Annual Narrative Report 2023/24



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ISSD Uganda

Kingdom of the Netherlands

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CDO:	Community Development Officer
CG:	CommonGround
A2N:	Africa 2000 Network
CS:	Community Strengthening
CVC:	Community Vision Committee
EE:	Environmental Education.
IPP:	Integrated Plot Plan
ISDAP:	Integrated Smallholder Dairy Program
ISSD:	Integrated Seed and Sector Development
LLG:	Lower Local Government
PIP:	Participatory Integrated Planning
PIs:	PIP Innovators
S/C:	Sub-County
SNV:	Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers (Foundation of Netherlands Volunteers)
T/C:	Town Council
WASH:	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WENR:	Wageningen Environmental and Research
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LLG:	Lower Local Government
PIP:	Participatory Integrated Planning
PIs:	PIP Innovators
S/C:	Sub-County
T/C:	Town Council
WASH:	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WENR:	Wageningen Environmental and Research
SLM:	Sustainable land management.
SLU:	Sustainable land use.

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Introduction.

This annual report covers the second financial year for the CommonGround project, from 1st July 2023 till 30th June 2024.

CommonGround Project is a 4-year (2022-2026) Project of Wageningen Environmental Research (WENR) with funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda. The local implementing partner is Integrated Seed and Sector Development Uganda (ISSD Uganda). Field officers are contracted through local organizations (JESE, AID, Caritas Kabale and A2N Uganda).

The project is rolled-out in the highlands of Uganda: Rwenzori (Ntoroko and Bunyangabu), Kigezi (Kabale, Rubanda and Kisoro and Elgon (Bududa).

The project's goal is to build 150,000 resilient smallholder farmer households in communities and watershed in the highlands of Uganda, based on sustainable farming systems, restored watersheds, and improved marketing opportunities.

The CommonGround Project considers that a paradigm change is needed towards bottom-up, sustainable development of the (smallholder) agricultural sector to restore the resilience of Uganda's highland watersheds and farming systems using the Participatory Integrated (PIP) Approach. This implies empowering farmers to become self-reliant and to farm and manage their land in balance with nature. Through the PIP approach and practical interventions with intrinsically motivated communities, the target communities are transforming their farming systems, restoring degraded watershed and sites and getting more integrated into the market economy.

Overview of 2023/24 Achievements

During year 2, the CommonGround Project enhanced resilience of 38,192 smallholder farmers through tailor made trainings; improved nutrition; adoption of kitchen gardens; and supported adoption of sustainable land management practices at 118 sites with the aim of increasing agricultural production and restoration of the degraded hotspots.

In addition, the project expanded activities to 57 new communities; 24 are in Kigezi, 24 in Rwenzori and 9 in Elgon. It brings the number of communities under CG operations to one hundred and eight (108). In terms of actions to improve community road infrastructure, 51 community access roads were opened by the communities through collective action and using tools provided by the project. So far, the communities have worked on over 40 km of community access roads that they prioritized in their community PIPs to improve market access and wider community wellbeing.

A total of 1,644 households reported improved nutrition due to the kitchen gardens. Eight hundred and fifty-four (854) PIP innovators have adopted good farming practices. Twenty-four (24) community tree nursery beds were established to raise tree seedlings that are necessary to facilitate the restoration of the 200 sites selected. The promotion and adoption of good farming systems/practices has resulted in visible signs of restoration on 381 hectares of farmland.

In collaboration with AGRITERRA, the project has enhanced access to finance and credit services amongst smallholder farmers; with over 2.2 billion UGX already circulating within

664 VSLA groups supported by the project. Additionally, the project has mapped and profiled 228 entrepreneurial groups in the three regions. These groups will be further assessed and supported to undertake cost benefit and risk analyses as a basis for decision making on co-investment by the CommonGround Project.

The progress in year 2 was slower than expected. Contributing factors include:

- **Development of training material has taken longer than expected.** CommonGround develops high quality visual training material with text in local languages. Most training material has been developed at this stage. In cases where the training needs are still being assessed we don't wait for the process to finish but start developing training materials that with a high degree of certainty will be needed.
- **Underutilization of field officers**. During training of the first cohort of PIs, each field officer was allocated only one community, to allow amble time for building their capacity through training and supervision. Farmers can only allocate one or two days per week to PIP sessions and training since they must maintain their farms and tend to other tasks. In the new financial year, one average, each field officer will work with three communities. At this stage, they are all well-equipped to do this while maintaining high quality deliverables. This will however leave them with just two days per week to tend to the other pathways, which calls for better and more detailed planning.
- **Better planning processes are being introduced**. The low utilization of field officers meant that when an activity took longer than expected or unplanned delays occurred, they could be absorbed without consequences. With accelerated scaling, this is no longer the case. Where workplans earlier focused on implementation sequence, fixed duration and costs, effort-based planning will be used going forward.
- **Training of field officers took considerable time and resulted in activities on the ground not moving for weeks.** Most trainings have now been finalized and this issue will therefore be insignificant, moving forward. To deal with this issue, it was decided half a year ago that not all field officers need to be trained equally in all subjects. In some cases, it is sufficient that a few field officers possess specialized knowledge.
- **Sequential implementation of PIP and related activities means that delays accumulate.** In particular, pathway 3 (market access) has suffered from being at the end of PIP implementation pipeline. After inspiration from BRIGHT, it has been decided that for the coming cohorts, we will do some hands-on training in parallel with the PIP process. We expect this will help to keep farmers motivated during the lengthy PIP process and shorten the time required for a full PIP implementation.
- **Performance by local implementing partners that manage the field officers, has been mixed**. Consequently, one partner will not have their contract renewed for the new financial year. Due to the investment already made in the field officers managed by the partner, we are negotiating a solution that will keep them in their current positions with the CommonGround project. Most likely they will be hired directly on ISSD contracts.
- **Staff issues at senior level plagued the project during the last financial year**, with between a third and half of the senior positions being vacant while new recruitment took place. This has of course been disruptive and hurt particularly the MEL and pathway 3 teams.

Corrective actions have been taken and adjustments made in the annual plan for year 3 with the aim of accelerating implementation so targets can be reached on time.

Key Lessons Learned during year 2

Increased attention to economic issues in Community PIPs

Community PIPs as they have been implemented so far give insufficient insight into economic bottlenecks, which seem to be hard for communities to identify themselves. To understand the wider system, that links the household and community PIPs to external factors, more external expertise is needed. Going forward this issue will be addressed in various ways:

1. FO's will be proactive in identifying wider economic, environmental and social issues, to be able to start addressing them.
2. Expert observations/views will be harvested and discussed with the community.

Streamline CG's role in sub-water catchment planning

To ensure scaling and sustainability the restoration site activities should feed into sub-watershed plans. However, sub-watershed plans are not our mandate, but part of the Water Management Zones under the Ministry of Water and Environment. It has been a challenge to define well what we mean with sub-watershed (this is different in each region), as well as the political boundaries being part of the sub-watersheds. We stimulated sub-counties and districts to develop a vision (linked to their annual planning and plans developed by communities) which can function as input for the sub-watershed plans. To some extent we ended up duplicating the planning process at the sub-county and district level. Activities related to the existing plans will continue this year but going forward we will focus on how we can contribute to the existing system, not duplicating it.

