participation in this national community tree planting activities;

6. Together with NFA, the District Councils will identify and survey suitable bare hills for planting, and encourage local communities of the respective areas to plant them with trees;
7. Local Government will provide labour to maintain and own the crops planted on sub-county, district or local Forest Reserve land.
8. The NFA in collaboration with local leaders will identify central and suitable sites for community nursery establishment;
9. NFA in collaboration with local leaders will identify which institutions, local community individual and organised communities groups to benefit in the 1st year; and subsequent years of programme implementation;
10. NFA will identify and demarcate land on CFRs for restoration and community tree planting under CFM arrangements;
11. Both indigenous and exotic tree species will be promoted depending on the communities' objective of planting;
12. NFA will provide technical guidance at all levels and stages of programme implementation.

## Target group/ beneficiaries

1. Schools (Primary and Secondary)
2. Institutions (Tertiary, Churches and Kingdoms)
3. Local Communities
4. Private sector
5. Local governments (LFRs).
6. Central government (CFRs).

## Local Community participation in Commercial forestry plantation development

Until recently, Uganda Government and the private sector had invested very little in commercial forest plantations development. However, beginning with 2004, NFA has established about 11,000ha of commercial forest plantations, while private sector has established about 23,000 ha for timber, poles and fuel wood. This is still much far less than the required planting levels; hence we need to mobilize for more investment in the sector to be able to meet our domestic demand. Under this programme, NFA will sensitize the local communities to get involved in large scale plantation development, especially those have and willing to dedicate more than 25ha, individually or as a community group, for the porpose.

## Expected out put of the Programme

1. Sufficient and steady supply of high quality tree seedlings and seeds for fruits, fuel wood, pole, timber, and ornamental trees of both indigenous and exotic species.
2. Increased tree cover on both private and protected areas for long-term sustainable supply of goods and services for socio-economic development and environmental conservation.
3. Restored CFRs, and other environmentally fragile areas, including water catchments, watersheds, hill tops and slopes.
4. A conscious population on environmental matters and tree planting activities
5. Local communities participating in large scale tree planting for long-term commercial benefits
6. Emergence of sustainable forest-based enterprises (FBEs) amongst the local communities

## Monitoring indicators

1. Number of trees established and hectares planted annually;
2. Number nurseries established; and species of seedlings raised in them;
3. Number of FBEs in operations;
4. Number and area of bare hills planted;
5. Number and area of watersheds and water catchments restored;
6. Number and area of demonstration plantation established;
7. Number and area of forests planted/ restored by the local communities;
8. Number of sensitization programme conducted and number of people that have attended by gender;
9. Number and areas of degraded natural forests restored.

## Assumptions

1. Schools and institutions will have land and capacity to manage and sustain the planted trees;
2. Communities will protect and own the planted trees.
3. Bare hills identified for planting will be free of encumbrances;
4. The public will actively participate in implementation of the programme;
5. Fund disbursement will be regular and in time for programme implementation;
6. Changes in management of NFA will continue with the same vigor, capacity and interest to implement this programme;
7. Government continues with the current political support for the programme;
8. Every part of the country will remain secure.


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NFA
National Forestry Authority

# Community Tree Planting Programme (2009 - 2014)



## Sensitization Pack

## Programme Background

Uganda had 4.93M ha of forest cover by 1990s (24.1%), but by 2005 this has reduced to only 3.55M ha (17.4%). Thus, the country lost 28% of its forest cover in just 15 years at a deforestation rate of 92,000 ha per year. Recent biomass assessment has indicated that overall per capita forest area has drop from 0.3ha (1990) to only 0.1 ha in 2025. Protected forests in forest and wildlife reserves make only 30% of the forest cover in the country; hence 70% is on private land under the control of the local communities. Recent results show that most of this forest cover loss is on private land owned by local communities and the trend has continued to date without any deliberate and systematic reversal. This aside, Uganda now has less than 300 ha of mature industrial plantations to provide timber; hence the pressure for timber will automatically shift to the ecologically sensitive natural forests in protected areas.

## Forest products and services demand and supply

Over 90% of the domestic energy needs in the country is supplied from wood biomass; with 96% household cooking dependent on fuel wood and charcoal. Large quantities of wood is also consumed by industries like lime, tobacco, tea and other small scale commercial activities like brick making, bakeries and fish smoking. For example, 1.0 kg of processed tea leaves requires 1.0 kg of wood to process! In addition to fuel wood needs by schools, the army and prisons the trend indicates that household wood/biomass energy requirement will grow at a rate much faster than we are currently prepared for.

