



BASELINE STUDY REPORT

**FOR “EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION (EPEC)” PROJECT**

June 2021

PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT:

Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization (CEDO-Uganda)

With financial support from: USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Fund Activity

Sub Award No: 72061720CA00009-02

Disclaimer:

This Baseline study report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund, under the terms of Award No. 72061720CA00009-02. The contents are the responsibility of the Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the United States Government or the Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund.

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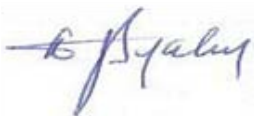
Acknowledgment

This baseline study report has been made possible with financial support from USAID/ Uganda Biodiversity Fund Activity, through Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund (UBF); aimed at collecting qualitative and quantitative data on attitudes, knowledge and behaviour related to environmental conservation issues in project area focusing on tree planting, woodlots, perceptions, energy saving stoves, tree cutting, and other energy efficient technologies use and adaptation at community level in Budongo Sub County of Masindi District, Uganda.

We extend our sincere thanks to Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the financial support made available for the study. Also, special thanks go to the Masindi District local government leadership, community based organizations and local councilors who participated in the study and for their input.

Our special thanks go to the community members who participated in the baseline study. The findings in this report do not only largely contribute to the relevant data for indicators in the Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation (EPEC) project but also for further situational analysis on the status of the need for environmental response in the project area.

Yours Sincerely,



Byabasaija Abdallah

Executive Director,

Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization (CEDO)

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List of Acronyms

CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CEDO	Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organisation
EPEC	Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation
KIIs	Key Informants' Interviews
HLTF	High Land Tropical Forest
L.C	Local Council
LMF	Low Land Moist Forest
NGO	Non - Governmental Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoU	Government of Uganda
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
UBF	Uganda Bio diversity Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings for the baseline survey conducted in the sub county of Budongo for the project “*Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation (EPEC).*” it was conducted in the month of June 2021 with a view of generating baseline data useful for the implementation of the project with funds from USAID through UBF.

The baseline study report was commissioned by CEDO Uganda in the sub county of Budongo as part of the project implementation in the month of June 2021. The overall objective of the baseline was to collect qualitative and quantitative data on attitudes, knowledge and behaviour related to environmental issues in project area focusing on tree planting, woodlots, perceptions, energy saving stoves, tree cutting, and other energy efficient technologies use and adaptation at community level.

Besides, the findings in this report do not only largely contribute to the relevant data for indicators in the Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation (EPEC) project but also for further situational analysis on the status of the need for environmental response in the project area.

1.1 Project Overview

The “*Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation (EPEC) Project*” is one year project aimed at increasing resilience of households living adjacent to Budongo forest protected areas and the Murchison fall national park, through the promotion and the efficient utilization of clean energy technologies. The project envisages that inefficient energy technologies cause a range of harmful impacts that impede economic and social development and lead to significant loss of life. Cleaner, more modern stoves have the potential to reduce deaths from smoke-related illnesses, mitigate climate change, and lower air pollution. They can also provide new sources of livelihoods for women and youths, while reducing the risk and drudgery of fuel collection, and can lower household expenditures. The most common phenomenon in the proposed project area, “*forest degradation*” is a significant contributor to losses in erosion control, biodiversity, and flood protection.

1.2 Project Name

“Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation (EPEC) project”

1.3 Project Goal

To Increase biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use through introduction of appropriate incentives

1.4. Project Objectives

- I. To increase resilience of 750 people living adjacent to Budongo Forest to survive without depending on natural resources from the forest by April 2022

2. To promote efficient utilization of energy and development of clean energy technologies that reduces GHG while contributing to biodiversity conservation by April 2022.
3. CEDO therefore seeks to reduce the negative impacts of inefficient use of solid biomass fuels for cooking and to relieve communities from the environmental and economic burden of using solid biomass fuel. With the requested funding of USD 55,000 we shall be able to implement the following initiatives; 1) Promote alternative livelihoods to charcoal burning through commercial tree growing, Bee keeping, and Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLAs) and 2) Promote renewable Energy Saving Stoves and production of briquettes as alternatives to biomass degradation. We shall also engage local leaders to influence local government planning and budgeting processes to ensure political support and sustainability of the initiative beyond UBF funding.
4. Thus, with the UBF funding for 12 Months, implementation of this project is seen as an opportunity to contribute towards the restoration of Integrity and Functionality of Uganda's Key Biodiversity Areas specifically around the Budongo Forest Protected Areas, and Murchison Fall National Park.

1.5 Purpose of the Study

The main aim of the study was to identify and document baseline data to inform project implementation. In a bid for CEDO Uganda and partners to execute the project with baseline data at an informed level, the baseline study was undertaken to draw key conclusions and generate basic data to inform key project decisions during implementation. This was envisaged to generate evidence that would guide intended and future actions towards successful project interventions in the project.

Specifically, this was aimed at;

1. Generating baseline data to inform project implementation decisions.
2. Identifying project implementation specific issues and challenges to guide the project implementation process.
3. Gathering relevant baseline data for key project indicators to enable changes and define knowledge levels among communities in the project implementation area.
4. Proposing key implementation recommendations for better results.

1.6 Baseline Study Utilization

The baseline study was intended for different purposes by different actors. Therefore, in designing the baseline study and communicating findings, the following users and uses were born in mind:

Who?	Needs what?	Why?
Project staff (CEDO Uganda and partners project managers/ officers and Community mentors)	Information to inform programming	Context and situations change over time requiring new approaches and adjustment of interventions.
Project staff	Detailed baseline data against key indicators in Budongo sub county targeting 3 parishes	A basis for evaluating the impact of the project
Community members	Information on the extent to which women and youth respond to environmental conservation measures in their areas	To highlight the need for action and policy change
Uganda Biodiversity Fund	Information to inform their future strategy	To improve project implementation
Local Government	Integrate in development programming and budgeting	To inform policy
NFA, UWA and other partners	Identify demand for trees by communities	Plan the seedling needs and partnership strategies

1.7 Indicators against project objectives for which baseline data was gathered

The baseline study generated data, on the following indicators, for targeted population (women at community level, youth at work places and selected community groups).

1.8 Result areas

Theme	Milestone set at design	Baseline data needs
Project Anticipated Impact:	Increase biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use through introduction of appropriate incentives	Information as of June 2021 relating to the conservation initiatives and incentives in the project areas
Outcomes 1	Increase resilience of 750 people living adjacent to Budongo Forest to survive without depending on natural resources from the forest by May 2022	% of beneficiaries with alternative sources of incomes other than depending on Budongo forest
Outcomes 2	Promote efficient utilization of energy and development of clean energy technologies that reduces GHG while contributing to biodiversity conservation by May 2022	% of Households using clean energy technologies

1.9 Areas of Study

The baseline was carried out in three parishes of Budongo namely; Nyabyeya, Nyantonzi and Kasenene

Data was collected at community level from respondents arrived at random

Desk review and key informants interviews were done from strategic partners identified by the study team including Budongo sub county, Masindi District Local Government, other local leaders

2.0 Technical Approach and Methodology

2.1 Methodology

The study predominantly employed qualitative methods for the collection and analysis of qualitative data that provides an understanding of the knowledge, attitudes and behavior/practices (KAP) of distinct separate stakeholders i.e. communities in Budongo, men working in and around Budongo forest, the general population in the community and other key informants.

However, quantitative data collection was also employed to collect basic socio-demographic data and data relating to key indicators within the environmental conservation project results framework that was utilized at the point of interpretation to facilitate a more or complete understanding of the study responses within the target population.

This mixed-method approach, which employs the collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, was intended to support triangulation of various data sources, enhance credibility and offset weaknesses of individual methods. Complementing quantitative with qualitative results was also extended to the breadth and range of enquiry for the 'Yes' and/or 'No' responses, providing a context in which to better understand the findings presented in this report.

