

Project Update: October 2016

(i) The meetings were attended by the National Forestry Authority (NFA) Sector Manager for Northern Uganda, the Local Council Chairperson III of Agoro Sub County and the Local Council I Chairpersons. Lomwaka Primary School leadership is very optimistic about the project. The Sector Manager emphasised the offense of collecting and selling plants and associated products from forests. The community wondered why foreign individuals collect the plants but do not disclose why they need them.

(II) The nursery bed management committee comprising of 20 members has been fully constituted.

(III) Information posters and leaflets were distributed to the community during the meetings. These were also distributed to NFA regional office and local government offices in Lamwo district for awareness creation.

(IV) The nursery bed management committee is tasked with seed collection for planting.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

The community in August 2016 notified the police of a foreign person who had come to collect the cycads for unclear reasons. The police arrested him but later he manoeuvred his way out BUT without taking any cycads. The community is now well AWARE and KEY in the conservation of *Encephalartos macrostrobilus*.

EMERGING ISSUES

There is need to demonstrate the usefulness of the cycads to the community. This includes among others the scientific analysis of substances in them and how they can earn from the conservation of the cycads. The NFA are working on an MOU with the local community which spells out among other things the potential for ecotourism.

NEXT ACTIVITIES

(i) Radio talk show.

(ii) Nursery bed establishment.



Members holding posters in a group photo after the meeting



A Meeting held under tree shade in Lomwaka A Village



A Community member raising a question during the meeting