



*Tree  
Adoption  
Uganda*

# ANNUAL REPORT

---

2021

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# Foreword from the Executive Director



Dear Esteemed stakeholders,

I extend my gratitude for your continued support and contribution to conservation and restoration work in Uganda despite the continued challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and also hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe. To those who have lost loved ones due to the pandemic and other unfortunate occurrences, we send our sincere condolences.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I also want to appreciate the Tree Adoption Uganda team that are at the frontline of the implementation of our activities as well as volunteers and communities who have continued to collaborate and partner with us. Despite the many challenges this year, we have registered significant achievements that include: -

Continuing our partnerships with EcoMatcher Limited to improve transparency for tree planting initiatives, National Forestry Authority, Ministry of Water and Environment, Mogas, Uganda Breweries limited, One Tree Planted and African Community Centre for Social Sustainability (ACCESS). Together with these partners we have grown 71,000 trees with smallholder farmers in the rural district of Nakaseke, Bududa, Mukono, Kayunga and Kiryandongo this year.

We also partnered with Cities Alliance & SIDA to suc-

cessfully implement the waste Management for Flood Control project that aimed to build intrinsic motivation for appropriate waste management in Bwaise. Our team has been able to continue adapting to the "new normal" and most of our activities that did not require crowding were carried out.

For more information you can visit our website ([www.treeadoptionuganda.org](http://www.treeadoptionuganda.org)) or the secretariat. You can also send us an email at [info@treeadoptionuganda.org](mailto:info@treeadoptionuganda.org) or find us on social media- Tree Adoption Uganda.

In this report, we highlight conservation and restoration successes, new partnerships, projects, and engagements we have had in 2021. I urge you to continue working together with us in this restoration journey to increase our resilience to the ever-changing climate and secure the future for the generations to come after us. As I always say, our small contributions in our different communities when summed up together, they constitute global change.

Good reading!

Dr. Charles Batte  
Founder & CEO

# Introduction

Tree Adoption Uganda (TAU) is a youth-centric NGO powered by the vision of creating communities where people and nature flourish. Through landscape restoration activities like planting trees and agroforestry, we build resilience for smallholder farmers against the changing climate while economically empowering unemployed young people in Uganda's rural communities through education and training on setting up and managing indigenous tree nurseries and tree farms. We bring tree planting to the very heart of each individual family all over the country, focusing on inspiring a nature-inclined transformation and change of heart in each member of a household. This way we arouse a passion among community members to work towards sustainable agroforestry practices, conservation and restoration of under green areas.



## Organizational capacity

Tree Adoption-Uganda has 10 years' experience in environmental education, landscape restoration, youth empowerment, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience building in rural and urban areas. The organization has also undertaken concrete ground work in using technology to solve environmental challenges which have won local, regional and global awards.



## Impact to date

We have worked with 1,000 individual households on Sustainable Land Management approaches and planted over 221,000 trees with communities in Uganda – 121,000 of these trees have been mapped by GPS coordinates. We have trained 25,000 young people on variable aspects of environmental conservation ranging from setting up tree nurseries, grafting, pruning, propagation, human and nature interactions as well as established 14 environmental clubs with schools in the Manafwa watershed and Kiryandongo Refugee settlement. We have further empowered 100 groups with skills to make valuable products from waste like briquettes that they can use for cooking and also for sale to earn some more household income and improve standards of living under the Waste Management for Flood Control Project that we implemented in the slums of Bwaise.



### TAU's overall operations

Apart from landscape restoration, Tree Adoption Uganda has over the years been working with young people through school environmental clubs to inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability and we know that today's young people are the future stakeholders and potential leaders whose later choices will be immensely influenced by what they see, hear and learn today. We have incorporated context relevant environmental education in the school curriculum that inspires them to be environmentally conscious and responsible. This leads to a change in mind-set, knowledge and behavior towards environmental issues, and fosters civic engagement in restoration and conservation activities for sustainable development.

## TAU thematic areas

### Educate:

TAU works with young people through school environmental clubs to inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability. To date, we have reached out to over 50 schools and trained over 25,000 young people on setting up nurseries, propagation and monitoring. We are aware that young people are the future stakeholders and potential leaders, whose later choices will be greatly influenced by what they see, hear and learn today. Incorporating context relevant environmental education in the school curriculum inspires young people to be environmentally conscious and responsible. This leads to a change in mind-set, knowledge and behavior towards environmental issues, and fosters civic engagement in restoration and conservation activities for sustainable development.