The study followed a convergent parallel approach, where quantitative and qualitative methods were conducted separately yet concurrently and merged at the point of interpretation. This was done to allocate equal priority to each method, to increase data collection efficiency, and also to facilitate a more or complete understanding of the study.

2.2 Data Collection Methods

Literature review and Key informants' Interviews (KIIs) with selected individuals were used to collect qualitative data to provide detailed insights and explanations on key project performance indicators. Quantitative data was collected through individual interviews and conversations using a semi-structured survey questionnaire premised around the key result areas and associated indicators of the project survey.

2.2.1 Literature Review

This methodology was utilized for collection of secondary data at global, national and local levels through a desk review of existing information. The documents that were reviewed included: project document summaries, documented opinions, journals and other reports

Review of the above documents were extensively undertaken to inform the study aspects from field investigations. The document review was also instrumental in the fine-tuning and administration of the tools/questionnaires used for primary/field data collection.

2.2.2 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Online and phone call KIIs were held with a cross section of individuals with sufficient and exceptional knowledge on the baseline subject matter in the areas of study. A semi-structured research tool with open ended questions was designed for the KIIs and respondents were interviewed at their respective workplaces. The interviews were audio subtitled in text form.

These transcriptions were done during each interview. Persons interviewed included the following: 2 L.C 1 chairpersons, Chairperson LC 3 Budongo, CAO in charge Bujenje, District Tourism Officer Masindi as well as NGO leaders

2.2.3 Individual Interviews and Conversations

Individual interviews and conversations using a semi-structured survey questionnaire premised around the key result areas and associated indicators of the environmental conservation project were used to collect quantitative data. The data collected through this method was restricted to measuring key findings on attitudes, knowledge and behaviour of individual respondents related to briquettes, tree planting, energy saving stoves among others

This method also helped to collect demographic information to stratify results by gender, age, location, etc. Data collected with this tool was also used to compare responses for a comparative analysis among men and women/boys and girls of varying age.

A total of 96 respondents were interviewed through this method of which all were adults. More women respondents were reached as compared to the men respondents in order to reciprocate the gender composition of the targeted audience because majority of the workers in flower farms are female. This was also to ensure that the sample for the study reflects the different characteristics based on the project targets and study communities.

2.3 Sampling

The study was based on a multi-stage sampling strategy of communities and individuals within farming communities in Budongo sub county s. Within each study area, both women and men were sampled to gather data relating especially to issues of gender responsive indicators as provided by the project documents. Sampling targeted people living around the forested areas of Budongo sub county.

2.3.1 Quantitative Data Sample Selection

For the quantitative data collection method, the sampling technique employed a parallel mixed method sampling technique; that is both probability and purpose sampling. Purposeful sampling was employed to select appropriate categories of respondents. In this regard, the snow ball sampling technique was used where employers and respondents made referrals of the other targeted respondents for the study using the following criteria:

a) Hard Selection Criteria

1. If the respondent is anticipated to participate in the specific project activities and s/he is working in and around the Budongo forested areas and Budongo sub county community.
2. If the respondent is deemed a key informant by the project or partners
3. If the respondent is an important stakeholder either to the project target or affects or could be affected by the conservation efforts
4. If respondent been referred or provided or determined by project implementing partners and/or key stakeholders
5. If the respondent is likely to be a beneficiary or is within the project geographical area of Budongo.

b) Additional selection criteria to support a relatively equal distribution of the following characteristics:

1. Project target classification (clean energy and actors in environmental)
2. The project intervention of interest for the respondent such as clean energy and conservation related interventions
3. The specific sector/themes of the project (i.e. farming, briquettes, clean cooking, tree planting among others)
4. The community (location based in Budongo project area where this project is to be implemented)
5. The gender of the respondent

The sample was not necessarily proportionately allocated from one district, project sub county was done.

2.3.2 Qualitative Data Sample Selection

Qualitative data collection ran concurrently with the quantitative data collection process. However, it was based on a smaller sample. This sample was based on SOPs and the need to limit exposure and direct physical contact between respondents and research team. Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) were largely used based on the roles and positions respondents held in society. The key informants and participants were purposively selected based on their knowledge and experience on key themes in the project.

2.3.3 Sample Size

For individual interviews and conversations, an initial representative sample size of 96 respondents (between 7 -10 respondents each village) was determined in such a way that it represented the total population for sampling from the 3 parishes of Budongo sub county.

2.4 Data analysis and management

Immediately after leaving the field, the field team supervisors manually checked all completed questionnaires to identify data entry errors and corrected them immediately and to ensure that they were correctly answered and fully completed.

The individual interview questionnaire was converted into SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) Software and stored in an SPSS data base. Data was analysed in SPSS software to generate tables. The quantitative data has been presented in this report in form of charts, tables and diagrams. The qualitative data was transcribed and analysed using thematic and content analysis. This data is mostly presented in this report as supplementary descriptions of the quantitative findings, case studies, narratives and direct quotations.

Discussion of results/findings in this report was based on the data collected and the focus of project (environmental conservation) while recommendations are presented based on the findings, in order to inform the project team to uphold or adjust strategies in order to achieve all the project indicator goals for the project life span.

2.5 Pre-field activities

Interviewers/data collectors to undertake face-to-face interviews were engaged by the lead researchers and arrangements were made for training them using a combination of classroom training and practical experience. Interviewers were also trained in the study ethics protocols and appropriate response mechanisms especially environmental.

2.6 Quality control

In order to ensure quality and standardize the data that was collected, the following was done:

1. Adopted appropriate random sampling procedures that were dictated by the survey methodology;
2. Appropriately prepared and oriented field assistants to ensure that they were sufficiently trained and familiar with the survey processes, and questionnaire;
3. Provided adequate and proper supervision during fieldwork to ensure that field teams actually conducted the interviews at the selected sites and that survey procedures and protocols were followed;
4. Adopted appropriate systematic procedures for data capturing and management;
5. At each study stage, instant field problem solving as well as constant field editing was exercised by the study team leaders.
6. Cleaned collected data at both data entry and analysis levels.
7. Production of a data set, and frequency tables based on an analysis plan mutually agreed with CEDO Uganda Project Staff.

2.7 Confidentiality and privacy

To ensure confidentiality, information which could identify the respondent was not collected. All interviews were conducted in a private area. Access to the data including hard copy questionnaires and transcripts was limited to the study team members. Consent was sought from employers prior to the interview and for child-respondents consent was sought from adult caretakers.

2.8 Validation and Feedback Workshop

To validate and provide feedback on the findings of the baseline, this draft report will be shared in a workshop with a wider constituency for further consultations.

2.9 Limitations of the Study

Although there were no major limitations during the time of the study, the following limitations were noted by the study team:

1. The study was conducted at a time when the COVID 19 epidemic was so rampant particularly in Masindi. This make respondents even fear to be interviewed
2. Transportation across the district was banned. This made the team to use routes that were longer than known ones and adopt phone calls.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Sectorial and Institutional Context.

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world (53% under 15 years of age), due to a relatively high population growth rate (3.2%). Approx. 80% of the population is rural, making Uganda the second most rural economy in Africa. Over the last decade, the number of people living below the poverty line has been reducing. Statistics indicate that poverty levels have declined from 56% in 1992 to 24% by 2009/10. Agriculture accounts for 43% of GDP, 85% of export earnings and 80% of employment (GoU, 2000). This population pose a potential threat to the environment as demand for fuel and other forest materials grow over time.

Budongo forest has more than 360 bird species, some 290 butterflies, 130 moths, 465 trees, and 24 mammals, of which 9 are primates. Chimpanzee tracking has become an activity popular with eco-tourists, necessitating behavioural guidelines for visitors in order to avoid undue disturbance of both animals and forest. Areas adjacent to Budongo and Murchison Falls are so prone to environmental degradation as a result of mans activities.