Clearer messaging about household PIP and IPP

Household PIP and IPP are integrated during scaling-up, but the message needs to become clearer about what the two different plans are, and how they are related and why we are stimulating both. We will:

1. Ensure deeper reflection by communities on Module 3 on IPP creation and the integration of Module 2 and 3.
2. Improve our messages at the beginning of each session in these modules.

Managing expectations through clear targeted messaging

We need to be clearer on what kind of support we can bring to communities. Communities are very motivated, but when we are not clear on how and on what support we can provide, they can become demotivate.

Town communities are different from the rural areas in their motivation for starting with PIP. When we focused more on market/economic activities, they started picking more interest also in developing their farms, while their buy-in in the beginning was much harder. Packaging of the message is therefore very important. Integration of practices, showing that better farming, more production, leads to more income and ability to grow, will be strengthened in our communication.

Reduce the length of PIP sessions

In new target communities, PIP session (>3h) should become shorter. Shorter sessions also make it easier to keep farmers engaged without providing lunches. Providing lunches to PIs has in some cases led to resentment among G1s who are not provided lunches. Lunches has been one of the major cost drivers in PIP training sessions.

Increased attention to sustainability of school interventions

Schools have made their PIPs, and they are motivated to start to work, but all (government) school are financially constrained. Simple low-cost activities are executed, and FO stop by roughly every two weeks to give technical support, but more is needed to ensure sustainability.

In year 3 we will develop a strategy that ensures sustainability for the environmental clubs in schools, based on environmental business development.

More support to restoration sites

The goal is to reach 528 restoration sites, which means three sites per community. It has been a bigger effort than expected to identify sites that fulfil physical requirements, where there's no absentee landlords, all farmers are motivated etc. Farmer motivation is highest where their production/income is threatened in the short term, which is not always the most degraded sites with gullies and bare rocks exposed.

It has proved difficult to provide enough oversight and support to the restoration sites besides other tasks. In year 3 support to restoration sites will be improved.

Often not all farmers at a restoration site are equally motived, but for effective restoration, participation by all is required. We will therefore continue focusing on mindset change which can impact the laggards and stimulate wider engagement with all people involved on these sites.

Site awareness meetings are instrumental in stimulating the change, and site committees seem to be very good in identifying their own challenges as well as solutions. Therefore, we will further stimulate them to organise themselves and their work.

Land ownership is a policy issue that affects the possibility of collective land restoration. It is however outside the mandate of CG and our efforts in this area are limited to awareness raising and lobbying at LG level and promotion of CCOs financed through A-GRIP. There are examples from outside of our target areas of farmers successfully pushing for byelaws that made land conservation mandatory for absentee landlords. If such an opportunity occurs CG will actively support it.

Hiring of external trainers

It has not always been possible to provide requested technical training in a timely manner. Going forward hired trainers will increasingly be used to provide training.

Establishing demo plots

BRIGHT has good experience with establishing demos as soon as they start engaging a community. In CommonGround the IPP play the role of demo plots. However, they are only created at the end of the PIP process. Going forward CommonGround will demo interventions that are highly likely to be prioritized by most farmers, like different erosion control techniques. Several sub-counties have offered land for demo plots. The learning from the demo plot can lead to more informed decisions when the IPP plans are made because farmers have a better understanding of for example labour required for various erosion control techniques

Improve engagement with government

Not all local government staff are as engaged as we would like. In Elgon we are now targeting areas selected by S/Cs that had abandoned them, but which are under their mandate. 5 out of the 9 communities are very hard to reach, and people in these communities had never seen an NGO coming in, let alone government (agricultural)

extension or community development officers. Since the communities don't have access roads, and need to be reached on foot, local governments are still very hesitant to reach there, because it involves hiking for hours up the mountain.

We see that mindset change takes time, also at local government level. Since we engage less with them than with the communities, this mindset change seems to be taking even more time. However, at district level we hear change also really setting in, where at first, they didn't understand the project, or what the mindset change is that we talk about, but as time passes, they start understanding why mindset is so important. With time leaders start appreciating the work that the project is doing.

Lower priority to bylaws

Stimulating the development of new bylaws is something that we've seen being unrealistic and largely unachievable, based on the political hoops that you have to jump through.

Going forward we will focus on revamping existing by-laws, and help implement existing laws, policies or ordinances related to environmental protection.

In the few cases where creation of bylaws is actively supported by farmers and government, we will provide support.

Revamping the nursery strategy

Some tree nurseries are well managed, many are not, despite being prioritised in community PIPs. Some of the reasons are limited support from CommonGround and a feeling among some PIs of having more than enough work to do on household PIPs, IPPs and other community PIP priorities. Availability of free seedlings from government nurseries and many NGOs also demotivates farmers.

In year 3 the nursery experience will be analysed and the strategy revised.

Improved MEL

Data, throughout the project, was not routinely captured for proper learning. This has been addressed with the MIS system and will be further taken up and streamlined in the year 3.

Comparing PIP Implementation

The implementation of PIP varies between different EKN funded projects. A PIP task force with participation from all PIP implementing projects has existed since early 2023. However, to get a more systematic comparison, BRIGHT and CG have agreed to hire a consultant to compare PIP approaches in the two projects.

Overview of the financial performance.

	Project pathways & instruments	Revised Approved Budget (2022-2026)	Y1 Total Expend.	Y2 Total Expend.	Overall Expend.	Overall Budget Balance	Burn Rate
P1	**Resilient Farming Systems**						
P1.1	Activities	3,056,599	47,822	289,134	336,955	2,719,644	11%
P1.2	Operational costs	397,591	93,171	32,937	126,108	271,482	32%
P1.3	Personnel	875,344	31,296	185,415	216,712	658,632	25%
P1.4	Contractual services	1,147,932	84,272	348,529	432,801	715,131	38%
	Subtotal	5,477,466	256,561	856,015	1,112,576	4,364,889	20%
P2	**Restored Watersheds**						
P2.1	Activities	2,540,800	0	120,984	120,984	2,419,815	5%
P2.2	Operational costs	256,942	41,718	51,666	93,383	163,558	36%
P2.3	Personnel	606,711	31,727	129,377	161,104	445,608	27%
P2.4	Contractual services	744,653	20,991	196,911	217,901	526,751	29%
	Subtotal	**4,149,105**	**94,436**	**498,937**	**593,372**	**3,555,733**	**14%**
P3	**Improved marketing**						
P3.1	Activities	1,550,000	-	33,841	33,841	1,516,159	2%
P3.2	Operational costs	164,284	61,649	16,004	77,653	86,631	47%
P3.3	Personnel	284,041	13,306	57,233	70,539	213,502	25%
P3.4	Contractual services	318,634	16,604	70,504	87,108	231,526	27%
	Subtotal	**2,316,959**	**91,560**	**177,581**	**269,141**	**2,047,818**	**12%**
P4	**Project / Administration**						
P4.1	Personnel	1,232,181	156,982	268,788	425,770	806,410	35%
P4.2	Operational costs	560,403	86,287	156,512	242,799	317,604	43%
P4.3	Travel costs	157,112	20,784	27,812	48,597	108,515	31%
P4.4	M&E and communication	297,232	16,449	89,729	106,178	191,054	36%
	Subtotal	**2,246,927**	**280,502**	**542,842**	**823,344**	**1,423,583**	**37%**
	Total budget ISSD Uganda (P1+P2+P3+P4)	**14,190,457**	**723,058**	**2,075,376**	**2,798,434**	**11,392,023**	**20%**
P5	**WENR-TA**						
P5.1	Personnel	1,989,153	308,028	497,836	805,864	1,183,290	41%
P5.2	Travel & material costs	333,074	23,767	41,536	65,303	267,771	20%
	Total budget WENR (P5)	**2,322,227**	**331,795**	**539,372**	**871,167**	**1,451,061**	**38%**
	Budget total (P1+P2+P3+P4+P5)	**16,512,684**	**1,054,853**	**2,614,747**	**3,669,600**	**12,843,084**	**22%**
	Overhead ISSD (5% of budget ISSD - line 33)	**709,523**	**36,153**	**103,769**	**139,922**	**569,601**	**20%**
	Unforeseen (4% of budget total - line 40)	**660,507**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**660,507**	**0%**
	Grand total	**17,882,714**	**1,091,006**	**2,718,516**	**3,809,522**	**14,073,192**	**21%**

