

## Project Update: May 2018

### Introduction:

This project phase implementation was initiated in March 2018 and is currently in its second fourth. This is a report of on the updates of the activities that have been conducted between from April 2018 to date.

The following activities have been successfully conducted:-

**i. Agroforestry capacity development and on-site tree nursery establishments for community groups.**

This is one of the focal points of the project. We have been able to successfully conduct 21 on-site training sessions for four target community groups namely: Yala Swamp Conservation group (YASCO), Nyiego Community group, Denge Community group and Friends of Yala Swamp (FoYAS). In all these groups, we have comprehensively capacity built 96 participants and established nine nursery beds in YASCO, FoYAS and Nyiego. These groups have also been equipped with watering cans labelled Rufford and indigenous seeds of the following species: - *Grevillea*, *Moringa*, Kei-apples, *Markhamia* and *Albizia lebeck* which vibrantly started germinating towards the end of last week. Some species like *Grevillea* and *Moringa* have germinated well and their potting will be done this week.

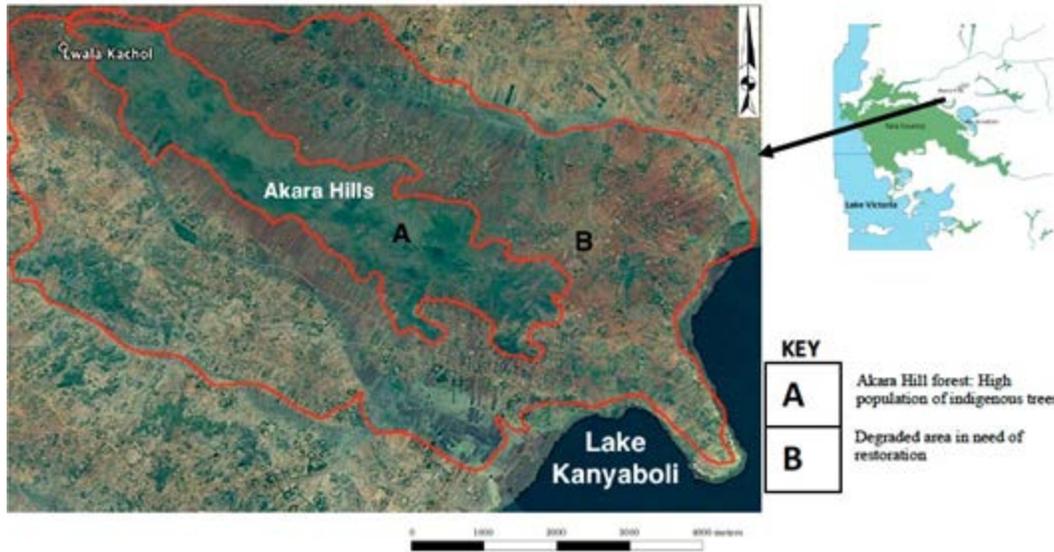
**ii. Community outreaches**

This focuses on the values of Akara forest conservation, roles of humans in its conservation, sustainable harvesting of forest products and value addition integrated with viable alternative livelihoods that can be promoted in the forest. In conjunction with Friends of Yala Swamp CBO, two community outreaches have been conducted for 13 people from Hawinga fishermen, who heavily use Lake Kanyaboli for fishing and the Akara Hills for agricultural production and 10 people from fish farmer group- Rapudo (Ndai).

**iii. Production of Akara Hills Forest Conservation and Agroforestry guide for communities.** To aid in strengthening community education component of the project, a project guide titled "*Tree nursery establishment, tree management and sustainable forest management practices*". This guide has been freely donated to the participating groups and more copies are under production for interested individual forest resource users.

**iv. Akara Hills Forest Geographical Map Production**

A final map for the forest has been produced and is available for use by interested conservationists in word, pdf and jpg formats.



Map showing the zonation of Akara Hills ecosystem (Moses2018)

v. **Project monitoring activities.**

During this period, we have been able to conduct four monitoring activities where we have been able to identify challenges facing the target/participating groups and other activities like nurseries and further developed counter measures to address the problems before escalations. This has been able to make the project look quite successful in most of the already conducted activities.

**Challenges and how they have been addressed:**

- *Damage to nursery beds by heavy rains:* - The nurseries have been stabilised at their boundaries by stacks of bricks and construction of water rain-water (over flow) diversion channels/ terraces.
- *Termites' attacks on nurseries:* - Pesticides has been acquired and effectively administered in all the nurseries to control termites spread and attacks.
- *Presence of heavy rains during this period:-* Activities rescheduled to appropriate times of the day





**Top left:** Community outreach at Hawinga Fish farmers. **Top right:** Mr. Okumu during community outreach at Ndai. **Middle left:** Nyiego group receiving watering can and seeds for their nursery. **Middle right:** RSG labeled watering can. **Bottom left:** Friends of Yala constructing diversion channel for the nursery. **Bottom right:** Germinating seedlings at Nyiego nursery.