

Project Update: December 2015

Introduction

The project implementation started off with activities to achieve forest restoration. A number of activities have been undertaken in Masaka and Mpigi District. These communities included a number of meetings with National Forest Authority (NFA), district officials, CFM groups and community leaders.

Progress Activities

Supporting the formation of environmental groups such as Mpanga Community Environmental Association (MCEA) that is currently fostering forest community work in Mpigi. For example below is the Local Government certificate which resulted from the CFM implementation project:

Below is pictorial which demonstrates one of the community CFM meetings at Mpanga CFR in Mpigi District that Ms Phiona Kansime who has led Community Action Programme (CAP) since the project started. Phiona has worked with Ms Olivia Namutosi who has conducted research on CFM in Mt. Elgon Forest National Park in Eastern Uganda. Olivia is a student of environmental science at Makerere University. She was adopted in the project in order to strengthen and enhance her field capacity.

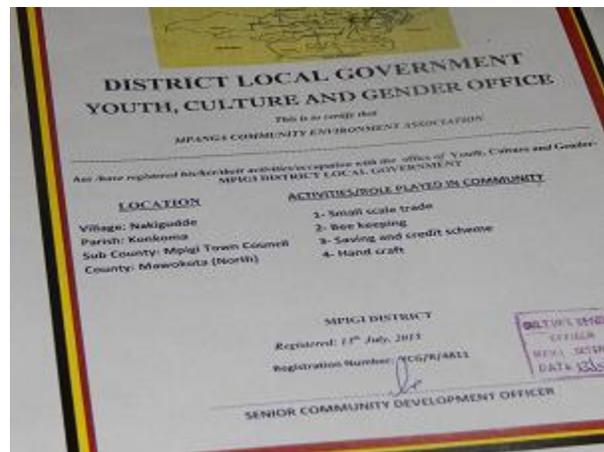


Photo taken by Raymond Katebaka: meeting of Mpanga CFM community leaders Phiona Kansime to the left carrying a handbag and Olivia with a pink blouse to the right.

So far four meetings have been undertaken at each CFR. However one CFM application has been prepared. The application has been sent to the Local Council (V) for approval. There after the application will be forwarded to NFA for further required procedurals and consideration.

In effort to continue with the CFM project, two proposals have been submitted. However, one of the proposals was recommended for north collaborative actions while the other is still undergoing the review.

Field Observations

In central Uganda, CFM practices appears to be a standard for the good governance of forests that will ensure the management of forest-based resources which they harvest guided by the wishes of local communities.

A taxi carrying *Mundia whitei* a climber common in the tropical rain forests. It is mainly extracted from forests in Masaka Town.

M. whitei is commonly used for tooth cleaning, aphrodisiac and freshening breath.



So far the project team has observed that forests and local communities meet, by implementing a CFM standard in which they are avoid risks and generate local ownership around a wide range of forest projects and activities, including carbon trading, ecosystem services and sustainable development.

Photo by Reuben Katwinomugisha: to the right is Phiona Kansiime, followed by Olivia Namutosi, next is Raymond Katebaka (team leader), Doreen Namawaza (AUC) intern and Godfrey Tumuhairwe.



The above pictorial is AUC team on a forest visit Baale CFR in Masaka District to ascertain extent of human activities impact on the forest.



The community meeting organized at Kiwaala T/C one of the communities surrounding Kasonke CFR in Masaka District



Overview of the Kasonke CFR: Tea plantation is located in the adjacent and the indicates the CFR

Kasonke CFR is the most degraded forest of the three project sites.

Planned Projects and Future Activities

Incorporating NFA Business Plan 2009-2014 in the remaining activities.

Two proposals are being developed in collaboration with boundary partners whom their activities boarder with most degraded forests and increase deforestation indirectly in central Uganda for enhancement approaches and restoration.