From the table above, the overall Project budget performance/implementation by the end of year 2 stands at 21%. This is quite low given that the project is approaching midterm. The low burn rate is attributed to the slow PIP process at the start of the project and elaborate community onboarding processes. However, most of the preliminary activities and process are complete and the project has entered a critical implementation phase where we expect improved performance both in terms of burn rate and impact on the ground. The project has undertaken review of the implementation strategy and changes have already been instituted geared towards accelerated implementation while ensuring quality results in the targeted communities.

Project Progress

This chapter presents achievements against activities planned for the financial year 2023/2024 as per the project intermediate outcome areas.

Pathway one: Resilient farming systems

Intermediate outcome 1.1: Enhanced household performance

A total of 3,472 PIP farmers (PIs, Male: 2,083 Female: 1,389) were capacitated on the PIP approach; the first cohort trained PIs have been able to transfer the knowledge acquired to 34,720 generation one (G1) farmers in their respective communities. Overall, in the second year of implementation, CG project directly equipped and empower 38,192 (Female: 22,915, Male: 15,277) smallholder farmers with knowledge on the good agronomic practices and sustainable land use practices. Some of the adopted practices include contour lines or trenches with or without herbaceous hedges (fanya juu and fanya chini), tree planting in the fields or field boundaries, establishment of stone lines or stone bunds on contour lines, and gully control barriers. At least one out of every 7 the target households in the three project locations of Kigezi, Elgon and Rwenzori have applied the 3 best SLUM practices on their field.



Construction of trenches for soil and water conservation (left; 19th February 2024) and stabilizing the constructed trenches with vetiver grass (right; photo taken 4th May 2024) in Nyarurambi and Kashongati respectively.

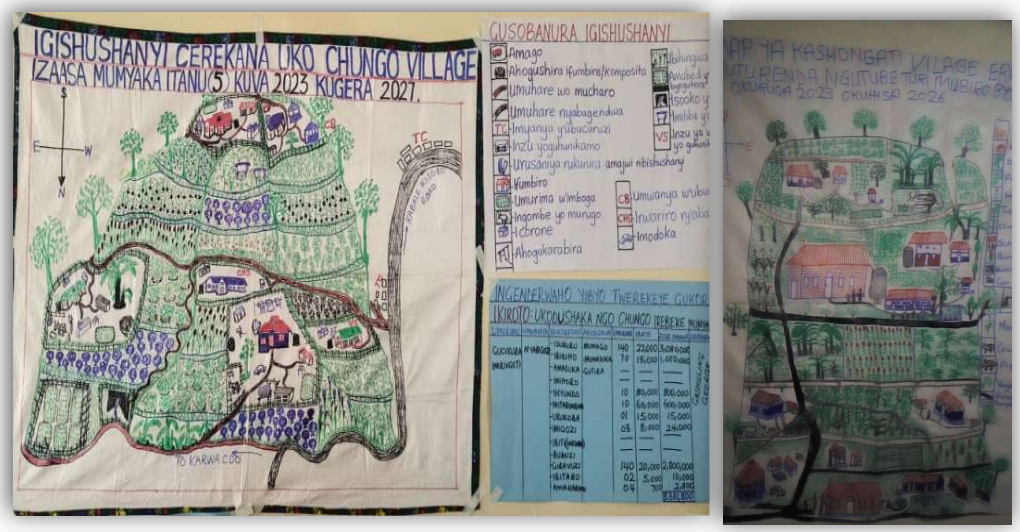
The integrated plot plans were developed to combine land use efficiency with ecological sustainability. They are used by the PIs as demos when they train G1s. The 3,472 integrated plot plans were established through a collaborative approach with the participation of government agricultural officers, and pathway one experts providing overall technical guidance to the field officers.

In line with the scaling strategy adopted by the project, 57 new communities were brought onboard: 24 in Kigezi, 24 in Rwenzori and 9 in Elgon, bringing the total number of communities receiving CG services to one hundred and eight (108).

Intermediate outcome 1.2: Enhanced farm performance

Three thousand four hundred seventy-two (3,472) first cohort smallholder farmers have reported increase in crop yields and quality harvests across all the 3 locations of the

project implementation. Throughout the review period, it was evident that farmers replicated and applied the knowledge gained from CG community trainings and workshops.



Some of the Community Vision maps drawn from the newly expanded communities; left is for Chungo Community-Kisoro District and right is for Kashongati-Rubanda District; being implemented

Success Story 1: IPP results: Benkunda Resty a PIP innovator from Bugarama Rwanjojo in Kabale District; proudly posing with the harvest realised from her IPP plot. With the knowledge and skills gained from the CommonGround project, she has been able to improve on her crop yields. She is confident in her ability to train neigbours using the skills and knowledged acquired after having attended the 11 sessions of the PIP methoology and technical training. In year 2, every trained cohort one farmer was able to establlish an IPP.



Intermediate outcome 1.3: Enhanced social cohesion in communities

One of the goals of the PIP methodology is enhancing social cohesion among households and communities. In this reporting period, the CommonGround project engaged 38,192 community members (Female: 22,915, Male: 15,277) in PIP training. The enhanced social cohesion is visible through the various joint actions initiated by the communities and households, including opening of community access roads and community tree nurseries. From the monitoring reports, many farmers have reported a significant reduction in domestic violence and gender-based violence due to the PIP approach. The target

households are now able to plan together and execute farming activities as a unit. There are testimonies by women about how supportive their husbands have become, which they attribute to the CommonGround project.

Pathway two: Watershed restoration

Intermediate outcome 2.1: Better managed slopes and land degradation hotspots



Community members of Nyarurambi (left) and Kagano (right) rehabilitate community access roads to improve access to the markets for their agricultural produce, and connectivity to the neighboring communities.

In year 2, pathway 2 activities focused on identification, selection and verification of restoration sites, formation of site groups and initial planning for restoration activities. Physical implementation at the sites started towards the end of year 2 and will reach full scale in year 3.

On a total of 381 hectares of land; 131 ha in Kigezi, and 250 ha in Rwenzori, sustainable land management interventions were applied, including trenching, grass banding, mulching, soil fertility management and tree planting. Members of site committees are often PIs that have already applied some of the practices in their IPP plots. They are therefore well skilled and experienced to apply the techniques correctly at the restoration sites. Additional technical training is provided by the project. By the end of year 2, implementation of sustainable land management practices was being implemented at 118 out of the 200 targeted restoration sites.



