

Project Update: October 2014

As indicated in the June 2014 project updates, tree planting was our main focus during this period of reporting taking into consideration the fact that, the exercise must be carried out only during specific months of the rainy season in order to guarantee the surviving rate of the planted trees. In line with this, the project succeeded to plant out a total of 3,665 tree seedlings belonging to 11 different species in all the four community water catchments. This now brings to a total of 8,120 tree seedlings so far planted since the beginning of the project in an estimated area of 20 ha.



Figure 1 - Community members preparing tree seedlings to be planted at the community watershed



Figure 2 - Participants at the six months evaluation meeting

Other activities were not left out as during this period, 65 community members drawn from all the project communities as well as other stakeholders converged on Kitiwum, one of the project communities in an evaluation meeting to review project achievements/failures within the first 6 months of the project's lifespan and to make recommendations in the next 6 months to better attain project objectives. During the evaluation meeting, participants resolved that in order to ensure project continuation even after funding ceases, they will use the

knowledge and skills learned in tree nursery establishment and management to set up individual tree nurseries where tree seedlings shall be produced and bought by the various community water management committees especially from the sale of honey/by-products to continue reforestation activities in the various communities.

Additionally, the project succeeded to eradicate over 2100 eucalyptus (invasive) trees from two community water catchments. Part of the eradicated eucalyptus was transformed into poles and used to reinforce the fence where tree planting is taking place.

Our environmental education activities in schools, on-farm training and demonstrations on agroforestry are being implemented as planned.



Figure 3 - Youths participating in tree planting activities

In the next couple of months, we shall concentrate on taking care of the planted trees by organising a fire tracing campaign in the various communities as well as harvesting of honey from some bee hives.