The current demand for sawn timber is 1.4M $m^3$ of round wood. It is projected that by 2026 the country will need 1.7M $m^3$ of round wood per year for which we are currently not prepared to supply. It is anticipated that by 2012, Uganda will import much of the timber to meet its domestic demand; hence the cost of timber will definitely be at a much higher cost than today.

We also need trees and forests for provision of ecosystem services like protection of biodiversity, protection of hill tops and slopes from land slides, control of soil erosion, protection of water catchments and water shades, mitigation of climate change, provision of clean air, and improvement of landscapes in terms of scenery.

Lastly, trees and forests are the key sources of livelihoods to three-quarter of the population of this country. They are sources of income and offer employment in both the formal and informal sector. Forests are safety nets to the poor who live in the rural areas in support of household food security and medicinal requirement.

The various and high demand for trees and forest goods and services in the country has already defeated supply; and the negative trend bound to continue to crisis levels if no deliberate actions are taken.

## Forestry Sector and other Government plans

### *The 2006 NRM manifesto*

The 2006 NRM manifesto Ch. 2.7.2 pg 55 pledges that *"the NRM government will enforce deliberate policy to effect afforestation on all bare hills. It urges schools to take an active role in tree planting to supplement their fuel needs"*.

This manifesto was developed with recognition that hills represent key life support systems in providing and protecting watersheds that form the origins of many rivers. Water from these rivers enhances agriculture, apiculture and aquaculture; and provides clean water for domestic use. Conversely, hill tops and slopes have become environmentally vulnerable sites.

Afforestation will facilitate conservation of fragile ecosystems, mitigate climate change effects and conserve biodiversity while generating income and wealth to rural households. An ecologically stable environment provides healthy conditions for comfortable life to mankind.

## Millennium Development Goals

Implementing this programme will address three of the eight Millennium Development Goals of Hunger (food security), Poverty alleviation and Sustainable Environment management. The target year for their achievement is 2015.

The Community tree planting programme is therefore one of the deliberate actions taken by Government to involve every able-bodied Ugandan in tree and forest establishment in order to fulfill the NRM manifesto, achieve the three objectives of the Millennium Development goals, and reverse the forest deforestation and degradation trends, among others. In support of this programme, Government has already designated the following days:-

- World Forestry Day
- World Water Day
- World Meteology Day
- International Labour Day
- World Environment Day
- International youth Day,

beside others, as National Tree Planting Days when everyone is to massively plant trees.

## Programme Objectives

1. Support community, institutions and households to plant trees and forests on degraded, marginal, grass and bush land on both private land holdings and in Forest Reserves;
2. Support commercial private tree farmers with easy-to-access supply of high quality seeds and seedlings;
3. Demonstrate best practices in tree growing/plantation development;
4. Carry out restoration of degraded and environmentally sensitive areas, including bare hills and slopes to revitalize their ecosystem functions;
5. Carry out awareness to the population on the importance of trees and forests to the livelihoods; and existing opportunities.

## Programme Implementation

This programme is in agreement with the National Forestry policy, National Forestry plan and the NFA Vision which is; ***"A sufficiently forested, ecologically stable and economically prosperous Uganda"***; and its mission ***"to manage the (CFRs) on a sustainable basis and supply high quality forest-related products and services to Government, local communities and the private sector"***

Although the mandate of NFA concentrates its activities in Central Forest Reserves (CFRs), Government can ask NFA to undertake forestry activities outside the CFRs for the benefit of the local communities;

Effective 2009/10 financial year, Government launched a national community tree planting campaign to last four years with an annual budget of Shs 1billion; and asked NFA to implement the programme by providing the plantable materials and technical backup to all the tree planting activities under this prohgramme;

The local communities and all other able-bodied Ugandans will carry out the planting and protection of the trees on their respective land or in CFRs allocated to them under Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) arrangements or under license by NFA;

The local communities will participate in tree nursery management located near them on payable contracts;

Together with the local and national leaders, NFA is to sensitize the local communities to allocate land, including identifying bare hills wherever they exist, for their own tree planting activities.

## Implementation strategy

1. Together with the local communities NFA will raise and avail high quality tree and fruit seedlings country wide for planting.
2. Institutions will access free seedlings for planting during the national tree planting days from the NFA managed community nurseries which they will plant on institution land.
3. Organised groups from communities will access free seedlings for planting on national tree planting days from the NFA managed community nurseries which they will plant on their private/communal land or land allocated to them in CFRs.
4. Commercial private tree farmers will access high quality seedlings to plant on their private land or in CFRs at a cost from NFA established nurseries.
5. NFA staff in collaboration with national and local leaders will mobilise and sensitize the public through all media/ channels, meetings and hand-on training for active