Encroachment on state lands is a common practice in Uganda. Forest reserves are a form of state land under forest cover of either high land tropical forest (HLTF) or low land moist forest (LMF), and woodlands. Deforestation is eminent in Uganda considering the reduction of forest cover from the precolonial days to present. Forest clearance for agriculture in Uganda montane forests is thought to have begun some 2200 years ago with arrival of Bantu-speaking peoples who had iron-smelting technology. To date, the culture of trading forest products for food has grown, a scenario that initiated accelerated deforestation. Deforestation in Uganda has reduced the ecological interactions that support sharing of resources. These include light, temperature, rainfall, wind, humidity, pests, diseases, symbiots, soil nutrients, organic matter, moisture and space. As a result areas which were formally under forest cover now hardly support any plant life. Efforts are being made to contain the situation by adopting collaborative forest management, enacting laws and regulations that can help guide forest conservation and afforestation/reaforestation efforts.

Both Murchison National Park and Budongo forest are at risk of people activities. Government of Uganda and its partners have increasingly shown commitment to restoring forests and degraded lands, as well as calling for action to reduce deforestation. Despite this, Uganda has been losing about 122,000 hectares of forests each year. This has been the core mobilisation efforts for the different actors such as CEDO Uganda to take appropriate actions especially using the forest beneficiary approach such that by 2030 there still exists some forest.

4.0 Key Findings

This section presents the main field findings. It provides a description of the distribution of respondents and their social demographic characteristics including main sources of energy, family size, perceptions around the key conservation efforts among others. This section is the basis of this study. The subsequent section is a summary of the findings.

4.1 Sex of Respondents.

The study was informed that majority of the respondents were female (58.8%) while 41.2% were male.

Table 4.0: Showing the Sex of Respondents

Details	Male	Female	Totals
Respondents No	40	54	94
Percentage	41.2	58.8	100%

The choice of respondent was arrived at randomly. This also implies that majority of the people in the project area were female.

The study revealed that majority of the respondents were young people aged between 18 and 35 years. Whereas the choice of respondent was not deliberate, the study revealed that young people dominated the population of the study area. Of those that revealed their age, 50.5% were aged between 18 and 35 years.

Table 4.1: Showing Respondents' Age Groups

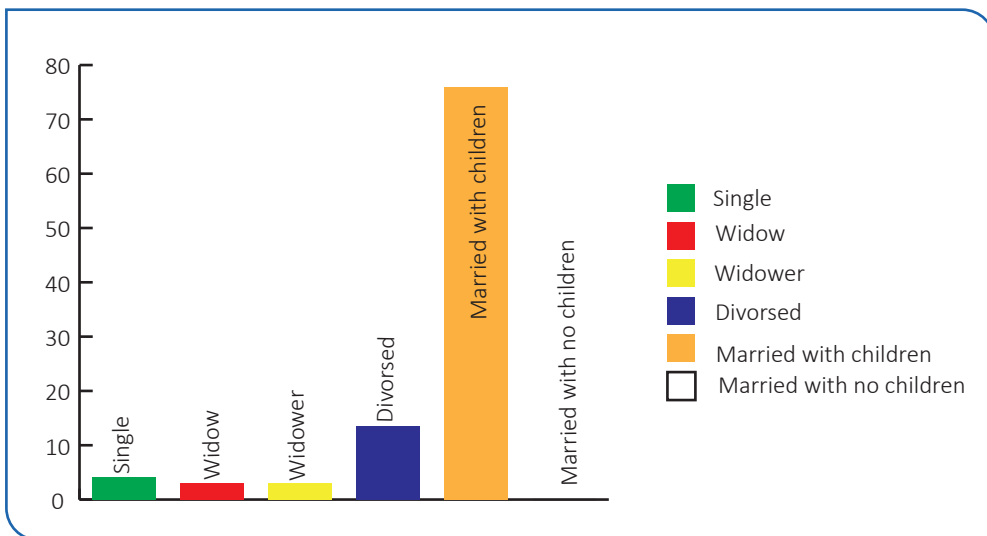
Respondents Age		
Age groups		Percentages
18-35	46	50.5%
36 +	45	49.5%
Totals	91	100%

This implies that all project interventions should greatly target young people as they form a significant section of the project population.

4.2 Marital Status

The study revealed that majority of the respondents were married with children. This represented 76% of the population. Also, 4.2% were single, 3.1% widows, 3.1% widowers, 13.5% divorced while non expressed to be married with no children.

Figure 4.0 Showing the Marital Status of Respondents

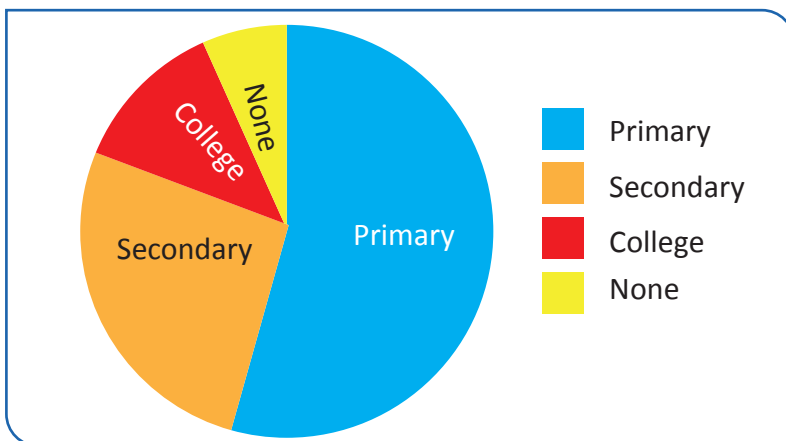


The study showed that there was early child birth among girls and so was early marriages as well. However, there was no relationship between marital status and the environment or environmental degradation for that matter.

4.3 Education Level

The study found out that the level of education in Budongo was still so low. Majority of the respondents has not exceeded primary level of education. Over 54.8% of the population indicated to have stepped but not exceeded Primary level of education. None of the respondents had acquired a degree while only 7.5% had attained some college course with 6.5% having never studied at all.

Figure 4.1: Showing the Level of Education of Respondents



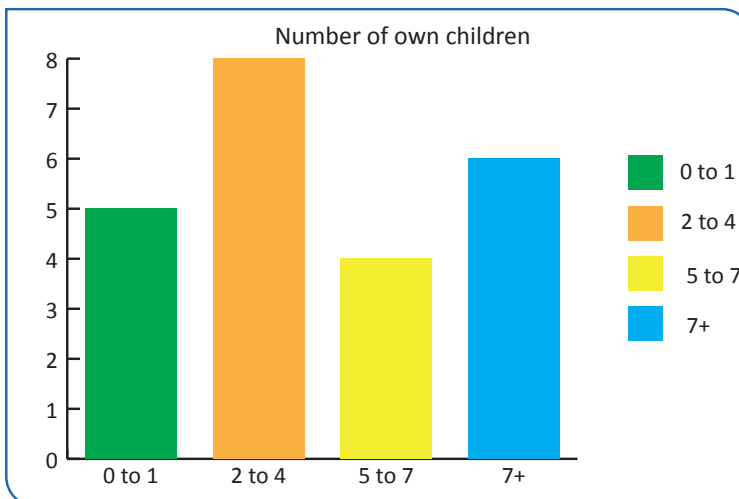
The study was informed that about 31.2% of the population had acquired some secondary education.

The study investigated education of the people of the project area since education facilitates understanding, appreciation of nature and response to the ecological needs of society. However, it was realized that both educated and none educated people in Budongo expressed need to plant trees across wider divide.

