Ecological restoration Efforts in Uganda by Tooro Botanical Gardens (TBG).

Ruyonga Godfrey Miya
Director Tooro Botanical Gardens
Presentation overview

- Introduction and Background
- Restoration work by TBG
- Challenges
INTRODUCTION TO TBG

Location of TBG.
INTRODUCTION CON’D

- **TBG Background**
  - TBG is a community-based non-profit making organisation founded in 2001 as a centre of excellence in growing and maintaining living plant collection from the Albertine Rift.

- **Vision**: A natural green environment for Conservation, Education, Research and Recreation
INTRODUCTION CON’D

- **Mission:** To establish Botanical Gardens as a Centre of Excellence in growing and displaying living collections of the Albertine Rift plants for conservation, scientific research, educational, horticultural and medicinal purposes.

- TBG seeks to increase the propagation of a diversity of plants, under-take research, training of communities, promote and create awareness on the preservation, conservation and sustainable use of plants within the Albertine Rift.
About Uganda

- Uganda is one of the world’s biodiversity rich countries with over 18,783 species in its 241,551 Km² (Over 5,000 plant spp, 1,000 bird spp, 350 mammal spp among others).

- The country’s ecosystems have been heavily degraded through Poor farming methods, indiscriminate reclamation of wetlands and deforestation without replenishment.

- As a result of degrading the arable land, farmers turned to wetlands and forest reserves ignoring their invaluable ecological functions.
OVERVIEW OF RESTORATION WORK

BY TBG

- Restoration of degraded forest landscapes in partnership with BGCI.
- Raising indigenous tree planting with special emphasis on rare and endangered spp.
- Restoration of degraded bank of river Mpanga.
Restoration of 100 acre Buhoiga forest reserve
- This was a natural forest, converted eucalyptus plantation 1963, felled and converted into graze lands 1979.
- This is where the Botanical Garden is located.
- Restoration Started in 2006 from a communal graze land with 1000s of eucalyptus tree stumps.
- 57 acres out of 100 restored so far.
- Tree species increased from 7 to more than 88
- Bird species increased from 34 to more than 154
- Primates and small mammals that had disappeared from the same are returning.
Ashden trust/ BGCI partnership restoration

The three restoration plots were set up with the following aims:

- Conservation of endangered and highly utilised species
- Generating increased knowledge of indigenous species – propagation protocols
- Generating increased supply of indigenous material.
- Testing species performance, Scientific monitoring and Refining list of priority species for forest restoration
- Provide opportunity for education, restoration training and engaging partners.
RESTORATION WORK BY TBG

Ashden trust/ BGCI partnership restoration

General Achievements so far:

- Produced over 46,000 (43 species) indigenous tree seedlings of mostly rare and endangered spp.

- Set up all the three restoration sites.

- Held three trainings and 4 stakeholder consultative meetings on ecological restoration.

- Set up a monitoring system for the progress of the restoration sites.

- Got community members on board for sustainability of the projects
RESTORATION WORK BY TBG CONT’D

Restoration site 1

- measuring 6.42 hectares, it is within the main garden

- Was a natural forest turned into graze land in 1979.

- Restoration started in 2013 with 34 species, lost 3

- 100% planted and most trees above average health score.

- On average trees are 136cm tall with canopy width of 84cm. The tallest tree is 245 cms.
RESTORATION WORK BY TBG CONT”D

Restoration site 2
- This measures 11.57 hectares.
- Was an indigenous forest that was turned into farmland in 1986.
- Restoration started in 2013 with 26 species, lost 12
- Only about 37% of the total land planted
- On average trees are 120cm tall with average canopy width of 68cm
- The tallest tree is 147 cm.
RESTORATION WORK BY TBG CONT’D

Restoration site 3

- This is a 4.08 hectares

- Was a natural forest that was turned into graze land in 1974.

- Restoration started in 2013 with 28 species, lost 3 to browsing and 5 failed due to other factors.

- 93 % planted.

- On average trees are 136cm tall with canopy width of 84cm

- The tallest tree is 252 cm.

- Trees doing well with an average health score of 2.5 out of 3
RESTORATION WORK BY TBG CONT’D

Raising indigenous tree planting materials in partnership with BGCI and Ashden trust.

- Over 77,000 indigenous tree seedlings (88 spp) raised per year.
- Some planted in restoration sites
- Others donated to the community
- Others given to institutions like schools
- Others sold to private planters
RESTORATION WORK BY TBG CONT’D

Pilot restoration one degraded river bank in partnership with UNEP and Protos

- Four hot spots of degraded river bank restored.
- Communities trained in Soil and water conservation
CHALLENGES

• Inadequate financial and other resources.
• Continued degradation of landscapes
Looking ahead

- Supportive partners eg BGCI
- Newly identified restoration sites
- Permission to restore the sites
- Currently fundraising to expand to other sites
Thank you