

SUMMARY

Restoration of decreasing forest cover has been identified as an urgent global priority in order to offset the negative impacts of climate change that we experience today. One of the major approaches of mitigating climate change is through halting the rapid degradation of natural forest reserves. In Uganda, one of the districts which has been blessed with a rich natural forest reserve but currently under most threat of extinction is Mpigi district. The current overall national rate of deforestation is estimated at 2% however, Mpigi stands at 32.6% loss and is among the districts with the highest deforestation rates in the country. At the current rates of deforestation, if no action is taken to address the situation, it is anticipated that the forest cover will be completely depleted by the year 2035.

Most forests in Mpigi for example Katabalalu forest provides a unique sanctuary for a remarkable diversity of endemic plants, birds and insects. Katabalalu forest reserve also provides a habitat for many species of plants and animals whose economic importance is unknown, which would then be lost with complete destruction of the forest. It is an important watershed for rivers that flow into Lake Victoria. The forest is also invaluable to the people living around it, many of whom depend on it for timber, fuel wood, herbal medicines, building materials and food. The Katabalalu Forest is also important to the local community for a number of ceremonies and religious practices. Unfortunately, this valuable and unique forest is highly threatened due to encroachment for new land for agriculture and settlement and over-harvesting of forest resources. Most of the forest has been lost over the past 50 years. There is likely to be shortages of fuel wood and drying up of water sources in the future. Although the government of Uganda has put in place good legal and policy initiatives to halt deforestation such as National Forest Authority (NFA) and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) they have not been sufficient to halt destruction to forest due to poor implementation and poor inadequate community involvement. Thus there is need for new sustainable Community Based Agroforestry approaches that result in increased agricultural productivity and environmental conservation at the same time. A win-win situation can occur using a multi-stakeholder approach that empowers local communities through developing community based Agroforestry and tree planting activities. Therefore, the purpose of the proposed project is to contribute to reduction in deforestation of Katabalalu Forest through integrated Community Based Agroforestry Approaches.

The project is designed to achieve the following objectives these are 1.To create awareness about the importance of the forest biodiversity and its deforestation, consequences. 2. To promote alternatives sources of energy sources. 3. To promote alternative non-forest derived income-generating activities for women and youth 4. To improve on existing resource management of the forest through inventory and monitoring of selected taxa, land use /land cover trends, reforestation and enhancement of forest protection. 5. To promote integration of improved Agroforestry practices in traditional farming systems. 6. To adopt proven sustainable agricultural practices that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhances the effect of natural carbon sinks. 7. To conduct further research and innovations that are essential to invent the necessary adaptation and mitigation solutions. The project will be implemented through participatory research involving information generation on forest deforestation indicators, training of local communities in Agroforestry aspects, capacity building of CISONET in management of conservation efforts of forests in Mpigi. The immediate beneficiaries from the project results will be communities around the forest. The project anticipates that community forestry agroforestry interventions developed will be out-scaled in subsequent conservation activities in other affected forests in Mpigi district Uganda.

IPSI Activity Cluster:

Cluster4: Capacity Building

Duration of project: 2 years

Budget: 200,000 USD



A tree cover damaged in Muduma



A Large Expanse of Cleared Forest in Muduma Subcounty



Deforestation effects on river drying in Mpigi district



Deforestation in Kamengo Sub-county



Effects of Climate Change on a Maize Garden in Mpigi

CHALLENGES

- Lack of funds
- Poor implementation and poor inadequate community involvement.
- Lack of land increase on forest encroachment
- Weak government policies and poor enforcement
- Inadequate supervision or coverage of environmental policing personnel
- Lack of alternate energy sources

RISKS

- Delays in release of funds
- Inadequate collaboration from beneficiaries or local politicians
- Un reliable weather
- Inadequate transport to oversee supervision of the ongoing activities.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Presence of qualified stakeholders in the area to jointly implement project activities
- Trained CISONET staff who will oversee implementation of project
- Opportunities for establishing alternative sources of income near the forests
- Opportunities for research in herbal medicine
- Increased fundraising capacity of CISONET

EPECTED OUTCOMES/RESULTS

- Empowered 5000 rural poor smallholder farmers, women and youth groups to sustainably manage the Natural Resource
- Decreased land degradation through sustainable Land use management
- Increased forest cover through the number of trees planted in Katabalalu forest
- Increased Agroforestry best practices through tree planting campaigns
- Increased household incomes through best farming techniques
- Gender mainstreaming through equal participation between men and women
- Increased availability of other energy source alternatives
- Reduced negative effects of climate change
- Effective project of monitoring & Evaluation

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