4.5 Children and Dependence Levels

The study assessed the level of dependents households had. This was assessed through the size of household and the number of children a household had. It was revealed that majority of respondents had between 5 to 7 dependents while 26.1% had more than 7 children of their own. The level of dependence had a very big bearing on the pressure families put on the vegetation particularly the surrounding trees and forest.

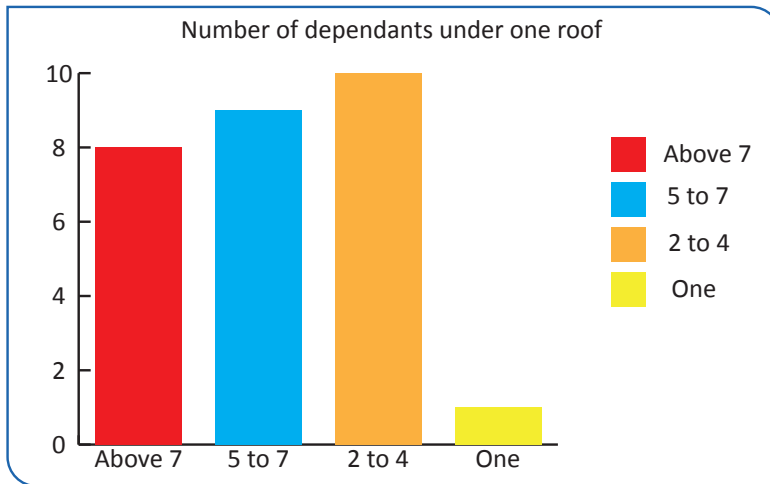
Figure 4.2: Showing the Level of Dependence at Households Level



On average, each family can be categorized as being large in Budongo. This poses pressure and need for fuel at family level. Whereas most families bore between 2 and 4 children, they were still young and with capacity to expand. This represented 41.4% of the population. The study also revealed that, of these families, reliance on nature for fuel wood was the most dominant as they were gazetted Wednesday and Saturday as days for collecting fuel wood from the forest. This implies that more wood was needed to be collected from Budongo forest and surrounding protected areas to feed the ever-expanding large families.

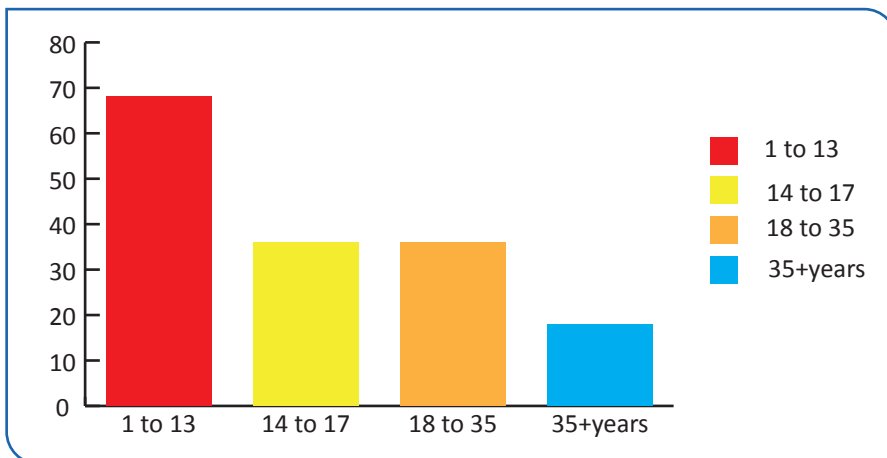
The study revealed that 30.9% of the respondent population had more than 7 dependents under their roof. It was also found out that 32.1% had between 5 and 7 dependent while 33.3% and 3.7% had between 2 and 4 as well as only one dependents respectively

Figure 4.3: Showing the Number of Dependents at households Level



The number of dependents also included own children and relatives. Of these dependents, majority constituted young pupils between 1 and 13 years. This constituted 43% of all respondents' dependents. It was revealed further that 22.8% of the dependents were aged between 14 and 17 years and another 22.8% were aged between 18 and 25 years. This implies that majority youth were still depending on their parents. These relied on one household. Some household still had dependents who were 35 years and above (11.4%).

Figure 4.4: Showing the Age of Dependents



4.6 Housing /Shelter

As a way of assessing the households' status, the study assessed what kind of housing/shelter communities lived in with their families. As such, the type of shelter was presumed to imply the level of livelihood and quality of life. The study revealed that; none of the respondents

lived under a tent with majority (49%) housed in grass roofed but mud walled, and 21.9% with iron roof/mad walled. It further revealed that 26% had permanent/brick houses while 3.1% had houses covered by other materials.

Table 4.2: Showing the Households' Housing Status

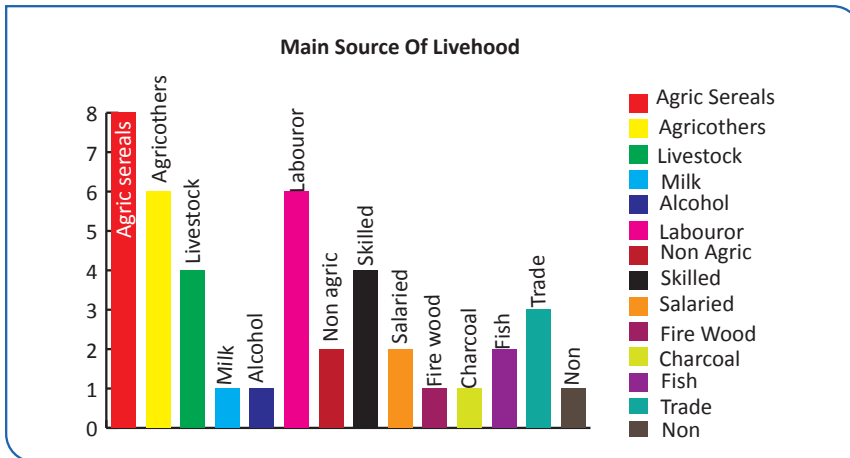
Nature of dwelling	Tents	Grass/ Mud	Iron/ mad	Permanent	Iron	Others	Total
Numbers	0	47	21	25	0	3	96
Percentages	0.0%	49%	21.9%	26%	0.0%	3.1%	100%

The study the housing status of respondents. By observation, majority of the respondents were housed under grass thatched houses. This was as a result of both poverty and culture as they were arranged in household form. It should be noted that grass thatched houses used grass and trees that were also collected from the surrounding forested areas.

4.7 Main source of Livelihood

The main source of livelihood was found out to be agriculture of different form. 67.3% relied on agricultural cereals such as rice, sorghum, maize etc, 5.6% relied on livestock rearing of which less than 1% sold milk, 12.1% were engaged in other crops while 6.7% were casual laborers. Production, sale and consumption of alcohol was less dominant an economic activity though its consumption was evident at community level. Communities were also engaged in trade (1.9%), 0.9% were salaried employees while 2.8% were engaged in skilled works

Figure 4.5 Showing the Main Sources of Livelihood

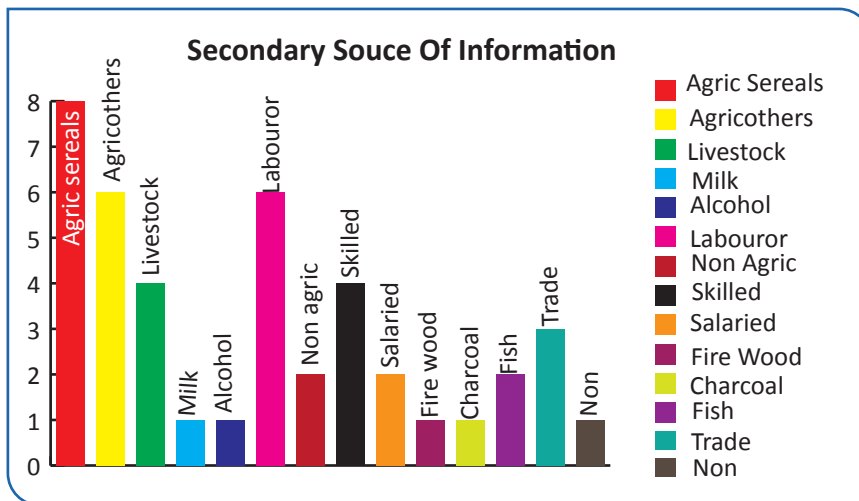


The study was informed that there was no dominant economic activity apart from agriculture that was being conducted in the study area. However, over reliance on agriculture and natural endowments such as the forest was seen to be common across all places. This partly accounts for the reliance on the forest for wood, timber, scrubs and grass among others

Based on this finding, it was easier for the project interventions to focus on agronomic support enterprises as communities were already preoccupied in the trade as a dominant economic activity.

