitated the establishment of a local community Based organization (CBO) from the two target parishes of Kasenene and Nyantonzi into Kasenene-Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Association (KANYACODA). With a set of by-laws, registered with the Sub County Local Government as a legal entity for project implementation it was the vanguard for implementation. The leadership of the CBO spanned all the 12 project villages and was structured on the lines of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary; and Committee members for water use, animal husbandry/livestock, agricultural crops; and forestry. Other members of the leadership team included the Disciplinary Committee, Village Representatives, and Forest Monitors. With the following objectives, these were trained in institutional management and all aspects of leadership, group dynamics and financial management to be able to carry on the task of the project within the CBO guidelines:

- To promote good agricultural practices for improved income;
- To conserve forests and wetlands;
- To ensure sustainable development through savings and loan schemes;
- To sensitize community on good health and hygiene practices;
- To promote efficient energy saving practices;
- To avail clean water to the community by protection of water sources; and
- To conduct environmental awareness campaigns.

KANYACOA election: Towards the end of this reporting period following expiry of the term of office of the various office bearers, Kasenene-Nyantonzi Conservation and Development Association (KANYACODA) was facilitated to elect a new set of executive members holding different offices within the CBO. Key in this leadership change was the replacement of the Chairperson with a new one. However, no additional changes were made, and the association was happy and felt more motivated with the change that seemed to promise a lot of positive outcomes

Livelihood enterprise and PoG: Some livelihood enterprises kits were given out to first time beneficiaries. Also, the PoG mechanism helped farmers who had missed out on these technologies as they were given out to the primary beneficiaries to gain access to these livelihood kits.

Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) training: A total of three ToTs with all the KANYACODA executive members were trained in Bulindi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (BUZARDI) in all livelihood enterprises: crop husbandry, animal husbandry, and apiculture management.

Discernable Sustainable Impact on the Local Environment

- Reduced catchment degradation as a result of increased knowledge and awareness through conservation education in schools and communities. This was an activity that aimed to deliberately inculcate a



conservation-friendly culture in the communities beginning with the young generation slated to become the determinants of tomorrow's environmental future.

- Tree planting and natural regeneration within the catchment through the supply of an assortment of seedlings, tailored trainings, and establishment of community nurseries to enable communities continue even now with planting, as there is high demand for trees to supply needed wood requirements and the environmental services.
- Promoting improved energy technology in the community by training Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) spanning all the 12 target villages. This effort aims to scale-up technology outreach even post-project. Meanwhile, this low cost and easy to run technology has the potential of reducing wood fuel use by at least 50%. This implies that vegetation cover can be conserved to a great extent by this amount. Additionally, the households have more time to engage in other socio-economic activities, and so, have a lot of options available for their livelihoods rather than largely being forest dependent.
- More community members are now practicing conservation-friendly activities, including reduced incidents of bush fires in the dry season. This was partly the result of effective conservation education, as well as trainings in soil conservation and natural resources management.
- With growing interest in tree planting there was increased forest regeneration and community planting. Also, most of the community members stopped practicing unsustainable activities at the fringes of forests and streams.

ADC CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

▪ **Poverty Reduction**

- The project through provision of assorted livelihood improvement assets aims to create an economic incentive for communities to conserve the catchment forests. Notably, communities that have installed apiaries at forest fringes can no longer deliberately set these areas on fire since this would as well destroy their investment in which they have put some effort time. This livelihood assets help to diversify household food security options and incomes for participating households thereby contributing to poverty reduction.
- The integration of the VSLA scheme is a promising alternative enterprise that can significantly contribute to enhancement of community household incomes and also increase their purchasing power.

▪ **Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights**

- The participatory and inclusionary approach to the project involving all segments of the community in key decision-making and activity undertaking works to foster democracy and human rights. The project recognized the inclusion of the most disadvantaged households of the elderly, youths, women, and girls as key beneficiary groups to realize some equity.