Collective action by men and women, digging trenches to reduce soil erosion at Nyambigha community

Under the component of environmental education, CommonGround aimed to instill the spirit of environmental stewardship and sustainable practices among pupils and their families through trainings and practical demonstrations with the learners. The project conducted awareness raising about environmental conservation and sustainable farming practices in 42 primary schools, reaching 2,791 pupils overall (Boys: 1,210 Girls: 1,581), 85 school patrons and matrons (Female: 26 Male: 59) were trained by the project on environmental conservation topics, including nursery bed establishment and management, and sustainable use of natural resources. the trained patrons and matrons have since then rolled out trainings of school clubs in their respective schools.



Putting dreams into visions: PIP vison plan drawn by pupils from Nyakatoke SDA school. The plan illustrates the aspiration of the pupils for their school after 5 years.



Tree Nursery Management Committee for Kashongati community, in Hamurwa Sub-County, Rubanda District, being equipped with practical skills in the establishment and management of community tree nurseries. The training was led by the Rubanda District Forester

Success Story 2: The PIP In Practice Addresses the Land Degradation Challenges in Chungo, Kisoro District.

Chungo, a 140-household community in Kanaba Sub-County in Kisoro District has for many years experienced environmental-related challenges due to heavy rains associated with excessive soil erosion and mudslides, which destroyed property, affect harvests thus lead to food and income insecurity. Contributing to this challenge were negative mindset and lack of cooperation among community members in addressing the environmental concerns and challenges



Established community tree nursery beds: Left- Kaguma community tree nursery bed in Bunyangabu district, Right- members of Kireire – Hakasikano community in Kabale district posing for a group photo at their nursery bed.



Training environmental stewards; Kagano Primary School, in Kanaba subcounty Kisoro District environment club members learn how to establish a nursery bed (mixing soil for potting) being a key aspect in the establishment strong and healthy seedlings.

However, the story changed when the CommonGround Project entered the community and created awareness on how the community members could identify, prioritise and solve their problems through the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) Approach. According to the LC1 Chairperson, George Gashillingi, when CommonGround visited the community on 16th June 2023, the community was facing numerous challenges after which they were guided on how to deal with them. George is appreciative of the Project interventions so far, as they are already realized some changes in terms of reducing erosion and mudslides.



Trenches constructed at Rukonka restoration Site stabilized with Napier Grass & Tithonia to minimize soil erosion

"Going back to our well-being, compared to where they found us in 2023 to-date, our community has realized some changes because people are working together in digging trenches; and planting grasses and shrubs that have greatly reduced soil erosion", says George LC1 Chairperson, Chungo Village.

"……. we have seen a difference here in our community in the recent rains. Though it rained heavily, the soils were not heavily eroded and crops there are looking good compared to other hills in the communities where the project has not reached", said George.

In addition to reduced soil loss, farmers have started harvesting grass they planted to stabilize trenches and feeding it to their animals. Ms. Hope Uzamukunda, a farmer and landowner in the Rukonka restoration site is appreciative of the project interventions because she is already feeding her animals on the grass they planted on the trenches.



Ms. Hope Uzamukunda indicating how they planted grass they are cutting to feed their animals

"We have enough Seteria that we planted to stop water but is also good for our animals. Many households have planted the grass, it is really helping us", said Ms. Hope.

Alexander Niwagaba, a Field Officer with Africa 2000 Network Uganda expressed his gratitude for the motivation exhibited by community members, first in working together to dig the trenches but also providing some of the grasses (Seteria) to plant and ensure their soils do not move. Alexander is also appreciative to Guy, the Agriculture Officer of Kanaba Sub-County for supporting farmers in securing Tithonia which is also changing the face of the Rukonka restoration site.

"As you can observe, the hill that was bare a few months back, some reliable vegetation is coming up. Shortly, we shall have enough Tithonia for green/liquid manure to use by the farmers", said Alexander.



Field Officer-Alexander, monitoring progress of soil conservation interventions at Rukonka Restoration site.

The engagement of stakeholders at different levels has been demonstrated to be effective in making PIP work for the communities. Importantly, the commitment of community members and leaders at the community and Sub-County level remains a key success factor for the PIP Approach



Engagement of district stakeholders' participatory selection and prioritization of crop commodities to boost production and income of small holder farmers.

Intermediate outcome 2.2: Sub-watersheds managed effectively

In year 2, efforts were initially concentrated on mapping and delineating sub watersheds which cover several LLGs that include the target sub-counties/town-councils in which the project is being implemented. This was successfully done with 16 priority sub watersheds selected, namely, Suume, Uukha, Tsutsu, Sakusaku, and Upper Manafwa in Elgon: Yerya, Upper Nsongya, Lower Nsongya, Mahoma, Rwimi, Wasa/Dorwa and Nyanjakufa in Rwenzori, Kiruruma and Nyakijumba in Kigezi. As such, 41 site groups were formed across all the validated 41 restoration/degraded sites (i.e., 24 sites-Kigezi and 17 sites-Rwenzori) in 24 project communities. In Elgon, 76 degraded sites were validated, and site groups formed in each of them; each site with a site group and site committee formed steered collective restoration actions across all project areas in Elgon, Kigezi and Rwenzori.

Intermediate outcome 2.3: Watersheds managed effectively

In the period under review, 16 lower local governments (LLGs), that is, sub-counties and town-councils were selected and supported by the project, and they developed visions and action plans through awareness raising, visioning and action planning crucial for the participatory integrated planning (PIP) processes in Kigezi and Rwenzori. The LLGs developed actions that prioritize and support restoration and management of sub watershed areas. Additionally, 13 new LLGs (i.e., 4 LLGs in Kigezi and 9 LLGs in Elgon) were selected in the last quarter of year 2, first to help reach household numbers but also to increase the scope for sub watershed interventions that will follow. It is important to note

that LLGs did not go through the PIP processes, as this was envisaged for year 3 work planning.

Pathway three: Improved marketing

Intermediate outcome 3.1: Improved market access

Lower Local Government level meetings were conducted to identify major market access bottlenecks and agree on possible interventions to deal with the bottlenecks. This was done in each of the supported project sub-counties. The key bottlenecks identified included poor road network, lack of capital for investment due to limited financial institutions, low-value crop varieties, and limited knowledge about marketing among others. Training of farmers on marketing techniques, enhancement of market linkages, strengthening farmer marketing organizations, and creating linkages to micro-finance institutions for easy access to low-cost/affordable credit; were among the suggested strategies to deal with the identified bottlenecks.

The poor road network was one of the bottlenecks identified in all communities that greatly reduced the farmers' profit margin due to the high cost involved in transporting agricultural produce to the market and inputs to the farms. To address this bottleneck, the rehabilitation 51 community access roads kick-started in all the three project locations i.e. Kigezi, Elgon and Rwenzori. The communities were supported by CommonGround with tools such as hoes, pickaxes, hammers and pangas to aid community action. Each of the target communities selected a roads task force to spearhead and sustain the collective actions even beyond the project life. The community members, sub-counties and districts were mobilized and made commitment to coinvest in road maintenance.



CommonGround's efforts in addressing market access bottle necks: a newly opened road in Bufuma meant to connect PIP farmers to better market opportunities within the district and outside.

Intermediate outcome 3.2: Improved income opportunities from key crop commodities

The CommonGround project has mapped and prioritized 5 key value chains per region. The value chains were selected based on the region's comparative advantage and their contribution to wider societal benefits. Important to note; investments in key commodity value chains contributes to decreasing poverty primarily by increasing productivity, adding value to products, increasing income, employment opportunities, reducing transaction cost and mobilizing the economy and social capital of rural communities.