The secondary source of income were also dominated by agricultural practices (20.5%). 28.9% were engaged in agricultural related trades, 10.8% considered livestock to be their secondary sources of livelihoods while 8.4% were labourers. Fish (3.6%) trade (13.3%) and skilled employment (3.6%) were dominant secondary sources of livelihoods.

Figure 4.6 Showing the Secondary Sources of Income



Having realized that communities were engaged in more than one occupation and trade, the project could introduce related income generating activities to those primarily engaged in.

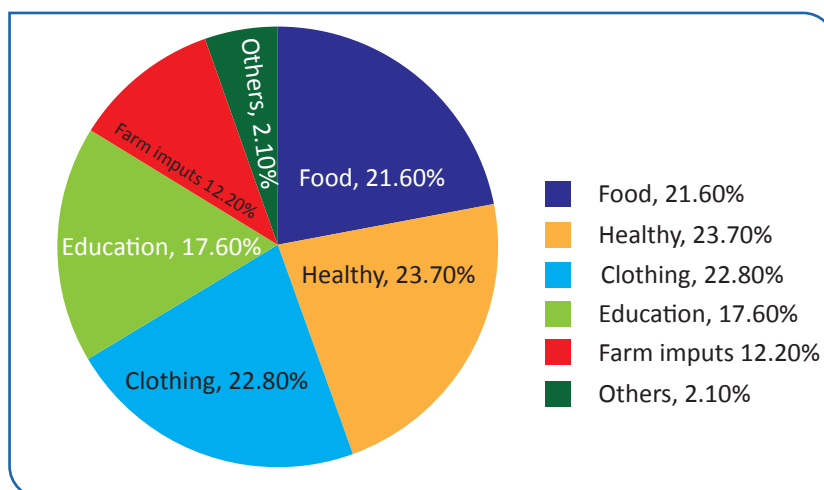
The presence of other off farm sources of income was realized in the areas of casual employment (29.5%), casual piece rate (14.1%), firewood sale (9%) and friends 10.3%. having an over 9% of the population selling and dealing in sell of firewood was considered disastrous to the forest population given the demand for firewood and for commercial sale of wood by the resident population.

Table 4.4: Showing other Non-Farm Income Sources

Main off farm source of income							
Firewood	Casual salaried	Business	Salaried	Casual wage	Friends	NGO	Other
7	23	23	5	11	8	0	1
9%	29.5%	29.5%	6.4%	14.1%	10.3%	0.0%	1.3%

4.8 Main Expense

The study assessed the core expenditure centres at community level. It was revealed that of those who showed where their main income was spent, 21.6% was on food, 22.8% spent their incomes on clothing while 17.6% spent on education and 12.2% on farm land.

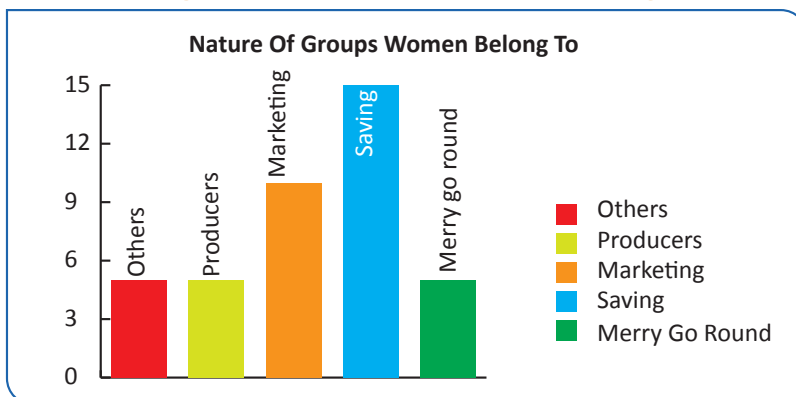
Figure 4.7 Showing Households' Expenditure Centres

4.9 Groups and Group Composition

The study assessed groupings as a main project intervention model for serving communities. Under this, participants were asked whether they belonged to any community groupings and how they were interfacing with groups as channels of social transformation.

When asked which saving or other community groups they belonged to, the study showed that majority of the people at least belonged to a community group. Of the interviewed women respondents, 83.1% of those who belonged to community groups belonged to savings groups, 1.7% were in merry go round groups, 11.9% in marketing related groups while 1.7% belonged to produce related groupings. Of the 59 women participants who expressed belonging to groups, 100% of them were voluntarily in those groups.

Figure 4.8 Showing Status of Women Groups in Budongo



On average, more women embraced community groups across all the three parishes of Kasenene, Nyantonzi and Myabyeya.

Nyabyeya had the least number of people belonging to community groups. Also, there were more community groups in both Nyantonzi and Kasenene than in Nyantonzi parishes.

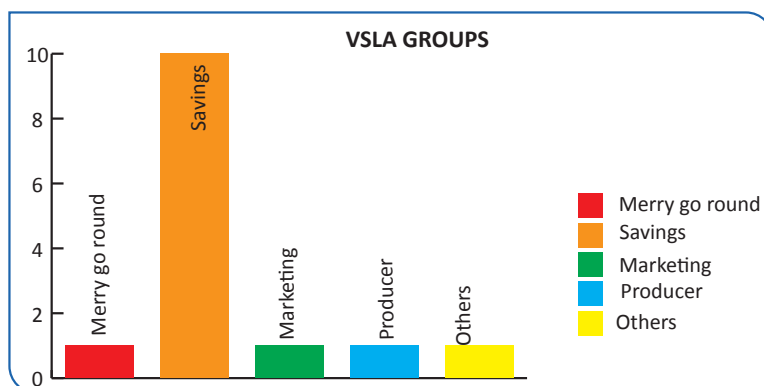
There were more youth in merry go round groups than they women. 11.1% of the youth in groups were in merry go round while 83.3% were in savings groups.

Table 4.4: Showing Nature of Groups Youth Belonged to

Youth Group				
Merry go round	Saving	Marketing	Producer	Others
11.1%	83.3%	0%	5.6%	0%

The most dominant category of groupings were the Village Savings and Loans Associations. Of all the respondents who belonged to a particular group, 64 of them were in VSLA groups. Of these, 95.3% were typically community saving groups with marketing (3.1%) and 1.6% merry go round cycle features.

Figure 4.9: Showing VSLA Group Features



The study showed that only two people expressed that they were in farmer field. 95.5% of the respondents belonged to VSLAs groups. of the people who belonged to VSLA groups, 86.7% had ever received capacity building training in at least one thing at group level on issues relating to group dynamics savings, financial literacy, income generation skills.