▪ **Inclusion of Disadvantaged Groups Such as Children, Elderly Persons, with Disabilities**

- The inclusion of disadvantaged groups has been a key concern for this project. With specific focus on women participation, the project recognized beneficiary participation according to gender. For example, beneficiaries of all livelihood kits including livestock and agricultural crops were trained at the household level to ensure shared responsibility and ownership over the newly acquired livelihood asset. In this way, both the man and woman in the house were involved in order to ensure a long-lasting impact.
- The VSLA is an example of women empowerment with majority women in membership. Also, through this initiative, many youth, women, and girls were able to participate in many of the project activities.
- Through Roots & Shoots activities, the girl child is empowered to take action regarding her menstrual hygiene, reproductive health, economic and sound environmental management. Equally, through



peer-to-peer learning the girls are collectively encouraged to remain in school thus, building their capacity to make sound decisions about their life as they aim to become responsible future leaders. Additionally, the parents especially mothers have been sensitized alongside their girl children so that together, they learn the opportunities available for them and be able to nurture them into responsible leaders.

Gender

- In the water sources developed, at least 50% of each of the five Water and Sanitation Committees (WSCs) women was as required by both UNICEF standards and the Water Act in Uganda. Similarly, at least two women were provided for on the leadership structure of KANYACODA. While the number could be more, there are cultural barriers that do not permit women's full participation and hence even with project mobilization, the uptake is still lower than optimal.
- There is a growing participation of women in tree planting activities which were initially a no-go area for women were often considered landless. This points to the fact that households are getting to consider the plight of women in conservation and how they are affected negatively by the mismanagement of natural resources.

To illustrate this, there was an incident involving two women (one being expectant) trying to fetch fuelwood from a tree stump in a degraded plot in a swamp in Nyantonzi Parish. She lost it to the other who claimed the land, and therefore the wood, was hers. This was one of the unfortunate experiences the women and young children were going through to get forest products, including fuelwood. They must cover long and exhausting distances alone, made worse by having to walk further and further to collect them given the increasing level of resource scarcity. For such reasons, community members (especially women) are beginning to advocate during meetings for support in the planting of fast-growing, exotic trees to provide quick access to some forest products. This would, in turn, reduce pressure associated with the harvesting of forest products from indigenous trees in naturally regenerating forest plots. The attack of children by Chimpanzees also results from stress chimpanzees faced from high numbers of people allowed into forests in specific days in a week. With COVID-19, the new normal may increase the risks of attacks and disease exchange between people and chimpanzees.

Environment

- Environmental conservation is one the core considerations of this project. Implementing this development project with an environmental view helped to demonstrate that conservation and socio-economic development can harmoniously take place together. This view considers that a sound environment which is not threatened provides a premise for socio-economic development. For example, tree planting helps to restore soil productivity. Also, agricultural productivity increases through reduced human-wildlife conflicts over crops and human live. In addition, environmental and conservation education helps to create opportunity for human-wildlife co-existence. These aspects were continuously highlighted to the communities and other stakeholders during the project lifetime.
- Increased interest and participation in tree planting towards sustainable supply of resources in the future while safeguarding the existing natural resources is achieved.
- The planned consideration by the three Districts of Masindi, Hoima and Bulisa to integrate IWRM in all sectoral and fiscal planning will aim to increase responsibility over natural resource management.
- Soil and natural resources management got rooted in the community following sensitization and awareness creation. Already, there was the reduced incidence of bush fire, and use of organic fertilizers and mulching. Other sustainable agricultural practices were also on the rise.



7. MONITORING/EVALUATION

The DLG, as an interested party, provides both the political and technical support to the project. They participated in monitoring the project especially the tree planting component and the beneficiary selection of both trees and enterprises. Additionally, they provided continuous feedback and guidance on the path of the project.

The beneficiary community through the local CBO, also provided timely feedback and guidance on the project implementation. Key among these include planting time for both agricultural crops and assorted trees in the riparian areas.

Throughout the project period, the Forest Monitors (FMs) provided real time data with geo-references for implemented activities. The FMs monitored the performance of tree on planted sites as well as the placement and performance of different livelihood enterprises. The feedback from monitoring by FM was provided to the project management and also locally to the CBO for actions.