Below is an elaboration of the key value chains that were selected by the regions and key investment requirements that were prioritized by the farmers for investment.

Commodity	Priority Gaps/Opportunities	Key Value chain actors
Irish potatoes	Training in GAPs, access to quality seed and inputs and collective marketing	Seed producers (Karukoba farmers association, Uganda National Seed Potato Producers Association), Screen house owners (Magara Nkuba), Cooperatives (Muko, Bukimbiri, Nyambyumba), Processors (Sumz Industries, NEW man's industries) and research organisation (KAZARDI).
Onions	Access to quality seeds and inputs, training in GAPs, and marketing, access to credit and postharvest handling technologies.	Inputs suppliers (Simlaw Seeds, East-West Seed, Syova), Local agro-input dealers, Cooperatives (Kanaba Onion Farmers), SACCOs (Chahi Dukore, Bududa Financial Services and Bumwalukani SACCOs), Local Government (DCO).
Climbing beans	Market information systems, improved seeds and inputs and postharvest handling technologies	Bukoola Chemicals, agro-input dealers, Cooperatives in Kigezi, Traders from Rwanda, Schools.
Bush beans	Improved seed and inputs, postharvest handling technologies and collective marketing	Seed companies (NASECO, BRAC), research institutions (NACRI), SACCOs (Rwakyakibunya Busaiga Harugongo, Kabundaire), local traders, schools.
Cassava	Improved varieties, GAPs and home/local processing	NARO, MUZARDI, Mutesi Farmers (buyers), Karugutu women SACCO, Local Government Extension Officers.
Banana	Limited application GAPs, collective marketing, and putting by-products to use.	BugiZARDI, Local Government Extension Officers, Oribags, MAAIF, NAGRIC, Transporters, Bukimuma Organic coffee farmers Coop, Kenyan traders.
Sorghum	Poor agronomic practices, Transport and distribution challenges and limited access to production and marketing credit.	Beverage companies (Nile breweries, Divine Bushera, Aedes), Biyinzika Poultry, SACCOs in Kigezi
Cabbage	Poor agronomic practices, limited access to quality seed and inputs and limited access to production and marketing credit.	Simlaw Seeds, East-West Seed, schools, SACCOs, Cooperatives, local agro-input dealers
Sweet potatoes	Limited access to quality planting materials and inputs, postharvest handling challenges and limited collective marketing innovations.	Plastic making companies (Nice and Mukwano) Bukoola chemicals, local agro-input dealers, Sumz, Cooperatives in Kigezi and LG Agricultural extension workers.
Coffee	Poor application of GAP limited Collective marketing & limited access to credit.	NARO (NACORI), UCDA, Bumatanda North Cooperative, Bugisu Cooperative Union, Kyagalanyi Coffee, SACCOs
Cocoa	Poor application of GAP, limited Collective marketing & limited access to credit.	NARO, MAAIF, District Forestry Officer, local nursery bed operators, ESCO, Karugutu Women SACCO, Nombe millers and coffee storage, agricultural officers.
Cowpeas	Limited access to quality seed and agro-inputs, limited access to credit.	NARO, SACCOs
Cattle (dairy)	Limited access to veterinary services, limited adoption of recommended good animal husbandry practices & milk handling.	Veterinary officers, private milk and cattle traders, Eastern dairies, Cooperatives
Poultry	Poor animal husbandry practices, limited access to veterinary services	Veterinary officers, local hatcheries, local chicken commercial farmers, vet drug shop owners

Maize	Poor application of GAPs, Collective marketing and postharvest handling.	NARO/ZaRDI, seed Companies (East African Seed, BRAC seed, Nile fresh, NASECO, Prison, Okeeba seed, local agro-input dealers, processors and exporters.

Intermediate outcome 3.3: Viable entrepreneurial groups



Piggery has largely been adopted by HHs as a viable income generating venture.

Under this intermediate outcome, weak farmer institutions were identified by the communities as the key market bottleneck during the development of the community PIPs. Strong farmer institutions are key in organizing and mobilizing farmers to invest in collective marketing actions, meeting the quality demands required by upscale markets and gain collective voice/bargaining power. Governance being key to ensuring long-term sustainability of the target farmer institutions. The CommonGround project identified and profiled 30 Farmer groups, 664 VSLAs and 528 Entrepreneurial groups located in the 3 regions of Kigezi, Elgon and Rwenzori. For each of these groups, a detailed needs assessment is ongoing facilitated by the Field Officers to determine key areas of capacity gaps and identified opportunities for improvement and investment. Based on the identified needs, tailor-made training will be developed. All key decisions on investment investments will be guided by the project investment strategy, risk cost benefit analyses and proper risk assessment. Based on this assessment, 326 entrepreneurial groups will be supported by the CommonGround Project in the 3rd year of implementation.

Below, are some cases of successful PIP farmers operating viable and sustainable income generating ventures which have significantly increased their household income and improved their standard of living.

Success Story 3: Bugarama-Bwanjojo Community Started Making Shopping Baskets

Members of the Bugarama-Bwanjojo Community, under the CommonGround project, begun making shopping baskets with the goal of earning extra income to support their families.



The idea resulted from their visions, where they indicated that during off-seasons, they are not engaged in any activities. They agreed to collect Shs10,000 each to purchase materials to use to make shopping baskets.

The group consists of 11 members who had similar aspirations in the PIPs. After raising Shs110, 000, they bought the required materials and were then trained by the project field staff on how to make the shopping baskets.

"We expected husbands to be the primary providers, so if they failed to supply, it would lead to problems, which is why most of the time it would end up in domestic violence in the households," a member said.



Group Members weaving the bags

But now, with the skills, the group members plan to weave together as a group, save the profits, which they will share in December, and buy at least a piglet for every member. Their long-term dream is for every member to acquire a cow in every household after selling the piglets.

The members reported that every two rolls of weaving materials worth 100,000 UGX produces 20 small shopping baskets each valued at 6,000 UGX worth 120,000 per week. Alternatively, the same rolls produce 15 big sized shopping baskets each at 10,000 worth 150,000 UGX per week. In a month the groups invest 400,000 in making big sized baskets and make gross sales of 600,000 UGX. Based on these figures, its very clear that basket making if well managed, is a good business for these women. The CommonGround project will train and nurture this group to enable them grow and expand the business.

Similar successful cases of PIP farmer's operating viable entrepreneurial initiatives are shown below:



Muhindo Deborah Nyambigha female PIP farmer from Ntoroko has successfully started a retail shop.



Jackline Kiiza,female PIP from Itojo Ntoroko has started a poultry.



Jenipha Kamuli empowered farmer fron Bukika Bunyangabu

Limited access to affordable finance was another key market bottleneck that was identified and prioritized by communities during the development of Community PIPs. Consequently, the CommonGround Project has assessed and profiled over 664 VSLAs across all the three regions**.** From the profiling, most of the smallholder farmers expressed challenges of limited access to formal banking services, low financial literacy and there relied more on the VSLAs for savings and access to credit. In the 3rd year, the CommonGround project will build capacity of the profiled 664 VSLAs on VSLA+ methodology covering topics on financial literacy, business planning and management of income generating activities. The project will also facilitate linkage of viable/well managed VSLAs to SACCOs, microfinance institutions and banks to access more services that are not feasible in their small associations. Below is a list of the SACCOs and Cooperatives selected in year two for support beginning in the 3rd year.