### Empower:

Tree Adoption Uganda empowers unemployed young people in Uganda's rural communities through education and training on setting up and managing indigenous tree nurseries and tree farms and also give them skills to market their products. The rate of youth unemployment is extremely high in Uganda in a population that is dominated by young people. We therefore train young unemployed Ugandans in rural communities to be Eco entrepreneurs for a livelihood as well as to drive landscape restoration, resilience and stewardship in their communities. This way, they drive a wave of restoration because they are motivated by the will to get an income hence influencing their own community members to buy and plant trees, triggering locally influenced landscape restoration, social-economic well-being and environmental resilience. We have also trained communities in Bwaise to transform waste into valuable products like briquettes as well as collect and sell disposed plastics for income. This way, they are locally solving a problem of waste which is a menace in the community while reducing pressure on Uganda's forests by using energy from waste

### Engage:

TAU works with different partners to drive landscape restoration in Uganda by directly engaging rural communities relying on subsistent agriculture which is mainly dependent on local climatic conditions. TAU is working to enhance the resilience of farmers to the changing climate by sensitizing communities to restore landscapes through tree planting and agroforestry. The ultimate goal is to mend the micro-climate where seasons are well aligned; favoring agricultural production while mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and safe guarding biodiversity. Communities and volunteers have been fully engaged in planting "People of the World Forests" in Nakaseke and the "Prosperity Forest" in Kayunga and awareness created on sustainable management of natural resources.



# Major activities in 2021

## Tree planting and Mapping:



We are glad to report that the year 2021 has been the single most fruitful one in regards to our landscape restoration and conservation activities through tree growing and mapping. With our various excellent partners, we planted 7,000 and 5,000 indigenous trees in our new restoration sites in Kayunga and Mukono respectively, 38,000 in Nakaseke, 20,000 in Bududa in our continued restoration and conservation of the Manafwa Watershed and 1,000 in the Kiryandongo Refugee settlement. Because we know that transparency and efficiency of tree planting (TP) initiatives

is important, we have continued to partner Ecomatcher in recording TP data and avail it on cloud.

	Name Of Farmer	Tree Species Planted					
		Albizia	Maesopsis	Prunus	Greavella	Caliandra	Total
1.	Ssekidde Fred	100	1,070	2,010	2,100		<b>5,280</b>
2	Nakamya Justine	500	400	100			<b>1,000</b>
3	Musoke Besweri	150	340	200	110		<b>800</b>
4	Mawanda Godfrey	800	1,500	700	680		<b>3,780</b>
5	Kyeyune Joseph	900	300	210	190		<b>1,600</b>
6	Lutaaya Fred	100	150	80	70		<b>2,090</b>
7	Mbusi Wilson	150	100	60	40		<b>350</b>
8	Jjunju Ezekel	100	40	40	20		<b>200</b>
9	Mwanje Abbey	400	400	200	200		<b>1,200</b>
10	Mulwanyi Fahad	500	300	150	50		<b>1,000</b>
11	Wesswa Ivan			100		1,100	<b>1,200</b>
12	Ssenabulya Kennedy		50	30	20		<b>100</b>
13	Kiggundu wilson	100	100	60	40		<b>300</b>
14	Ssentayi Enock	150	150	100	100		<b>500</b>
15	Nakakaawa Florence	50	100	50			<b>200</b>
16	Bakisuula steven	200	200	150	150		<b>700</b>
17	Ssebudde Majid	100	100	70	80		<b>350</b>



18	Nassanga sauva	150	50	50	50		300
19	Kamanya Ronald	500	200		100		800
20	Nakalya prossy	150	50	50			250
21	Kitutu Freddy	7,000					7,000
22	Nsubuga Mwandaaza	5,000					5,000
23	Ssemwanga Stephen		500	500			1,000
24	Naluwu Safina		1,000	1,000			2,000
25	Dr. Kalyesubula Robert		1,000	1,000	1,000		3,000
26	GRI						1,000
27	Manafwa Watershed						20,000
28	Lusala Brian		2,000	1,000	2,000		5,000
29	Serunkuma John		2,000	2,000	100		5,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>71,000</b>

Table showing list of farmers with whom we planted trees in 2021

### World wetlands day celebration

Tree Adoption Uganda organized a joint World Wetlands Day 2021 Celebration with partners Youth Leading Environmental Change (YLEC) in Bwaise Parish 3, an urban slum with a drainage channel leading to Lubigi wetlands. We were joined by community members to clean up the area and raise awareness that wetlands act as water reservoirs and help in regulating floods as well as providing habitat for many important aquatic and terrestrial species



### World Environment Day

Tree Adoption Uganda joined the rest of the world on the 5th of June 2021 to celebrate the World Environment Day to raise awareness about environmental issues including global warming, pollution and sustainable consumption among others. The team from Tree Adoption Uganda was joined by local leaders and the community of Bwaise 3 parish to plant fruit trees and launch the heat mitigation project that aims to avert the increasing levels of heat in the area by planting trees to absorb the heat. The fruit trees will not only aid in absorbing heat but also provide shade and fruits for the community to improve their nutrition. This world event also marked the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, an initiative that unites the world behind a common goal of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide which is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development.





