

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Jjemba Bonny
Project Title	Enrichment planting to supplement farmer-managed natural regeneration in biodiversity restoration on farmlands of Gogonya Village, Mubende District, Uganda
Application ID	37107-2
Date of this Report	4th December, 2023

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To establish a community tree nursery and raise tree seedlings				A tree nursery of 20 feet long, 10 feet wide and 8 feet high was constructed in Gogonya village with a capacity of 10,000 tree seedlings.
To train farmers in different agroforestry techniques				Five training workshops and seven field demonstrations were conducted in Gogonya to train farmers in agroforestry techniques such as tree nursery operations, tree planting patterns on a farm, tree management practices, species site matching, importance of native trees in biodiversity conservation and others.
To carry-out enrichment planting on selected sites under restoration				We have planted 8097 trees on 31 degraded farmlands in Gogonya Village and adjacent areas. However, we experienced poor germination of African mahogany (<i>Khaya anthotheca</i>), and its planting target of 2000 trees was not fully achieved (we planted only 713 trees of this species).

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a) Before this project, most of the farmers in Gogonya were interested in planting of exotic tree species such as eucalyptus for economic gains. But due to awareness creation through this project, they realised the importance of native tree species in biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement. This has increased the need for planting of native tree species in the area.

- b) The project provided free access to tree seedlings to farmers from Gogonya and adjacent areas. Most of the farmers in the project area can't afford to buy tree seedlings for afforestation and reforestation purposes because they are expensive in private tree nurseries. So, this project addressed that gap.

- c) On this project, we have managed to plant 8097 trees of native tree species on 31 degraded farmlands in Gogonya and adjacent areas. The trees planted are going to provide habitat to different organisms in the area, and they will also

generate products to the local people to reduce pressure on natural forests in the near future.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

- a) We experienced poor germination of *Khaya anthotheca* (African mahogany) seeds. The germination percentage of this tree species was lower than 30% and even some of the seedlings that germinated died before reaching the planting stage. We tackled this by purchasing more seeds of African mahogany from different sources but still the seedlings that germinated were low as compared to the target.
- b) During the dry season (from June to July 2023), we had a problem of water shortage due to drying of our water source. This greatly affected our tree seedlings in the nursery as they couldn't receive enough water in that period. This was solved by purchasing water from other distant sources which was quite expensive.
- c) There was also a challenge of grazing livestock damaging some of our planted trees on a few sites under enrichment. This was solved by conducting frequent visits in the field and notifying livestock owners about our ongoing planting activities on such sites.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

The local community was involved in all activities of this project. At first, we involved local leaders from Gogonya village and Kitenga sub-county in the project introduction to the community. This created a good image of the project in the community.

Secondly, we involved farmers from the village in our tree nursery operations such as nursery bed construction, filling of potting bags with forest soil, seed bed preparation, seed sowing, pricking-out, transplanting of seedlings among other activities. Local people gained skills in tree nursery management practices and also got access to free seedlings for planting for future benefits.

Finally, we also engaged selected farmers from Gogonya village in training on different agroforestry techniques. They gained skills of integrating indigenous trees in different farming systems to mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote biodiversity conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this work is going to continue because the planted trees are still young. Their survival in the field largely depends on the management practices of the farmers. We shall continue with monitoring of these trees up to 5 years to ensure that the

survival rate is at least 70%. We shall also look for tree seedlings from other sources to do replanting where necessary.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

I'm planning to share the project results with the local leaders of Kitenga Sub-County and Gogonya Village during the annual budget review of the Sub-County. I have also shared the project results with selected farmers during the end of the project meeting.

Secondly, I'm planning to share the project results at the tropical forestry word press of Technical University of Dresden (www.tropicalforestrywordpress.com) to make them accessible to fellow researchers in the field of forestry.

7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Tree monitoring: there is a need to monitor the trees planted in the field for the next 5 years to assess the survival rate and do replanting where necessary.

Identification of compatible livelihood activities: there is need to find-out sustainable livelihood activities that can be integrated with forest restoration and promote them in the area.

Introduction of fuel wood saving technologies; most of the households still depend on fuelwood for cooking. So, there is a need to train the community in the use and making of wood, saving stoves from locally available materials to reduce the cutting down of trees.

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, we used the Rufford Foundation logo on all our printed documents, reports and power-point presentations. During the project introduction, we informed the community about our funder, 'The Rufford Foundation', and how it has been supporting similar projects in the developing world to conserve biodiversity. We shall continue to acknowledge the foundation for its generous support in all our written reports and presentations.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Jjemba Bonny (Project Leader):

- Planning and overall supervision of the project work.
- Technical report writing and presentation of the project to the community and relevant authorities.
- Conducting and facilitation of trainings in the field.
- Part of the monitoring and evaluation team.

Isingoma Jackson (Field Assistant):

- Daily supervision of farmers in the field.
- Direct supervision of the tree nursery attendant.
- Provision of timely updates from the field on the implementation of activities.
- Part of the monitoring and evaluation team.

Muwanguzi Boniface (Nursery Attendant)

- Management of the tree nursery.
- Giving out of tree seedlings to farmers.
- Keeping and updating tree nursery records.

Agumisa Jacob (Male Lead Farmer)

- Mobilisation of male farmers to implement project activities.
- Part of the monitoring and evaluation team.

Nakiyana Catherine (Female Lead Farmer)

- Mobilisation of female farmers to implement project activities.
- Part of the monitoring and evaluation team.

10. Any other comments?

I would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for its generous support to our work. Without its financial support, we wouldn't be able to create the impact that we have made in the community and the world at large. We are looking forward to working with you in future.