4.10 Other Groups

The assessed the number of communities that belonged to other community groups. As such only 2 members Farmer Field School, one was in Seed Processing groups and the other in vegetable related groupings

Table 4.5: Showing Actors engaged in environmental related work in Budongo

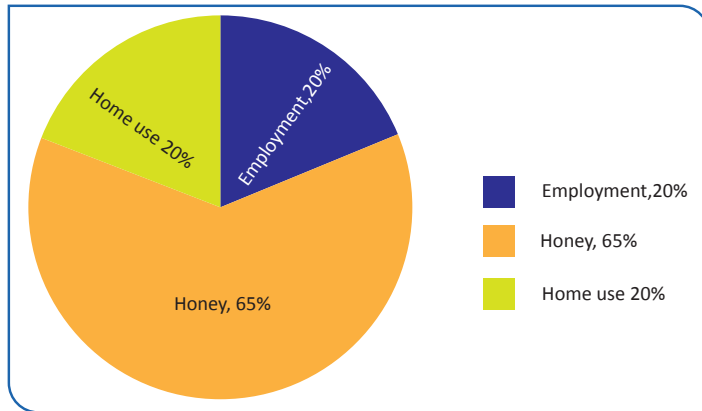
No	Organisation	Nature of work
1.	1. Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS	a. Tree planting b. Wetland c. Woodlot planting for beneficiaries with land above 1 hectare d. Tree restoration
2.	2. Eco Trust	a. Tree planting b. Seedlings distribution c. Water (shallow wells) d. Sanitation campaigns
3.	3. NEMA	Enforcing environmental laws
4.	4. KACODA (CBO)	Environmental awareness in Kasongore
5.	5. Bugondo Conservation Field Station BCFS	Only in Nyabyeya village and giving enterprise fund
6.	6. FOWEDE	Women governance training and human rights
7.	7. CODECA	Environmental awareness
8.	8. National Forestry Authority	Boundary planting

4.11 Apiary

The supply of bee hives in the project area was found out to be so small. The entire area of study was shown to have only 13 households with bee hives and bee keeping businesses. Whereas there was desire to keep bees, the supply of beehives was still very low. Of those who had apiary, 84.6% had less than 30 bee hives.

The study showed that 20% of the people who kept bees did so as employment, 65% as source of honey (income) while 20% was for home use.

Figure 4.10 Showing the Purpose of Keeping Bees



The sale of honey was not commercially visible in the project area. There was no known selling point for honey in Budongo. This implies that honey is rather produced not on a typically commercial basis.

The study revealed that communities in the study area were engaged in bee keeping for a short time. Over 91.7% of the people who were engaged in honey production and bee keeping had done so for 3 years or less. About 8.3% had kept bees for a period between 3 to 5 years while none was engaged in bee keeping for a period beyond 5 years.

Whereas some of the communities who were engaged in bee keeping belonged to some community groups, only 10 of them were keeping bees and belonged to a community group.

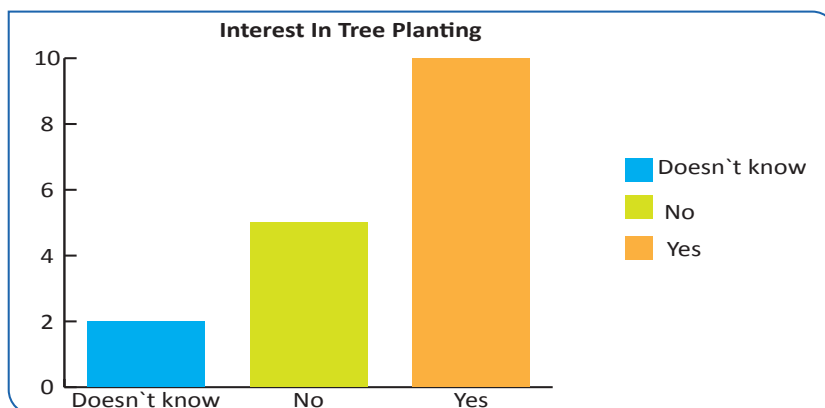
Out of the community members who kept bees, only 9 of their groups were registered. Of these only 6 community farmers provided supplements to their bee farms.

It was revealed that those who kept bees, their colonies were between 0 to 2 years (25%), 41.7% had their colonies aged between 2 to 4 years while 33.3% had their colonies older than 4 years.

Of the 97 respondents who were interviewed, 78 respondents (80.4%) owned land while 19.6% were typically landless. It should be noted that land was largely owned at homestead not at household levels.

When asked if they are interested in tree planting, 89.2% expressed willingness to plant trees.

Figure 4.11: Showing Interest in Tree Planting



4.12 Woodlots

Globally, response to environmental degradation has been through initiatives such as awareness, community tree planting, advocacy among others. Woodlots have become another community initiative that can mitigate environmental concerns at the community level.

When asked whether they literally owned places at community level where they collected wood fuel, 47 out of the 81 people who responded owned some kind of woodlots. This represented 58% of the respondents. However, 42% indicated that they did not own land and therefore also owned no woodlots.

The size of land people owned was a key factor in the level of ownership and interest in owning woodlots. As such, the study asked how much land households were willing to allocate to tree planting particularly through woodlots.

Table 4.6: Showing the Amount of Land to be Committed to Woodlots

Land to be committed to trees					
Less than 1acre	1 to 2 acres	1 hectare	2 hectares	Others	Total
35	23	7	6	4	75
46.7%	30.7%	9.3%	8%	5.3%	100 %

The study showed that majority (46.7%) were willing to allocate a smaller portion of their land (less than 1 acre) to tree planting. The other section of the communities (30.7%) were willing to commit.

4.13 Main Source of Fuel for Cooking

The study investigated the sources of energy communities were using at households level. This was key in the sense that reliance on non-sustainable sources meant pressure on trees and the forest materials. The study revealed that, 83.3% relied on firewood, 15.6% relied on charcoal while only 1% used kerosene.

Table 4.7: Showing the Main Source of Fuel

Firewood	Charcoal	Kerosene	Gas
80	15	1	0
83.3%	15.6%	1%	0%

The use of cook stoves was observed to be so rare. Throughout the study area, there were no any household that was found to be using cookstoves. The communities showed interest in using energy kook stoves. The study observed that communities considered cookstoves to be affordable (39%) and safer to use (12.2%). The use of charcoal was relatively high with 12.2% of the respondents having ever used charcoal in the last 90 days. 36.6% of the respondents showed that the use of cook stoves was easier to use.

4.1% of the population showed that they never knew the advantages of using energy cookstoves, while 171% expressed that they were not available and not made in their communities. The study also showed that 16.6% considered the energy cook stoves to be too expensive

4.14 Briquettes

Briquettes are one of the sustainable ways of conserving nature and protecting the environment in a clean and safer way. The manufacturing of briquettes is considered to have dual advantages. It engages the communities to utilize available waste and also conserves as environment.

It was however observed that none of the community members had used briquettes while they were only known in areas around Nyabyeya. In both Nyantonzi and Kasenene, they had never heard of briquettes at all. Of the 43 people who had ever heard of briquettes, only 1.6% had ever used briquettes. Also, only 2.6% had ever received training on briquettes. The study showed the entire area had no any machine making briquettes. Briquettes were so unpopular in both making and use. However, when explained to, communities showed anxiety and interest in making and using interest.

The study revealed that briquettes making, packaging, marketing were all found out to be new notions according to the community. Therefore, any investment in their production value chain would require mass awareness of the population to embrace. However, 91.7% of the population believed that availability of briquettes would replace the use of firewood if it was affordable and available for use by the communities. According to the Hon. Kyahurwa Julius, the LC III chairperson Budongo, if there was mass production of briquettes, pressure on trees would drastically reduce. He believed that the local people easily embrace and therefore could easily adopt to the production and usage of briquettes especially if its raw materials were available. The District Tourism Officer Masindi M/s Karungi noted that the community use of briquettes would allow the forest to restore and there boost local tourism as well.