SN	Name of Group	Location	Membership
SACCOs			
1	Lyamujungu Cooperative Financial Services	Kabale	30,203
2	Karugutu SACCO	Ntoroko	6700
3	Karugutu Sub-County Women's SACCO	Ntoroko	250

4	Bumwalukani Sub-County Mixed farmers SACCO	Bududa	225
5	Bududa Financial Services SACCO	Bududa	400
Cooperatives			
1	Kanaba Onion Farmers' Cooperative	Kisoro	40
2	Kigezi Potato Farmers' Cooperative	Kabale	282
3	Kiboota-Katebwa Coffee Farmers' Cooperative	Bunyangabu	662
4	Bunyangabu Beekeepers Community	Bunyangabu	993
5	Bumatanda North Cooperative Society	Bududa	740
6	Bukimuma Organic Coffee Farmers' Cooperative	Bududa	79

Annex 1: Project Outcomes and Outputs

Performance on project outputs

The table below, presents a summary of how the CommonGround project performed on project outputs as per the project Logframe.

PW1- Key Performance Indicators	LOP Target	Cumm Achieved	Variance	Comment
Outcome 1.1 Enhanced household performance				
(farm) Household PIPs created (FNS B.x.1.1)	150,000	38,192	111,808	3,472 PIP farmers and 34,720 GI farmers have created household PIPs.
PIP trainers capacitated	15,000	3,472	11,528	All the 3,472 cohort one PIP farmers were capacitated
Outcome 1.2 Enhanced farm performance				
Household Integrated Plot Plans (IPPs) established (FNS A.x.1.1)	120,000	38,192	81,808	
Crop management trainers capacitated	500	0	500	To be identified from the best performing PIs in year 3.
Outcome 1.3 Enhanced social cohesion in communities				
Community action plans created based on community visions	360	75	285	
Communities strengthened with better, organisation, structure and leadership	360	0	360	Training manuals for leadership under review.
Investments made to support implementation of community visions	360	75	285	75 Communities received road opening tools and nursery bed establishment tools.
Schools capacitated on Environmental Education and using PIP curriculum	58	42	16	The remaining 16 schools to be identified in Kigezi and Rwenzori.
Outcome 2.1 Sustainably managed restoration sites				
PW2- Key Performance Indicators	**LOP Target**	**Cumm Achieved**	**Variance**	**Comment**
# of restoration sites sustainably managed by collaborative slope groups.	200	118	82	SLM activities started in the 118 sites.
Hectares of land collaboratively managed by site groups with land conservation practices implemented (FNS.C.x.1.1)	10,000	0	10,000	381 Ha cultivatable land was put under sustainable land management interventions including trenching, grass banding, mulching, soil fertility management.

Site groups established with action plan	528	41	487	
Community vision committees established / revamped with action plan	360	41	319	
Tree nurseries established	60	24	36	
Outcome 2.2 Sub-watersheds managed effectively				
Sub-water shed committees established/revamped with concrete action plans and with organized leadership structures	20	16	4	
By-laws created and implemented by the sub-watershed committees addressing sustainable land use	20	0	20	Established committees are expected to lead this process.
Restoration activities implemented in the sub-watersheds based on action plans	40	0	40	
Watershed committees revamped or strengthened including a vision, action plan, stewardship agreements etc.	4	0	4	
Ordinances facilitated by the watershed committees addressing sustainable land use	4	0	4	
Outcome 3.1 Improved output market access				
Districts with at least one intervention implemented to address market access bottleneck(s)	6	6	0	The project successfully rolled activities in Bunyangabu, Bududa, Ntoroko, Kabale, Rubanda, and Kisoro districts.
Sub counties with at least one intervention implemented to address market access bottleneck(s)	29	29	0	
Agreements made to address market access bottlenecks	35	0	35	First stakeholder meetings have been conducted.
Outcome 3.2 Improved income opportunities from key crop commodities				
Key local crop value chains whose bottlenecks are identified and addressed	15	15	0	5 value chains have been prioritized across the 3 regions.
MOUs signed to address value chain bottlenecks for key crop commodities	15	0	15	First stakeholder meetings have already been achieved to review MOUs.
Outcome 3.3 Viable entrepreneurial groups				
Entrepreneurial groups that achieved to implement their Integrated Group Plans (IGPs) by at least 80%	528	194	528	194 IGPs have been profiled and assessments ongoing.
# of IGPs that are operating their business at a profit	528	0	528	This will be reported after profiled IGPs are operationalized.
Outcome 3.3 Viable entrepreneurial groups				

Entrepreneurial groups capacitated with visions and a (entrepreneurial) group PIP for income generating activities	528	0	528	AGRITTERA to roll out in the 3rd year of implementation.
Group PIP (IGP) trainers capacitated	252	0	252	After group profiling process, Agriterra will roll out trainings.
Entrepreneurial groups that have accessed finance for start-up/expansion of their enterprises	528	0	528	To be reported on after groups are functional

Annex 2: Partnership With Major Project Implementing Partners.

Local implementing partners.

The CommonGround project continued to contract field officers through local partners i.e. CARITAS, AID, JESE, and A2N. Working with local partners enhance project reach and effectiveness through local expertise and leveraging existing networks.

Agriterra

Under the partnership with Agriterra six (6) cooperatives and six (6) SACCOs, were assessed from Rwenzori, Elgon, and Kigezi regions. These assessments were conducted by Agriterra's cooperative advisors, with support from CommonGround staff. Once fully engaged, the SACCOs and Cooperatives are expected to create strong linkages in accessing finance and credit amongst the 150,000 small holder famers directly targeted by the CommonGround project.

District Local Governments

During this reporting period, collaborations with the Local Governments where the CommonGround project is being implemented in the 6 district (Rubanda, Kisoro, Ntoroko, Bunyangabu, Kabale, and Bududa) were pivotal in providing technical support and extension services to the supported small holder farers; For instance, Kisoro District Local Government leaders donated Napier grass to Chungo and Kagano communities in Kanaba Sub-County, as support towards attaining their community aspirations. Similarly, the Agricultural Officer-Kanaba Sub-County supported the same communities to get planting materials of Tithonia which farmers planted partly on the restoration sites and individual farms.

During training on tree nursery establishment and management, the project benefited from the technical expertise of the district environment/forestry staff, through conducting hands-on training with the tree nursery management committees and project staff, who are now able to do it on their own. These efforts are a true reflection of their commitment to the success of the project in their areas.

Annex 3: MEL & Communication

Project monitoring and evaluation

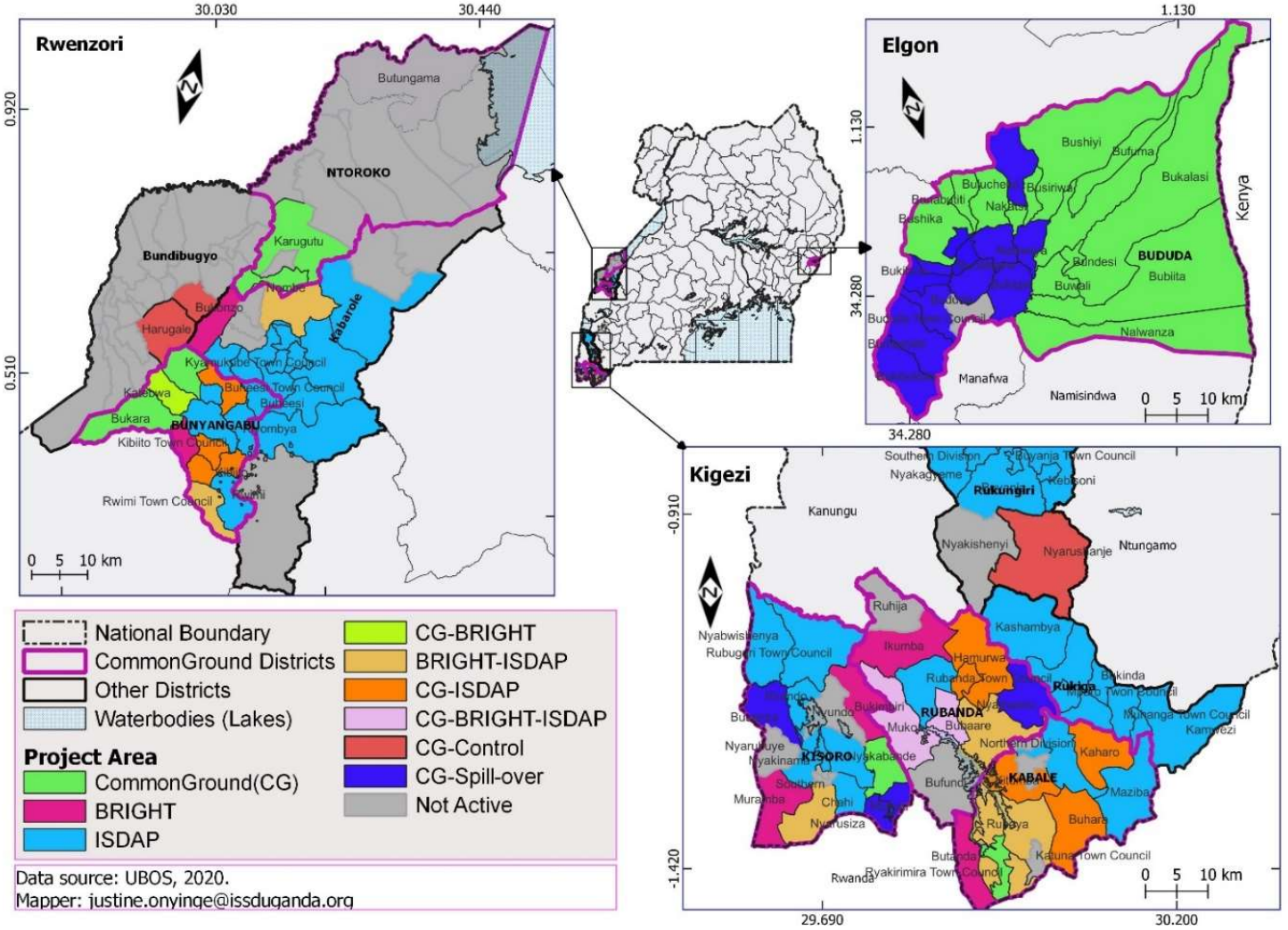
In the second year, MEL fell behind schedule due to a combination of mission creep, lack of focus and staff changes. As a result, the electronic monitoring system has been delayed by almost one year. Paper based forms, and manual reporting have been used temporarily to ensure documentation of progress and information for management and planning. As we enter year 3, all MEL positions are filled. The current team functions well and is efficiently addressing the backlog. Final development and field testing of the electronic monitoring system started at the transition from year 2 to 3.

In 2023, CG project completed the baseline surveys with 1,056 farmers to assess knowledge, practices, and livelihoods; A mini survey was equally conducted with the aim of providing baseline values for selected Logframe indicators including (1) Optimal combinations of integrated crop and land management practices to enhance soil conservation and (2) Fertility and factors influencing farmland resilience to shocks and propose strategies to improve resilience

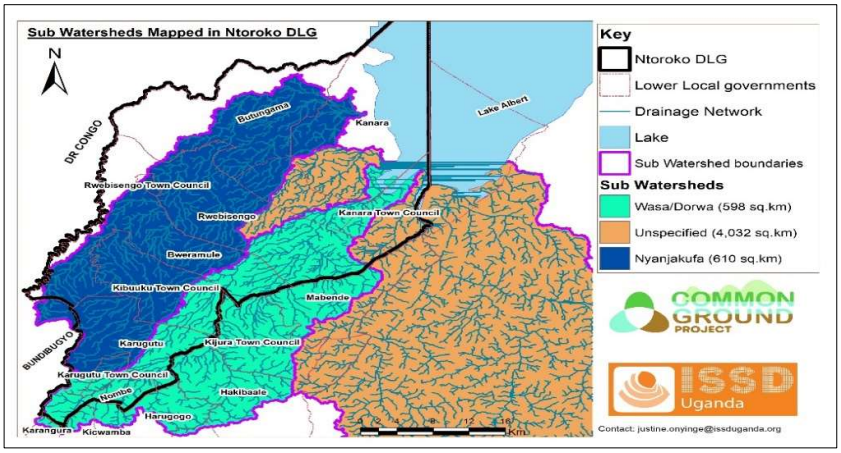
Project communication

Communication is managed by one officer and has not been affected by the issues of the MEL team. The focus is on facilitating information flow, raising awareness, and engaging stakeholders to popularize the project activities across the three regions i.e. Kigezi, Elgon, and Rwenzori; communications team produced newsletters that reached over 10,000 farmers. These newsletters featured tips on sustainable farming practices, market information, and success stories from peer famers, aiming to increase in farmer engagement in project activities. Through targeted campaigns on platforms like Facebook and X, CG follower counts grew throughout year two. Engagement rates for posts featuring farming tips and success stories increased with posts reaching an average of 400 viewers per post.

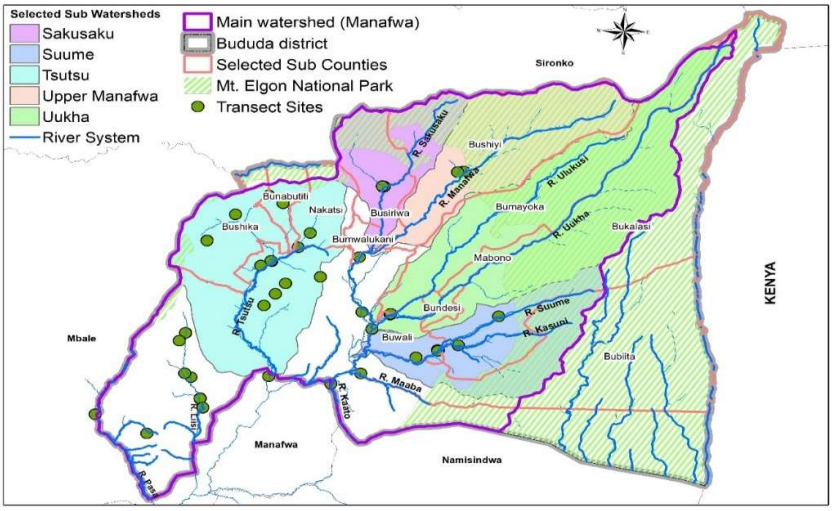
Annex 4: Project target Areas



Sub-watersheds in Rwenzori, Bunyangabu



Sub-watersheds in Rwenzori, Ntoroko



Sub-watersheds in Elgon, Bududa district



Annex 5: Selection of tree species for nurseries

In the CommonGround project, community tree nurseries are central to achieving the goals of pathway one and pathway two. In **Pathway 1**, trees are crucial for promoting sustainable farming by integrating agroforestry species into Integrated Plot Plans (IPPs). In **Pathway 2**, trees play a key role in restoring watersheds and rehabilitating degraded sites.

