

The Tree Talk Project:

Conservation Education and Sustainable Forestry Development in Uganda

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Background

- Eco-newspapers and tree seeds for conservation education and afforestation.
- Initiated in 2002 by Straight Talk Foundation in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Sports
- Pilot afforestation schemes started in 2006 in North and North-Eastern region with support from UN WFP



Problems being addressed

- Fuel wood shortage
- Biodiversity loss
- Global warming and increased glare in schools
- High rates of school drop out
- Increasing level of poverty and lack of sustainable income



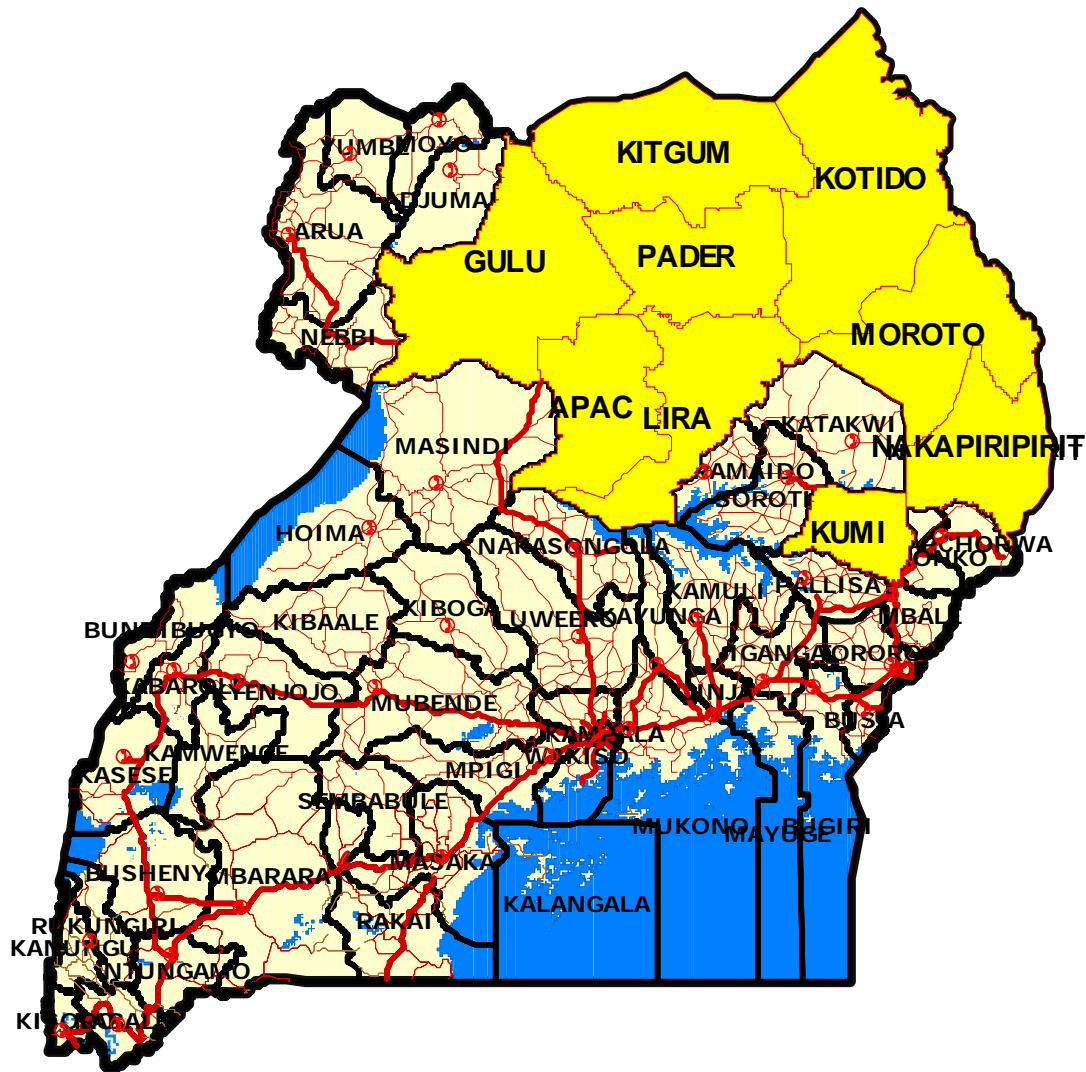
Solutions

- Promoting environmental education
- Afforestation in primary and secondary schools

Existing potential

- Most institutions have between 1-4 ha of land available for tree planting
- Institutions and communities are receptive

Project areas





Activities and methods of operation

- Newspapers and tree seed distribution countrywide
- Woodlot projects in North and North Eastern regions
- Establishment of central and community tree nurseries
- Live radio talk shows
- Basic forestry training
- Follow-ups and monitoring visits

Highlight on activities and achievements

a) Newspaper and tree seed distribution



- Topical issues on forestry development concepts are published and distributed with tree seeds.
- Current print run per issue is 300,000 copies
- Fast growing exotics for fuel wood and indigenous species for bio-diversity conservation are distributed twice annually.



b) Afforestation programmes
- 260 schools selected to benefit from woodlot establishment programme in 2006

- A total of 265,000 trees planted between April and October 2006 on 130 ha of land

- Threatened hard woods (*Milicia excelsa*, *Khaya*, *Albizia*) are promoted

2007 target

- 700,000 trees in 200 ha of land
- 8 central and 20 community nurseries fully operational in the North and North-Eastern region
- 5,000 community labourers involved
- Providing seedlings for household planting



AR CDM Project Idea note

- Reforestation of degraded land
- The project would be developed by 230 schools each planting an average of 3 ha on privately owned land
- The project would sequester over 47,000 tCO₂ by 2012

Project benefits

- Combining reforestation and climate change education
- Fuel wood for cooking and fruits for eating hence better nutrition and learning capacity and fewer school dropouts
- Reduction of pressure on existing forests
- Preservation of biodiversity
- Timber, furniture and income to schools and communities
- Rural employment



Challenges

- Termites and cattle
- Poverty and insecurity
- Huge demand for up-scaling but insufficient funds for further expansion
- Negative perceptions and low preference to indigenous species

Addressing challenges

- Use of termite resistant species
- Fencing of woodlots
- Use of local labour



Conclusion

- *Tree Talk* works with the rural poor where poverty is a disincentive to tree planting.
- More funding is required for expansion of the project and to provide benefits for more schools in northern Uganda.
- Carbon credits can overcome the barriers to expand project activities.



THE END

THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING