



## Revitalizing the Nature of Uganda



### ORGANISATION PROFILE

#### 1. BACKGROUND

**Tree Uganda Academy (TUA)** is an Eco Inclusive Social Action Research and Advocacy Community Based Organisation, registered at URSB (Uganda Registration Service Bureau), with registration No.1160/15, at P.O BOX 11, Kihiihi, Kanungu District in Uganda, operating on the sub-regional level.

It was set up in September 2015 with the aim making improvements in environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation through enhanced agricultural entrepreneurship, increased environmental awareness, collective visioning and trainings among the Community Members.

We are an operational Organisation meaning we plan and carry out boots-on-the-ground

conservation projects to accomplish our objectives, which requires a great deal of careful planning, communication, and local involvement for each project.

Tree Uganda Academy (TUA) aims to empower community members to undertake projects in agro-forestry by introducing good quality seeds of indigenous tree species that initially existed in the region and repopulate them into deforested areas. An important emphasis of our people centered organization is to create awareness about the environmental conservation, the needs of the local community, training people to plant and take care of the trees, and providing them with the resources needed to realize the Organisational Objectives. While working towards practical objectives, we aim to develop and provide the tools of empowerment to local community members and leaders who will champion this noble cause.

Our philosophy is that it is important to plant trees and revive our natural environment, and that natural tree planting inspires many people to do more to help themselves and play a role in the economic and environmental health of their communities. In this sense they gain empowerment.

## **2. TUA Vision**

**Our goal as an organization is to** promote and support community led conservation and sustainable land use as a means to identify and characterize appropriate targets for ecological restoration, carbon sequestration and avoiding deforestation in natural ecosystems, as well as adopting sustainable management practices in agro-pastoral systems to achieve socially, economically and environmentally secure livelihoods.

## **3. Mission Statement**

Restoring the naturalness of Southwest Region, and Uganda as a whole

## **4. TUA Objectives**

**Tree Uganda Academy has the following objectives.**

1. Community mobilization and capacity building on preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge and practices.

2. Research and advocacy for climate Justice, creation of public awareness on climate change, environmental protection and restoration of well functioning ecosystems.
3. Mitigate climate change effects through forestry, agro-forestry and waste management.
4. Promoting on-farm agricultural biodiversity conservation and increasing household income, food and Nutritional Security through Agricultural value chain.

## **5. Innovative Participation in Environmental Conservation and Poverty Alleviation (IPECOPA) Project**

### **5.0 Background of the Project**

Uganda is among the two Countries with the highest deforestation rate globally. For 2015, the forest cover of Uganda was estimated at 12% of the total Land area, or 2.42 hectares. Woodlands are the dominant forest types, accounting for about 62% of the forest area, tropical high forests for 21% and plantations for 17% ([Ministry of Water and Environment Report 2017](#)).

As for South western Uganda, the natural forest cover has experienced a strong decline in the past decades due to deforestation and forest degradation, accelerated by high human population growth, poverty and culture factors, poor agricultural practices, wild fires and lumbering activities on both natural and artificial tree species. As a result, there has been a drastic change in the climatic patterns, an increase in atmospheric temperatures, a fall in the amounts of rainfall and a 50% rise in severity of droughts resulting from destroying over 60% of the vegetation cover and water catchment areas of the region, and People's standards of living have dropped substantially due to the reduced agricultural yield. The land is no longer able to successfully support bountiful agriculture that once sustained 80% of the population in terms of food and income needs. Today, two thirds (2/3) of the South Western Uganda population is living below the poverty line and yet the population continues to grow at an average of 4.5 percent which is far much higher than the national growth rate of about 3.3 percent. In fact many families survive on one meal a day. Such conditions have caused extensive human misery, and have devastating consequences for the country's economy and environment. For example with over 80% of Uganda's population living in rural areas and dependent on rain-fed agriculture, the impact of

climate change has translated to dependency of the people in perpetuity upon the government food aid, the recent scenario being the one in 2017.