Finally, an external auditor was hired to validate the budget performance to ascertain the essence of value for money for the accomplishments in the reporting period. Through this engagement, the following lessons were learned:

- The information and recommendations from previous audit helped to refine thinking and implementation of both project proponents and beneficiaries for better delivery of results. For example, in the last years, it was easy to conduct refresher trainings for ToTs and some of the enterprises to enhance performance;
- Some beneficiary households were never vigilant in providing necessary information to KANYACODA or project staff in a timely manner to help manage their enterprises. It was necessary to fully hand over key challenging enterprise like livestock to relevant DLG departments for continued support;
- Some beneficiaries were reluctant to contribute own financial investment in basic inputs including livestock drugs and this caused concern if they would sustain enterprises post-project. This was one of the reasons for continued technical support from DLG;
- New project insights were realized from the end of project audit, many of which are informative and positive recommendations;
- The project was periodically presented to the District Technical Planning Committee (DTPC) as a way of generating useful insights to continuously inform implementation. This interaction provided opportunity for new insights into next phase of project as well as helping to gather information on new opportunities;
- Continued collaboration and working with the DLG ensured the sustainability of programs once project funding ends since they already knew how, where, and why the project was implemented. It was also possible for the DLG to prioritize some of the continuing activities in their annual development plans; and
- Working closely with the DLG and the Sub County Local Government ensures the project was delivered within their District Development Plan and this level of engagement should be recommended in all future projects.

8. PUBLIC AWARENESS RAISING LOCALLY AND IN AUSTRIA

• Campaign Growing Together in Uganda:

Public awareness of the work/support of ADA was promoted all through the messaging on climate change and forest conservation during awareness campaigns conducted in the 12 target villages. A total of 323 community members were reached in Year 1 with key messages on the themes: *'Let's save our home and*



combat climate change’; and *‘Stop cutting down trees, you are killing our future’*. The ADA logo is highlighted on a banner that is used in all the meetings and workshops.

- **ADA recognized by Dr. Jane Goodall for its support of climate work in Uganda:**

Mr. Engelits Guenter the Counsellor of the Coordination Office for Development Cooperation, Austrian Embassy in Uganda attended a moderated interaction between select media and social personalities, donor agencies conservation experts and other concerned stakeholders with Dr. Goodall. The function was held on June 8th, 2018 at the Mestil Hotel in Kampala. The symposium was attended by 144 people of the 180 people that were invited. The level of attendance and participation in the event was very positive and it was covered extensively by local media and social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram.

During this event, several stakeholders were awarded and recognized for their efforts in conservation and working with JGI-Uganda. Mr. Engelits Guenter, received a certificate from Dr. Jane Goodall on behalf of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

- **Campaign Growing Together in Austria:**

In Austria, apart from informing about the project on our website, on social media and in our newsletter, JGI-Austria has focused on educating youth about the significance of forests as living spaces, as well as their climate regulation functions.

An information package has been created that includes background information, lesson plans, games and ideas for activities and was ordered by 1445 pedagogues (673/2018, 482/2019, 290/2020).

JGI-Austria encouraged teachers to start an activity with their school groups and received reports about 160 projects that were implemented around the International Day of Forests on 21st of April (62/2018, 73/2019, 25/2020).

- **List of links:**

News article youth campaign “Growing Together”: <https://janegoodall.at/aktiv-fur-den-wald-2/>

Education material for pedagogues: <https://janegoodall.at/kids-teens/zusammenwachsen/>

Photos projects “Growing Together”: <https://janegoodall.at/aktiv-am-tag-des-waldes/>

<https://janegoodall.at/zusammenwachsen2020/>

<https://janegoodall.at/das-war-zusammenwachsen-2020/>

Project description: <https://janegoodall.at/was-wir-tun/aufforstung/projekte/#zusammenwachsen>

9. LESSONS LEARNT/OUTLOOK

▪ Experience from Project Implementation

- The focus on corridor restoration using the long rotation indigenous tree species was over-stated as the community needs for fuelwood, and other timber products, is on the rise. It is the view that some proportion of tree planting be relegated to exotic, fast growing and or agro-forestry tree species to supply these short-term needs. In the absence of this option, the community tend to cut down the trees planted before full maturity to supply their immediate demands. It is apparent therefore that the conservation goals cannot be realized easily through planting of the indigenous trees only.
- For decentralized community nurseries, communities mobilized to work at the village level is ideal because as distance increases away from the nursery bed beneficiaries tend to lose interest in the



nursery activities and therefore as a recommendation, future plans to establish community tree nurseries should be at the village level.