As already described in sub activity 2.1.1, 24 community tree nurseries were established across 24 project communities (12 in the Kigezi region and 12 in the Rwenzori region). The selection of tree species for these nurseries was a critical step in ensuring the long-term sustainability and ecological impact of both pathways. The process involved several stages, as presented below.

Step 1. Community-driven selection of tree species.

The first stage of species selection was guided by community participation. This inclusive approach ensured that the selected tree species aligned with local needs and traditional knowledge.

During community visioning and creation of Integrated Plot Plans (IPPs) sessions, community vison committee members and PIP innovators identified a wide range of indigenous and agroforestry tree species. The selected species were chosen based on their local significance for:

- Restoring ecosystem functions in degraded areas, such as soil erosion control and water retention Enhancing soil fertility.
- Supporting biodiversity.
- Providing livelihoods through timber, fuelwood, and other non-timber forest products.
- This participatory method empowered the communities, allowing them to take an active role in the decision-making process and fostering local ownership of the restoration.

Step 2. Expert validation of species suitability.

Following the community and PIP innovators selection, a thorough validation process was carried out to ensure that the chosen species were suitable for the specific environmental conditions and aligned with the project's ecological objectives.

CommonGround Experts, including Watershed & Natural Resource Management Expert together with Farming Systems Expert conducted an initial review of the identified species. They assessed, reviewed literature and consulted relevant stakeholders for each species based on:

- Ecological adaptability, ensuring the species could thrive in the local climate and soil conditions.
- Agroforestry potential, evaluating the species' capacity to enhance soil fertility, provide shade, or act as windbreaks on farm plots.
- Restorative impact, confirming the species' ability to rehabilitate degraded land, control erosion, and improve watershed health.
- Livelihood diversification and enhancement for food and income security – where fruit trees were prioritized.

Practical insights into the local application and suitability of the tree species were provided in collaboration with the lower local government (LLG) technical officers such as sub-county agricultural officers.

Furthermore, district-level authorities, including District Forestry Officers and District Natural Resource Officers were involved to ensure that the selected and validated species comply with regional environmental policies. These experts contributed to the validation by highlighting both the ecological and economic benefits of each species, ensuring their suitability for both immediate community needs and long-term environmental sustainability.

Step 3. Final species selection and their importance.

After validation, a final list of recommended species was shared with the communities, incorporating feedback from experts and government officials. The chosen species were selected based on their adaptability, ecological benefits, and contribution to sustainable farming systems.

Species selected for the Rwenzori region.

- *Markhamia lutea*. A fast-growing species that provides high-quality timber and is valuable for stabilizing soil and controlling erosion on degraded slopes. It is known to support biodiversity, apiculture, medicinal value, soil moisture retention and increases soil organic matter
- Musizi (*Maesopsis eminii*). Known for its rapid growth, Musizi is widely used in agroforestry. Its deep roots improve soil structure and water infiltration, making it ideal for watershed restoration. It also provides valuable timber for local communities.
- Calliandra (*Calliandra calothyrsus*). This nitrogen-fixing species enhances soil fertility, especially in degraded soils. Additionally, it serves as a critical fodder crop for livestock, making it particularly useful in integrated farming systems.
- *Grevillea robusta* (Silk Oak). A versatile species, Grevillea provides timber, shade, and windbreaks for agricultural crops. It improves soil moisture retention, making it beneficial for both farm plots and watershed restoration.
- Avocado, mango and jack fruits were selected for household food and income enhancement. These species will not be raised in the tree nurseries, but rather be outsourced, procured and distributed to the target communities.

Species selected for the Kigezi region.

- *Alnus acuminata*. A nitrogen-fixing species that significantly improves soil fertility, making it well-suited for agroforestry systems. Alnus thrives in high-altitude areas like Kigezi and helps reduce soil erosion on steep slopes.
- Calliandra (*Calliandra calothyrsus*). Like in the Rwenzori region, Calliandra was chosen in Kigezi for its dual benefits of enhancing soil fertility and providing livestock fodder, making it valuable in mixed farming systems.
- *Grevillea robusta* (Silk Oak): Like its role in the Rwenzori region, Grevillea was selected for its ability to provide timber, fuelwood, and ecosystem services, such as erosion control and microclimate regulation.
- Only avocado was prioritized in Kigezi for household food and income security – will not be raised in the tree nurseries, but rather outsourced, procured and distributed to the target communities.

Step 4. Training and knowledge transfer

After finalizing the selection of tree species, the project placed a strong emphasis on capacity building to ensure the successful management of nurseries and the proper integration of the species into farming systems. Training workshops were organized for project field staff and selected community tree nursery management committees, covering nursery management techniques, planting methods, and sustainable agroforestry practices. Additionally, a field visit to the National Forestry Authority (NFA) in Kabale where the NFA forestry officer provided hands-on experience in large-scale nursery management, species propagation, and post-planting care.

Long-term benefits of the selected species

The selected tree species were chosen not only for their short-term benefits but also for their long-term contributions to the resilience of both farming systems and landscapes. Key long-term benefits include:

- Erosion control and slope stabilization. Species such as *Markhamia lutea* and *Grevillea robusta* prevent soil erosion, particularly on steep slopes. Their deep root systems stabilize the soil, reducing runoff and retaining moisture.
- Soil fertility enhancement. Nitrogen-fixing species like *Calliandra* and *Alnus acuminata* enrich the soil, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers and promoting sustainable farming practices.
- Timber and livelihoods. Fast-growing timber species like *Musizi* and *Grevillea robusta* provide sustainable sources of timber and fuelwood, contributing to local economies. These species also alleviate pressure on natural forests by providing alternative wood resources.
- Ecosystem restoration and biodiversity. Indigenous species like *Markhamia lutea* enhance biodiversity and support ecosystems by providing habitats for wildlife, contributing to pollination, and improving overall ecosystem health.
- Climate resilience. Many of the selected species are drought-resistant and adaptable to changing climatic conditions, making them ideal for improving climate resilience in both farming systems and degraded landscapes. Their presence improves microclimates and mitigates the effects of extreme weather events.
- Household food, nutrition and income security. The fruit trees selected like mango, avocado and jackfruit are those adapted to the ecological conditions and have been known to contribute to food, income and social wellbeing.

Important notes:

- The process described above for tree species selection will be repeated each time tree nurseries are established in the communities.
- In year 3 the project will have scaled up to a total of 117 communities, hence the number of tree nurseries (TNs) will increase and will be established in both new and old communities to promote biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. In each case it will be assessed if the TN is likely to be viable, or alternative sources of seedlings should be used.
- In year 3, up to 117 TNs will be spread across Kigezi (36 TNs), Rwenzori (36 TNs) and Elgon (63 TNs; 27 TNs in the MWARES old communities and 36 TNs in 18 new communities). A higher number of TNs in Elgon will cater for high number of villages clustered to form project communities. We will establish up to 99 TNs in quarter 2 of Y3, while up to 36 TNs will be installed in quarter 3 of year 3.

- More efforts will be placed on supporting tree nursery management committees to achieve higher quality and quantity of tree seedlings required for restoration and livelihood improvement.