5.0 Key Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Key Conclusions

1. On average, most people do not own large chunk of land. Land was owned at homestead not at households' level.
2. Communities were receptive of the environmental conservation efforts and expected free seedlings.
3. Most farm activities were being conducted on a small holder basis.
4. The study revealed that on average, the income levels of the people were low.
5. Briquettes were less popular amongst the population. Most people expressed ignorance about briquettes in general and how they are formed.
6. On average, people were of low incomes and poverty was manifested in all age groups.
7. There were no deliberate known interventions at community level promoting the use of and making of energy efficient cook stoves.
8. There was a general perception that energy saving cook stoves were expensive and therefore for the economically able.
9. Briquettes were less popular but of interest to the population. However, turning them into commercial will require utmost investment in attitude and supply chains with mass production.
10. The population expressed ignorance about briquettes.
11. Briquettes were the most unpopular energy saving technologies amongst all areas.
12. The demand and interest in environmental awareness was so high amongst women
13. The population was generally least educated with most respondents below primary level.
14. The demand for tree seedlings was so high among all communities
15. Average land ownership is so small with most families owning less than 2 acres of land and with men dominating ownership. This would affect tree planting as decisions would be made by their male counterparts.
16. The VSLA model was the most effective community mobilization model. Therefore, with a self

17. Most groups were found unregistered save from those formal connection to JGA Institute and CEDO Uganda.
18. There is general landlessness among the population
19. Many women were found to be living on pieces of land of their former husbands yet they are divorced. This makes it difficult to make important decisions relating to environmental conservation particularly tree planting. Women stayed on family land yet they were divorced.
20. NFA had gazetted Wednesday and Saturday as public days for collecting firewood from the forest. However, communities still believed that even in the forest, firewood had reduced.
21. Communities viewed tree seedlings to be expensive. An average tree seedling was found to be at between 400 and 700 shillings each.
22. The sub county was challenged by water scarcity in all parishes.

5.2 Recommendations

1. There is need to involve the Sub County Local Government of both Nyantonzi and Budongo in identification of enterprises to be engaged in by communities under this project. This is because most Income Generating Activities established earlier by other initiatives could not last beyond the project life.
2. CEDO Uganda and the project should harmonize the geographical and territorial changes in the Local Government structures in the project area. This will facilitate project implementors in undertaking strategic stakeholder engagement and mobilization of project participants. For instance, Budongo Sub County was split into two with Nyantonzi becoming a sub county of its own. Also others parishes on of Nyabyeya, Nyantonzi were split with new administrative and leadership structure in place.
3. Strictly use the group (VSLAs) model of community penetration. These groups were found to be deeply rooted, community owned and with routine meeting schedules. This will be easier mobilization avenues and platforms of engagement.
4. Integrate environmental conservation into existing community structures and development programming under this project. It should be noted that the study revealed that areas where CEDO Uganda had existing groups and work, communities were more active and embracing of any initiative than the other areas such as Nyabyeya.
5. There is need to deliberately target young people in the tree planting campaign. It was observed that most tree planting and environmental efforts in Budongo were embraced by the aged and women. It should be noted that young people were majority yet not engaged in conservation efforts.

6. Deliberately target women as they were found to be engaged in domestic based economic activities and trades. Also, women were the key actors in collecting firewood from the forest and tree cutting.
7. Woodlots should focus on very small pieces as land was relatively scarce at households level and competing with sugar cane in terms of land use
8. Focus the project on general environmental conservation and awareness as communities expressed ignorance on major environmental issues such as woodlots, briquettes, and their responsibilities.
9. Ensure collaboration with other existing environmental initiatives such as JGA Initiatives, NFA, MICOD among others. This will minimize wastage, promote partnership, avoid duplication, and promote synergies.
10. Link the project to rainfall enhancement since the project area was water stressed.
11. Focus on both sustainability and project ownership. Budongo sub county was challenged with many initiatives and environmental projects that end with lapse of the project span. Communities consider projects to be for the project implementors. As such, most efforts do not deliver the intended purpose and therefore last up to when they are followed up by the project implementors. Focus on behavior and perception of the project beneficiaries as owners of the project.
12. Engage local partners in tree planting and nursery bed raising. The study revealed that there were some farmers with some small tree nursery beds. Therefore, engaging them in supply of tree seedlings would add value to the project for sustainability.
13. The project should engage the Sub County Local Governments to tailor OWC tree distribution in a timely manner. It was observed that a lot of trees were available and being distributed by the sub county under the OWC but was presumed to be untimely and of less or insignificant impact.
14. Conduct routine project follow up and activity consistent follow up activities. This will empower project participants and ensure success

INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE FOR UBF/EPEC PROJECT

CONSENT FORM

Hello. My Name is _____ from Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization (CEDO Uganda). We are conducting a study about various issues related to promoting Environmental Conservation in Budongo S/ County. We would very much appreciate your participation in this survey. This questionnaire will take about 15 minutes to complete.

All of the answers you give will be confidential. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Your willingness to answer or not any answer questions will not, in any way, affect your ability to participate in this project. If we should come to any question you don't want to answer, just let me know and I will go on to the next question; or you can stop the interview at any time. However, we hope you will participate in the survey since your views are important.

At this time, do you want to ask me anything about the survey?

May I begin the interview now?

Signature of interviewer: _____

Date: _____

1 RESPONDENT AGREES TO BE INTERVIEWED, CONTINUE

2 RESPONDENT DOES NOT AGREE TO BE INTERVIEWED PLEASE END THE INTERVIEW

Section 1.0: General Interviewee Data

1.1: Name of interviewee.....Contact

1.2: Date of interview (dd/mm/yyyy) Enumerator's Name

1.3: Interview duration-Start End:Duration:.....

Section 2.0: Interviewee Demographic Data

2.1: Gender of respondent Male Female (tick (√) one)

2.2: Age of respondent (Tick (√) as appropriate)

14-17 years 18-35 years 36 years and above

2.3: Marital status (Tick (√) as appropriate)

Single (Never married) Widow Widower Divorced Married with children Married with no children

2.4: What is the highest level of education that you have attained? (Tick (✓) as appropriate)

Primary Secondary College University None (Never went to school)

2.4: Size of household: How many children do you have? (circle or tick (✓) a response that apply)

S/N	Own children	Circle (or ✓) choice
2.4.1	0-1	1
2.4.2	2-4	2
2.4.3	5-7	3
2.4.4	Above 7	4

2.5: Family status: How many dependants do you have? (Circle or tick (✓) a response that apply)

S/N	Dependant (s)	Circle (or ✓) choice
2.5.1	1-1	1
2.5.2	2-4	2
2.5.3	5-7	3
2.6.4	Above 7	4

2.6: Ages of dependants

S/N	Dependant(s)	Insert number here
2.6.1	1-13 years	
2.6.2	14-17 years	
2.6.3	18-35 years	
2.6.4	> 35 years	

2.7: Housing /shelter: What kind of housing/shelter do you live in with your family? (One answer only)

S/N	Housing/Shelter	Circle (or ✓) choice
2.8a	Tents/canvas	1
2.8b	Grass roof/mud walled	2
2.8c	Iron roof/mad walled	3
2.8d	Permanent/brick house	4
2.8e	Iron roof/iron walled	5
2.8f	Other (specify)	6

