

Concept Note:

Forest Restoration, Biodiversity Enhancement, and Community Livelihood Development

Project Title

Forest Restoration, Biodiversity Enhancement, and Community Livelihood Development in Kasejjere Parish, Lwamata Subcounty, Kiboga District (Gunga Central Forest Reserve)

Project Location

Country: Uganda

District: Kiboga

Subcounty: Lwamata

Parish: Kasejjere

Forest Reserve: Gunga Central Forest Reserve

GPS Coordinates: 0.803024° N, 31.842836° E

Estimated Budget

USD 99,897 (5 Years)

1. Background

Kasejjere Parish, located within the Gunga Central Forest Reserve in Lwamata Subcounty, Kiboga District, faces severe forest degradation from deforestation, charcoal burning, and poor land use. This degradation threatens the Muzizi River catchment, biodiversity, and local livelihoods. The Rotary Club of Kiboga, with initial support from the National Forestry Authority (NFA), Community Forest Management (CFM) groups, and Rotary Vijana Poa, has begun restoration on 5 hectares using 9,000 seedlings from local club funds. This expanded initiative aims to restore 100 hectares using indigenous tree species like **mahogany**, **Milicia excelsa (muvule)**, **medicinal trees**, and **crops at risk of extinction**, while supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable community livelihoods.

2. Problem Statement

- Severe deforestation and degradation of the Gunga Central Forest Reserve.
- Loss of indigenous species and wildlife habitats.
- Decline in water quality and regulation within the Muzizi catchment.
- High youth unemployment and limited livelihood opportunities.
- Lack of community organisation and technical skills for conservation.

3. Project Goal and Objectives

The goal of this project is to restore degraded forest ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and create sustainable livelihoods through conservation, apiculture, and community empowerment.

Specific objectives:

1. Restore 100 hectares of degraded forest using indigenous and medicinal species.
2. Protect and enhance biodiversity, including native wildlife such as monkeys and reptiles.
3. Register and train Rotary Community Corps (RCCs) for long-term forest and water management.
4. Rehabilitate 10 natural water sources and protect catchments.
5. Introduce apiculture as an eco-friendly, income-generating activity for youth and women.
6. Build local capacity through training and mindset-change programs via Rotary Vijana Poa.

4. Expected Results

- 100 hectares of forest restored with indigenous and medicinal species.
- 10 natural water sources rehabilitated and protected.
- RCCs established and are managing forest and water conservation activities.
- Improved biodiversity and protection of native wildlife.
- 200 trained youth engaged in apiculture and forest-based enterprises.
- Increased household incomes and improved food security.
- Strengthened carbon sequestration and potential access to carbon credit schemes.

5. Partnerships

- **Rotary Club of Kiboga:** Project leadership and coordination.
- **Rotary Vijana Poa:** Mindset change and youth empowerment.
- **National Forestry Authority (NFA):** Technical oversight and forest management.
- **Community Forest Management (CFM) Groups:** Field implementation and monitoring.
- **Rotary Community Corps (RCCs):** Local implementation and community stewardship.
- **Local Council Leadership:** Policy and mobilization.
- **International Rotary Clubs:** Co-funding, expertise, and exchange.

6. Budget Overview (USD 99,897)

Component	Budget (USD)
Tree planting (indigenous & medicinal species) and maintenance	40,000
Water source rehabilitation	15,000
Apiculture setup and training	12,000
Youth and RCC capacity building	10,000
Community mindset-change programs	7,000
Biodiversity protection and wildlife conservation	6,000
Monitoring and evaluation	5,897
Administration and logistics	4,000

7. Implementation Timeline

- **Phase 1 (2025):** Pilot and RCC registration; 5 hectares restored; apiculture introduction.
- **Phase 2 (2026–2028):** Expansion to 50 hectares; water source rehabilitation; biodiversity protection.
- **Phase 3 (2029–2030):** Restoration completion; carbon credit evaluation; sustainability handover.

8. Sustainability

The project ensures sustainability through empowered RCCs, active CFM groups, and youth-led enterprises in apiculture and forest management. Rotary Vijana Poa's ongoing programs will reinforce environmental stewardship and behavioural change. Partnerships with NFA and local authorities will integrate project outcomes into long-term environmental policies and forest management frameworks. Carbon credit initiatives will provide financial incentives for continued conservation and forest maintenance.

9. Contact Information

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