

## Achieving reforestation of Nile Basin in Uganda

The “Uganda Nile Basin Reforestation” project establishes 2,000 hectares of pine and mixed native species plantations in the Rwoho Central Forest Reserve, grassland areas previously degraded due to deforestation and erosion. The project promotes private- and community-based tree-planting initiatives with different investor shares. With a 22 years rotation cycle for all tree species, the project will sequestrate up to 5,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year.



Natural resource management



Climate Change



Flood prevention/control



Skills Transfer



Soil erosion control

**5 000**

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided per year

**2 000**

hectares of forest regenerated

<b>Registry</b>	UNFCCC
<b>Project ID</b>	<a href="http://bit.ly/237r67P">http://bit.ly/237r67P</a>
<b>Pictures gallery</b>	<a href="http://bit.ly/1RS0Mtn">http://bit.ly/1RS0Mtn</a>
<b>Category</b>	Afforestation/reforestation
<b>Status</b>	Operational
<b>Certification</b>	UNFCCC CDM
<b>Auditors</b>	Tuv Sud



- 1<sup>st</sup> forestry project to be registered under the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa
- Early experience of benefit sharing in Collaborative Forest Management

# The Project

The small-scale afforestation/reforestation project is part of a project cluster of 5 similar projects aiming to provide a new financing mechanism to overcome the current barriers to establish timber plantations in Uganda and to allow communities to benefit from the Clean Development Mecanism. In total the project activities cover an area of 487.6 ha within Rwoho Central Forest Reserve (NFA planting area: 413 ha (85 %), community planting area: 74.6 ha (15 %). The Reserve covers in total an area of 9,100 ha. Based on conservative estimates, with a 22 years rotation cycle for all tree species, the project sequestrates 41,574 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e over the first 8 years period.

## Project Owner

This project is being implemented by Uganda's National Forestry Authority (NFA) in association with local community organizations. The Rwoho Environmental Conservation and Protection Association (RECPA) manage 17% of the project area within the framework of a collaborative forest management agreement. NFA provides seedlings and technical advice to RECPA, which in return is in charge of protecting the plantations from fire and the remaining patches of natural forest. RECPA also links the project with communities in the area.

## Situation of the Project

The expansion of available timber in Uganda is crucial for the country to meet a growing demand of wood and to reduce the pressure on its remaining native forests. In a country with only a few thousand hectares of remaining timber plantations, this project stands as an example of sustainable forest management. The reserve is also an upper watershed of Lake Victoria with several small rivers.



# Impacts



## Natural resource management

Inappropriate and uncontrolled land uses are a major cause of degradation and depletion of land resources. The project thus remedies damaging forest degradation by introducing natural resources benefit sharing system.



### Climate Change

The challenges emanating from climate change in the Nile Basin include uncertainty in precipitation and river flow, land degradation, reduced river flow, floods, siltation, waterweed infestation, wetland degradation, droughts, deforestation, loss of species and ecosystems and increased incidence of disease. The project's direct and indirect benefits adapt and mitigate many of these vulnerabilities.



### Flood prevention/ control

The reserve is also an upper watershed of Lake Victoria with several small rivers; as a consequence of the project, water supply from the hills is clearer (reduced suspended soil particles) than before.



### Skills Transfer

Communities have increased skills in tree management and care. Forest plantations based on native species are very limited in East Africa, and the learning experiences from planting native tree species will decrease the technological barrier and risk of future projects.



### Soil erosion control

The permanent land-use provides several environmental benefits, including the reduction of erosion-induced discharge, the increase of dry-season flows, and the mitigation of ongoing land degradation.

## The Country

Uganda has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world at approximately 2.7% per year. Only a few thousand hectares of timber plantations remain, but at least 65,000 ha of high yielding plantations are necessary to meet the domestic demand. Investment barriers have hindered tree planting for timber production, which is only viable if public incentives are provided.

Uganda has surpassed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target on halving poverty by 2015, and made significant progress in reducing the population that suffers from hunger, promoting gender equality and empowering women. But the risks to Uganda's economic prospects are significant and mainly relate to fiscal management, poor performance in domestic revenue mobilization; and uncertainty regarding the commencement of oil production and related revenues.