- The multi-stakeholder involvement in the project contributes to a more holistic approach with each stakeholder contributing a part of what the other cannot support and thereby producing a more complete partnership for project implementation. To create a stronger synergy, there was the need to build more partner relationships.
- The LG engagement in the project was very important to provide political and technical support, however limited it might have been. Additionally, with limited government funding, projects need to allocate some budget lines during planning to be able to integrate some limited changes during inception. The emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic also affected project implementation and several adjustments had to be made. Some activities including environmental awareness were delayed to the last quarter of the project as a nation-wide lockdown was declared thus, hampering field activity implementation as per planned schedule. However, with the need for working with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) including guided safety measures, conducting meetings and trainings in shifts of smaller cohorts meant added costs for required logistics, thereby escalating planned budgets. The implementation team both in Uganda and Austria, given the COVID-19 challenge, engaged more frequently through zoom and skype meetings. Also, at the time there was a ban on movements, activity monitoring was made possible by only field-based staff on motorcycles. Meanwhile regular communication with local project partners was possible through phone calls, emails, WhatsApp, and limited face-to-face contacts in some instances.

From this, important lessons were learned during this time:

1) working with Forest Monitors and other community leaders made it possible to implement some activities which were relegated to them within their localities and did not require movements outside those areas in time of the temporary travel ban thus, helping to bridge the gap in implementation, 2) capacity building of the beneficiary communities that also helped them to do things on their own especially when mass aggregation of community members was disallowed, 3) similarly as JGI staff could not make it to the field in that time, the existence of an effective local partner relationship was helpful in doing some of the work that would jointly be done or singly by JGI. The local institutional leadership and Forest Monitors was particularly very key in this, and 4) JGI's holistic approach to projects should be encouraged as each component of the project helps to cushion the negative impacts of eventualities like COVID 19. During this pandemic, the livelihood component continued to provide life support to beneficiary communities in the form of food production and income from sale of agricultural products.

▪ Outlook for Target Groups/ Beneficiaries After Termination of The Project

- Towards ensuring sustainability and enhancing community governance structure, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) was organized at Onieni village in Kasenene Parish. The meeting chaired by Budongo Sub County Community Development Officer (CDO) and co-chaired by the District Commercial Officer (DCO) was attended by a total of 111 members of KANYACODA (58 females and 53 males). The meeting adopted the annual report and also elected 11 new executives (9 males and 2 females) to replace the team whose term had expired.
- KANYACODA has since linked to work with the DLG, private sector and CSOs have consistently demonstrated promise by continuing to work together towards sustainability of activities even post project period. In addition, KANYACODA leaders were trained in leadership and financial management to enable them to sustain the activities of the group post-project in an effective way.
- For sustainability, each village was given nursery equipment for raising their own seedlings and they have continued to perform as trained. The community nurseries continued to raise seedlings for their planting needs and for sale to increase the household incomes of members.
- Members under the community nurseries have used the general knowledge and skills acquired to grow other crops in their backyards.



- A total of 14 (all males) Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) were trained with hands-on skills and knowledge to scale-up agricultural project activities in the community even beyond end of project and target households. This was conducted at the Bulindi Zonal Agricultural Research Development Institute (BUZARDI) on a number of enterprises that KANYACODA promoted including grafting, apiculture, castration, hey/silage making and elementary knowledge on aquaculture. The ToTs will continue with some technical aspects after being weaned. They were trained to identify some common diseases and be able to make reliable recommendations for treatment and other procedures. In this way the ToTs across the target villages, routinely move to the HHs with the livestock to do health checks, offer advisory services and administer treatments. In some cases where they were unable to manage particular issues, they escalated them to the Sub County veterinary Assistants for better handling.

Appendix: Photos



Photo 1: Community members responding to a question during the meeting at Rwengabi C.O.U.



Photo 2: Moses, JGI's Livelihoods Field Assistant addressing the community members at Rwengabi C.O.U.



Photo 3: Farmers being sensitized and prepared for tree planting at Kasenene Church of Uganda.



Photo 4: Farmers being sensitized and prepared to receive and plant seedlings for planting at Kababito Church of Uganda.



Photo 5: Trainers of Trainers receiving training in tree planting management at Onieni Church of Uganda.



Photo 6: Mr. Andama Moses, the trainer, demonstrates how to mark the string with permanent marker to ease spacing of seedlings.



Photo 7: Mr. Andama Moses, the trainer, explains to Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) on the importance of planting healthy seedlings to ensure high survival rates.



PIC 8: ToTs learn on how to make pit holes for seedling planting.



PIC 9: ToTs learn seedling planting and mulching to reduce on loss of moisture from the soil after seedling planting.



Photo 10: ToTs learning how to use a string to plant seedlings in a straight line.