Showing the extent to which the drought affected coffee farmers in Kanungu District. (2017 Field report by Tree Uganda Academy)

The above realities are harsh, and finding viable solutions is time consuming and requires extensive resources. Reviving the forests by planting natural trees (including fruit trees) on a national scale will require that the government assumes this responsibility. However, given the current challenges the government is facing, this important project is left neglected. Tree Uganda Academy (TUA) in collaboration with the relevant government agencies like National forestry authority and Ministry of water and environment, FBOs and NGOs must work together to promote and empower Communities to realize Environmental benefits such as Reduced Carbon emissions, waste and atmospheric temperatures, Sustainable Agriculture, as well as protecting the Biodiversity and ecosystems to restore the Country's degenerating glory to deliver food and income. Therefore, IPECOPA Project seeks to equip the populace, especially the youth and grassroots communities, with conservation knowledge and hands on skills to realise their potential and maximize environmental benefits.

### **5.1. Project Goal**

To capacity build community members to conserve, manage, appropriately use and protect the natural resources of the region ensuring continued resource availability and environmental quality.

### **5.2 Project strategy:**

Under this project, TUA will form Tree Academy Groups (TAGs) in communities under the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model, and Tree Academy Clubs (TACs) in



schools and other institutions to ensure full community engagement in the project implementation (problem solving) and guarantee ownership of the project by all the members involved.

### **5.3 Status of the project:**

Tree Uganda Academy (TUA) is currently operating in Kanungu District with membership of over 1000 farmers both the youth and the aged. We hope to expand our operations to other districts in South West Region since some of the resources for project expansion are already identified.

### **5.4 Products and services offered to the community under the Project.**

1. Community mobilization and Capacity Building
2. Promoting community led conservation and sustainable land use
3. Providing access to Mobile phones (Smart phones) to ease access to information and the AWEGA CDMS platforms.
4. Youth and women economic empowerment through Agricultural value chain
5. Promoting Food and Nutritional security through enhancing Agriculture at household level.
6. Value addition and Market research
7. Advocacy and Climate Justice (environmental conservation)
8. Water harvesting
9. Waste recycling (biogas, briquettes and organic manure)

### **5.5 Location of different activities:**

The project activities will be located in various communities, primary and secondary schools, and other institutions within South Western Uganda, with future hopes of expanding to other regions of Uganda as part of growth and development depending on the capacity we shall have obtained, and if need a rises to carry this project to rest of other areas, the academy will respond positively.

### **5.6 Expected Project Output**

Existence of sustainable Tree Academy Groups and Clubs at village level empowered to championing environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, entrepreneurship development, Climate Justice, management practices and poverty alleviation with a resultant

increased number of conservationists, reduced land clearance for agriculture, food security, household incomes and increased biodiversity.