### The food and Environment project

Tree Adoption Uganda (TAU) partnered with Global Refugee Initiative and used a 15-acre piece of land in Kiryandongo Refugee settlement for tree planting and activities of Environmental Education. A total of 500 fruit trees and 500 non fruit trees have been planted in and around the land. A demonstration farm has also been set up to enhance learning of school children and refugee community about their environment. Two school environmental clubs were also formed in Kothongola and Bidong Primary schools, where environmental education using the explore, design and execute was introduced and fruit tree planting done with the club members



### The waste management for flood control project



Tree Adoption Uganda successfully implemented the waste management for flood control project in Bwaise Parish 3 with support from Cities Alliance and SIDA. The project aimed to build intrinsic motivation within the community to appropriately manage its waste and change its own reality and reduce floods while transforming the waste to something useful. The project plan involved mapping every 10 households (Mayumba Kumi) to form 100 clusters (1000 households) that worked together to ensure that their environment is kept clean. A total of seven community clean ups and community training sessions to raise awareness were conducted. The groups were provided with





carbonizing drums and tarpaulins for to aid them in producing Briquettes for domestic use and also for sale to raise their household income. We are happy to inform you that many of our beneficiaries have realized a positive change in their livelihoods through reduced floods. At the end of the project in May 2021, a workshop was organized to share experiences, lessons and recommendations.

# Partnerships

## National Forestry Authority:

We worked closely with the National Forestry Authority to restore under green areas in Nakaseke and the NFA played a big role in the provision of over 32,000 high quality seedlings and technical advice on how best to achieve restoration goals.

## The EcoMatcher:

TAU has continued to work with Eco-Matcher limited in using technology to geo-tag all trees planted in the drive to re-green Uganda. EcoMatcher has played a crucial role to keep the TreeCoder Application updated to capture all the necessary tree planting specifics and production of high-quality data.

## Running Out of Trees (ROOTs) Campaign

Tree Adoption Uganda is partnering with the Ministry of Water and Environment on a national Running Out Of Trees campaign to grow and map 200million trees in the next 5 years. Other notable partners participating on the campaign are Uganda Breweries, Mogas Petroleum, American Tower Corporation (ATC) and Blue band Up field. So far 93,000 trees have been mapped using the Tree Adoption tree tracking application We have also to date trained 100 young people from Northern and Western Uganda with tree mapping skills

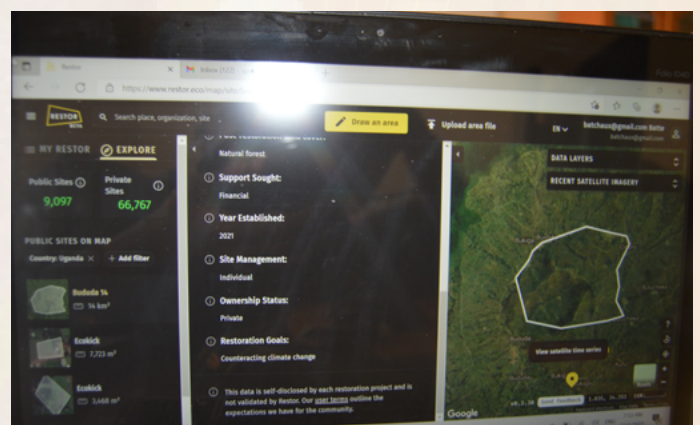


## One Tree Planted

Tree Adoption Uganda is working with One Tree Planted in Bududa, to restore the Manafwa Watershed that is devastated by soil erosion, land degradation, rampant deforestation and frequent landslides. Through this project, we have so far planted 20,000 trees in Bududa District with small holder farmers and on the Boundaries of Mt. Elgon National Park controlled by the Uganda Wild Life Authority

## Restor

2021 saw us join the Restor founding network, an international map-based open-source platform of more than 50,000 restoration and conservation initiatives that combine on-the-ground knowledge, ecosystem research, and satellite imagery so people can better plan, manage and monitor restoration projects. Tree Adoption Uganda has so far uploaded 50 public sites that can be accessed by anybody anywhere.





### Global Refugee Initiative (GRI)

We are working with the Global Refugee Initiative to offer environmental education in schools and communities within and around Kiryandongo refugee settlement using the explore, design and execute approach and also introduce good environmentally friendly farming practices to show how food (especially vegetables) can be grown on small pieces of land to contribute to the diet of refugee households as well as become a source of income once harvested and sold. This approach entails Empowerment to believe in one's own ability to change one's reality, Integration to be aware of the importance of farm resilience and Collaboration to exchange knowledge and learn from others to improve, and carry out actions together

## Volunteer engagement

We have continued to engage volunteers in most of our restoration, education and community activities. These are mainly young people who have shown enthusiastic about the work we do; from Makerere University, Kyambogo University and others from the rest of the areas where we work. In Bwaise for example during our several community clean-up activities, we were joined by over 200 people. We had several tree planting and environmental education trips and we were as well joined by volunteers. Such engagements give them a hands-on experience especially those who graduated recently, providing knowledge, skills and innovations geared towards environmental sustainability.

We also had the Liverpool supporters that has been working with us, travel to Nakaseke district to check the progress of the forest they planted with us in 2019.



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Adopt a tree(s) at 1 USD or 3,500 UGX per tree. We shall reach out to you with details about your adopted tree(s). You can also donate to support any of our programs @ <https://treeadoptionuganda.org/donation>

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