



Vi Agroforestry



Women Empowerment in Sustainable Land Management (WESLAM)

GOAL

Contribute to reduced land degradation in Bugiri and Mayuge districts through reforestation, reduction of deforestation and sustainable agriculture land management by 2021.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reforestation and reduced deforestation by promoting sustainable forest management capacities and forest-based businesses for women.
2. Sustainable agriculture land management capacities and access to financial services by farmer families around forests enhanced.

PROJECT INFORMATION

AREA	Bugiri and Mayuge districts in eastern Uganda
TARGET GROUP	Farmers living beside forest reserves, of which 60% are women
PERIOD	July 2018 - June 2022



SITUATION ANALYSIS

The last 25 years Uganda has lost 2/3 of the natural forest. There is a high risk that the country will have lost all the natural forests by 2030 if deforestation continues.

In Mayuge district, over 90% of the forest cover is gone. As a result of the deforestation, the land degradation rate for both forest and agricultural land is very high, especially in Mayuge and Bugiri districts.

The population growth rate in the two districts is high and has exerted a lot of pressure on the natural resource when it comes to the need for firewood, timber and extension of agricultural land. In combination with unsustainable land management practices and limited knowledge in sustainable agricultural land management has resulted in land degradation. Which left farmers with no option other than encroaching on forest land for fertile soils.

Women are the most vulnerable and affected by land degradation and increased deforestation. Reduced productivity of the soil often leads to famine, escalating poverty and thus impacting on the livelihoods.

Families living close to the national forests used to be dependent on the forests. In the forest they could find firewood and raw materials for crafts sold to substitute the low yields from their agricultural lands. The forest was also used as a resource to find medicine and other nutritional supplements for the families.

INNOVATION

Through collaborative forest management approach, farmers will restore degraded forest reserves by planting the trees while conducting forest friendly businesses of bee honey production and mushroom growing. Through a long-term leasing agreement between the farmer's organisations and the government, the farmers will gain access to the forest reserves to use and enjoy the benefits.

Deforestation and land degradation has negative impacts ...



The women living next to the forest introduce SALM practices on their farms.



The women rehabilitate and replant the forest and introduce the new income generating activities in the forest.



VSLA groups help women to start small enterprises and introduce new farming activities in the forest like bee-keeping and mushroom farming.



Photo: Elin Larsson



Vi Agroforestry is a Swedish development cooperation organisation, fighting poverty and climate change together with smallholder farmers and their organisations. The foundation of Vi Agroforestry's work is sustainable agriculture and agroforestry - growing trees alongside crops and livestock. Sustainable agriculture contributes to the mitigation of climate change and protects against the negative effects of climate change. Since its inception in 1983, the organisation has reached over 2,3 million people through education, advisory and services and planted more than 120 million trees in the Lake Victoria basin.



Bugiri district farmers association started in 1997 and has a membership of 174 groups and 10,140 farmers. The organisation works to empower the members with relevant agricultural technologies and information, through member mobilisation and technology dissemination and to improve agronomic practices, quality assurance, gender and lobby and advocacy.



Mayuge district farmers association started in year 2000 and has a membership of 540 groups and 16,200 farmers. The organisation works to promote sustainable livelihoods for farmers through effective mobilisation, adequate agricultural advisory services, capacity building, collective marketing, lobbying and advocacy for its members in Mayuge district.

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