2.8 Livelihood sources

Please complete the table regarding livelihood sources using the livelihood source codes provided below.	3.1 What were your household's main income activities over the last three (03) years?	3.2 Using proportional piling or divide the pie methods, please estimate the relative contribution to total income of each activity.
2.8.1 Main livelihood source		%
2.8.2 Second livelihood source		%
2.8.3 Third livelihood source		%
		Total =100%
LIVELIHOOD SOURCE CODES:		
1=Agriculture and sale of cereals (Rice, sorghum, maize etc.	11=sale of firewood/poles	
2= Agriculture and sale of other crops and products	12=Sales of charcoal	
3= livestock and sale of livestock	13=sales of grass	
4= sale of animal products (milk etc.)	14=fish and sale of fish	
5= Sale of alcoholic beverages	15= other petty trading/small business (tea seller, kiosk etc.	
6=Casual labor related to agricultural activities	16=Kinship/gifts from family friends/remittances	
7= Casual labor related to construction	17= Begging	
8= Other non-agricultural or construction casual labor (e.g domestic labor etc.)	18= sale of food assistance (received from NGOs, WFP, Government)	
9= Skilled labor	19= Borrowing	
10= Salaried work	99= Other, specify	

2.9 Main Off-farm source of income

	Source	Source	1=Yes,	2=No	If yes, give amount per month (average)
4.0a	Sale of firewood and charcoal				
4.0b	Casual labor				
4.0c	Business/petty trade				
4.0d	Formal employment (salaried)				
4.0e	Cash for work				
4.0f	Remittances (from friend and relatives)				
4.0g	Cash transfer from NGOs or Government				
4.0h	Others (specify)				

2.10: How do you mainly spend your income?

S/N	Expenditure	% (as per key below) Give narrative if any
4.1a	Food	
4.1b	Health	
4.1c	Clothing	
4.1d	Education	
4.1e	Purchase of inputs	
4.1f	Leisure/Entertainment	
4.1g	Others (specify)	

Key: 1 =<25%, 2=25-50%, 3=51-75%, 4=>75%

3.0: Community Groups including Savings/VSLAs

Which Savings or other community groups do you belong to and what activities are they involved in?

S/N	Type of Group	Group Activities (use key BELOW)	Year formed	Year joined
3.0.1	Women group			
3.0.2	Youth group			
3.0.3	Farmers Field School			
3.0.4	VSLA			
3.0.5	Seed processing group			
3.0.6	Vegetable producer group			
3.0.7	Others (specify)			

KEY: 1=Merry-go-round, 2=Savings, 3=Marketing, 4=Producer group, 5= Others (specify)

3.1 Do women and youth in your community have financial access or generated interest in participating in VSLAs?

S/N	Do women participate in?	YES=1, No=2
3.1.1	Community awareness on savings and lending	
3.1.2	Do you belong to any VSLAs group	
3.1.3	Had you received capacity building of VSLA groups on issues related to group dynamics savings, financial literacy, income generation skills etc	
3.1.4	If yes by who (organization/individual) please specify	

4.0: Apiary: Do you participate in any Apiary/ Bee keeping activity?

Apiary				
No.	Question /Issue	Response options		Code
4.0.1	What type of beekeeper are you? (ask it as How many bee hives do you have?)	Backyard/Hobby (<30 hives) Sideline (30-300 hives) Commercial - migratory (>300 hives) Commercial - stationary (>300 hives) Other (please specify)	1 2 3 4 5	
4.0.2	Why do you keep bees? Please check all that apply	Enjoyment/hobby Honey production for sale Honey production for home use Other (please specify)	1 2 3 4	
4.0.3	How many years have you been keeping bees?	3 years or less 3-5years More than 5 years	1 2 3	
4.0.4	Are you a member of a beekeeping group or organization? If yes, which one(s)? Are there any Bee Keeping Group?	Yes No Others (Please specify)	1 2 3	
4.0.5	Is your Apiary/ Apiaries currently registered with the Local Government or at National level?	Yes No Others (Please specify)	1 2 3	
	If yes, what level and when was it registered?	(Insert details)		
4.0.6	How much honey did you harvest in the last season (year)-in liters?			

Apiary				
No.	Question /Issue	Response options		Code
4.0.7	Did you provide supplemental feed (i.e. sugar syrup, pollen patties, commercial products, etc) to your colonies over the last year?	Yes=1 No=2		
	If yes, what did you provide? Include trade name if available.			
4.0.8	How many total living colonies do you have on farm?			
4.0.9	What are the age(s) of your colonies? Please check all that apply.	0-2 years 2-4 years More than 4 years Others (specify)	1 2 3 4	
4.0.10	What type of hive equipment do you use?			

5.0: Woodlots

Woodlots			
No.	Question /Issue	Yes	No
5.0.1	Are you a resident of this village?		
5.0.2	How much land do you own/ have, in acres?		
5.0.3	Would you be interested in tree planting?		
5.0.4	If yes, why would you be interested in tree planting		
5.0.5	Do you already own any woodlot?		
5.0.6	If yes, what is the size of your current woodlot?		

5.0.7	If you are interested in starting tree planting /or expanding an existing woodlot, how much land would you commit to tree planting?	Less than an acre =1	
		1 -2 acres =2	
		1 hectares (2.5 acres)=3	
		2 hectares (5 Acres)=4	
		Others (please specify)=5	

6.0: Energy Saving Cookstoves

Energy saving cookstoves				
No.	Question /Issue	Response options		Code
6.0.1	What is your main source of fuel for cooking?	Fire wood Charcoal (using cook stove) Kerosene stove Gas cooker	1 2 3 4	
6.0.2	Why would you prefer to use cook stoves to other energy sources?	Affordable (compared to gas or electricity) Charcoal easily accessible Easier to use than firewood Safer to use than other fuel sources	1 2 3 4	
6.0.3	If you DO NOT USE cook stoves, what is your reason?	Not made in the community Too expensive Never know their advantages	1 2 3	
6.0.4	Are there improved constructed cook stoves in your community?	Yes No	1 2	
6.0.5	Are masons readily available in your community?	Yes No	1 2	
6.0.6	How do you rate the DEMAND for improved cook stoves in your community?	Low Medium High Doesn't know	1 2 3 4	
6.0.7	Are you satisfied with the current design of improved constructed cook stoves?	Yes No	1 2	
6.0.8	If you are NOT SATISFIED with current design, what improvement would you like?			

7.0: Briquettes

Briquettes				
No.	Question /Issue	Response options		Code
7.0.1	Have you ever used briquettes for cooking?	Yes No	1 2	
7.0.2	Have you ever received any form of training on briquettes production or use?	Yes No	1 2	
7.0.3	Are briquette-making machines available in your community (Budongo S/c)	Yes No	1 2	
7.0.4	In a case of training for community members on briquettes, what would you wish the training to focus on? (Tick all that applies)	Briquettes making Briquettes packaging Briquettes Marketing Others (Specify)	1 2 3 4	
7.0.5	Do you think briquettes can be a source of income to women and the youth in Budongo area?	Yes No	1 2	
7.0.6	If trainings are done on briquettes making, Can briquettes be bought and sold in your community market?	Yes No	1 2	
7.0.7	Do you think Youths and women in this village can be employed and earn money if they are involved in producing briquettes using agricultural wastes available in this community?	Yes No	1 2	

What other initiatives are supporting environment and community response to greening this area?

Is there any additional information or recommendations in regard to issues above?

Thank you very much for taking part in this survey.

Masindi Field Office:

Western Ward, Masindi Municipality

+256773742259

To all stakeholders (security and Local Leaders)

RE: Introduction of Mr.

I am pleased to introduce and inform you the above named person who is our field volunteer for the project “Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation (EPEC) Project”. This is an 11 months project aimed at restoring Budongo forest and providing the surrounding communities with alternative sources of income that are environmentally friendly in Budongo sub country.

He is part of the team conducting a field research survey for a period of 12 days in the above sub counties. Please accord him the necessary support.

Thank you

Bbiira Kiwanuka Nassa

Lead Researcher

Made possible by the generous support of:



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For now & the future

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