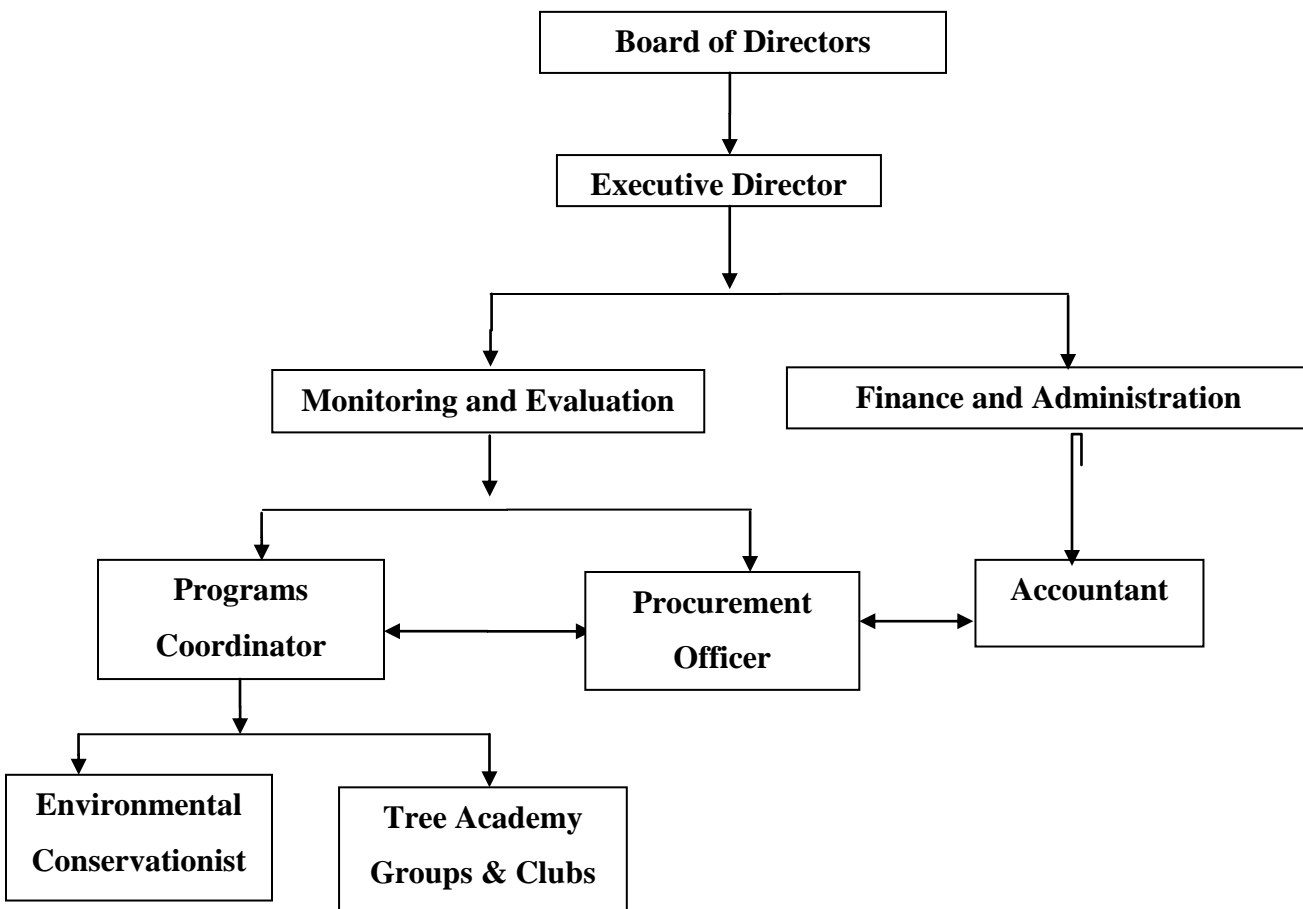
### 5.7 Target beneficiaries

South Western Uganda crop and animal farmers will benefit in the long run by having their devastating environment regenerated.

Community members directly involved in the income generating activities of this project such as waste recycling for organic manure, making of Briquettes, Biogas among others.

Pupils and students who are the next generation of conservationists gaining skills in the field of agro-forestry at an early age is another amazing outcome of this project.

### Tree Uganda Academy (TUA) Structure



## Human resource

Tree Uganda Academy has a team of young energetic qualified Staff who include; Tree nursery experts, conservationists, Accountants, opinion leaders and community members both willing to kick start this grand movement geared to conserve the environment. This is a strong force that has not to be neglected if the nature of South Western Uganda has to be revitalized

## Current staffing

**TUA currently employs 5 staff that includes the following;**

S/No.	Name	Gender	Job Title	Field of Expertise	Highest Qualification	Role in the project	% of time allocated to project
1.	MUSHANA IVAN	M	Executive Director	Business Administration	Bachelor's Degree	Project Coordinator	Fulltime
2.	AMPUMUZA ISABELLA	F	Finance and Admin. Officer	Accounting and finance	Bachelor's Degree	Project Accountant	Full time
3.	TUSINGWIRE OBED	M	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Agriculture and Extension	Bachelor's Degree	Monitoring and Evaluation	Part-time
4.	NDUHUKIRE ANGELLA	F	Field Officer & Conservationist	Environmental Science	Bachelor's Degree	Expertise Trainings	Part-time
5.	AINEBYOONA NICHOLUS	M	Agronomist	Tree Nursery Expert	Bachelor's Degree	Tree seedlings Multiplication	Full time
6.	TUMUKUNDE JONAN	M	Programs Coordinator	Possesses good Communication Skills	UACE	Publicity Secretary	Full time
7.	MUSIMENTA ROSETTY	F	Procurement Officer	Procurement	Bachelor's Degree	Procurement of the project Capital Equipment	Full time

**Some of Tree Academy Groups and Clubs (TAGs & TACs)**

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>Group name</b>	<b>No. of Members</b>	<b>Sub County</b>
1.	Samaria TAG	35	Nyakinoni
2.	Nshaka TAG	51	Nyakinoni
3.	Buhoma TAG	45	Kayonza
4.	Rusoroza TAG	50	Kihiihi
5.	Kihiihi High School TAC	40	Kihiihi TC
6.	Matanda TAG	46	Kihiihi
7.	Kibimbiri TAG	50	Kihiihi
8.	Kihembe Upper TAG	50	Kihiihi TC
9.	Rusoroza	32	Kihiihi S.C
10.	Rwanga Ward TAG	38	Kihiihi TC
11.	Nkunda TAG	47	Nyanga
12.	Nyanga Parish TAG	48	Nyanga
13.	Kabuga TAG	32	Kihiihi
14.	Kazinga	26	Nyanga
15.	Kazinga Upper	30	Kihiihi S.C
16.	Bushoro Primary School TAC	60	Kanyantorogo S.C
17.	Kihiihi Community TAC	50	Kihiihi TC
18.	Rwanga Primary School TAC	56	Kihiihi TC



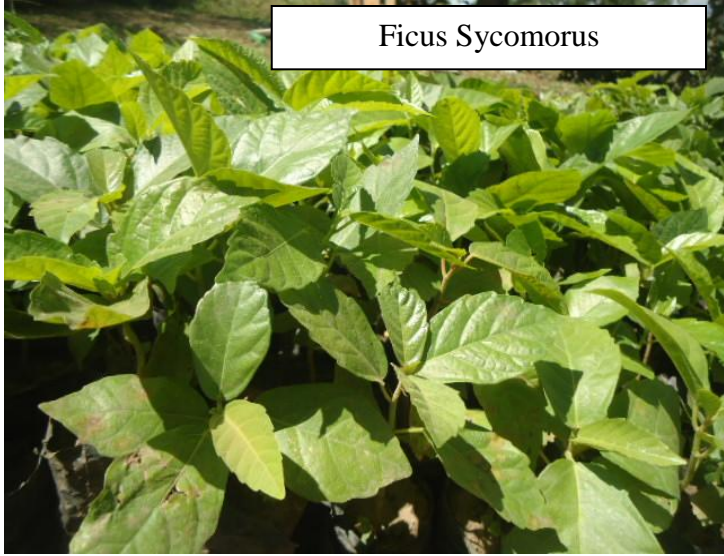
**Some of TUA BOARD and Staff Members**



**TUA Nursery Beds**







Ficus Sycomorus



Prunus africana



Habanero

**SOME OF TREE ACADEMY GROUPS and CLUBS (TAG & TACs) PHOTOES**



Buhoma TAG



Nshaka TAG





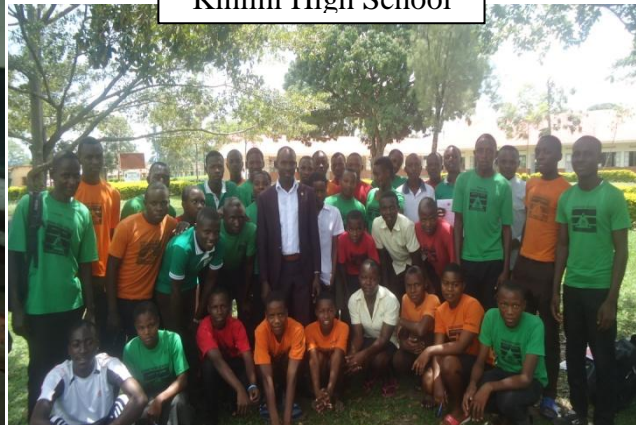
Samaria TAG



Kazinga Upper TAG



Nkunda TAG



Kihiihi High School



The TUA Executive Director and Chairman Board During a Consultative Meeting with ED African Community Conservation and Tourism Research Resource Centre (ACTREC) Mr. Herbert Banobi in Buhoma Bwindi-Kayonza

Walking for Nature along Queen Elizabeth N.P game reserve in Kihiihi Sub County



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