



ECOLOGICAL TRENDS
ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of Ecological Trends Alliance from January 2019 to December 2019.

All Photos / Ecological Trends Alliance

Editors: Michael Opige

Layout & Design: Torach Ernest Edwin

VISION

The vision is to 'Green' development through knowledge and experience-based options for humanity

MISSION

To secure global solutions to biodiversity and development challenges through providing biologically diverse and proven alternatives.

CORE VALUES

Honesty: Integrity, ethics and honesty inform all our actions and operations. We are committed to a clean and quality job with respect for all humanity

Safety: We promote a sound Health, Safety and Environment culture and management for all employees, contractors, subcontractors and associates. We pride in innovativeness to solve our client's problem

Creativity: We continuously undertake research to enhance innovativeness throughout our work. We are always exploring new heights through setting of higher goals to allow for continuous improvement

Adaptability: We are agile and hence embrace the fact that change can be rapid. The world is a dynamic place and Ecological Trends Alliance follows in its footsteps to keep with the tide of change. We commit to setting best standards in our services while listening to the needs people.



FACTS & FIGURES

13

Is the number of publications produced

UGX 419,916,090

Is the total amount of funding received

2

Is the number of Districts worked in

15

Is the number of Full time and part-time staff at Ecological Trends Alliance

2

Is the number of projects we implemented

2

Is the number of networks we belong to



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is now two years since we started our term as the board. I want to congratulate every one of you and to thank you for providing time for the organisation. The organisation needs us if it is to achieve all that we require of it.

The Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA), with pleasure, presents the Annual Report 2019. The production of the Annual Report was made possible by the various contributions of different staff members. I also want to acknowledge the support from our partners for facilitating the works that the organisation does. We have included a summary of the audited accounts to this report.

It is my hope that this report inspires us in doing more in the future and for promoting a better environment for the current and future generations. I look forward to 2020 and to implementing new strategies and policy actions for future improvements. I thank you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Mayega Kiwanuka'.

Thomas Mayega Kiwanuka
Chairman, Board



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Uganda continues to lose forest cover, dropping from **24%** in **1990** to **9%** in **2015** though with a recent change to **12.4%** in **2019**. Key among the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is the establishment of infrastructure and farms for production of agro-commodities in this country. It is to this background that we have focused our programmes to halt negative impacts from agro-commodities

We implemented two projects worth just over **UGX 420,000,000** with support from Tropenbos International and own resources through consultancies. We were able to work with Kalangala and Buvuma District Local Governments and two community groups, one from each district, to implement research, conservation, community development and policy advocacy. Limited funds went on capacity development, but we still believe it is one of the pillars that will need more support. We will only be able to improve with the continued support of the board and the trust of our funding partners.

I thank you.

Michael Opige
Executive Director

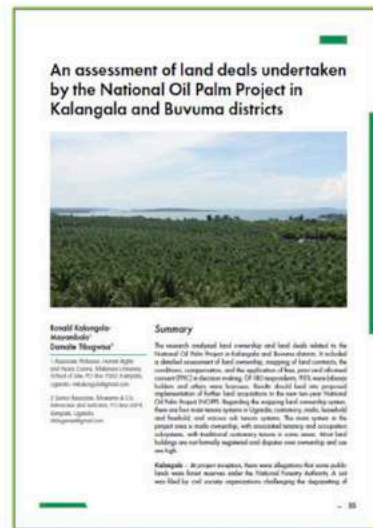
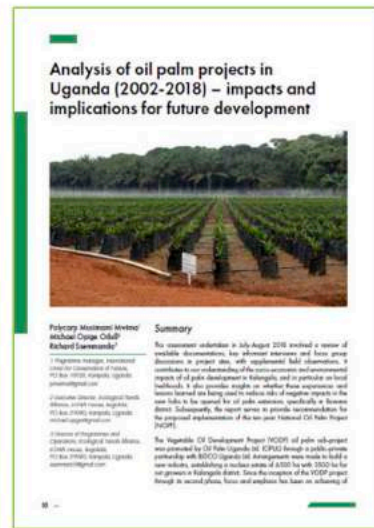
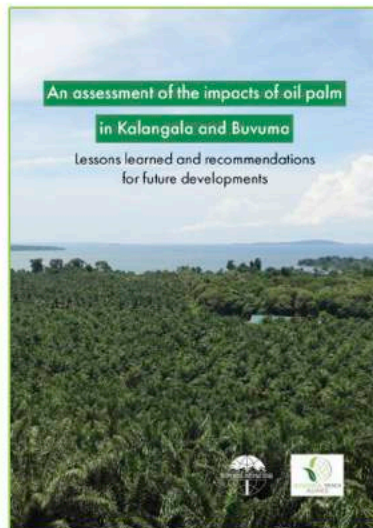
OUR PROGRAMMES

Research

We produced **13** publications on understanding the impacts of oil palm projects on livelihoods and environment. The focus was on smallholder farmers, land-use, land sales, gender and economic trajectories of oil palm and other alternatives.

Dissemination was done through our website and the websites of our partners. Presentation of summaries were done during technical meetings in the Networks that we subscribe to.

The results of the researches were used to influence and/or improve the design of the National Oil Palm Project (**NOPP**) to be inclusive and sustainable



OUR PROGRAMMES

Ssemmanda R, 2019. "Accepting smallholder producers as key stakeholders is fundamental". Interview with Richard Ssemmanda. pp94-95, in: Jeezer R, Pasiecznik N (eds.), Exploring Inclusive Palm Oil Production. ETFRN News 59. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands. 216pp.

Ssemmanda R, Opige M, 2019. Impacts and implications of oil palm on landscapes and livelihoods in Uganda's Lake Victoria islands – an overview of recent research. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 5pp.

Ssemmanda R, Opige MO (eds), 2019. An assessment of the impacts of oil palm in Kalangala and Buvuma. Lessons learned and recommendations for future developments. Research report. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 81pp.

Mwima PM, Opige M, Ssemmanda R, 2019. Analysis of oil palm projects in Uganda (2002-2018) – impacts and implications for future development. 13pp.

Nangendo G, Namuwaya S, Timbuka M, 2019. 23 The impact of oil palm on land cover and land use in Kalangala and Buvuma: trends and future predictions. 17pp.

Bigirwa J, Anena S, Katunguka G, 2019. Changes in demographic and employment in Kalangala since the arrival of oil palm. 17pp.

Kakungula-Mayambala R, Tibugwisa D, 2019. An assessment of land deals undertaken by the National Oil Palm Project in Kalangala and Buvuma districts. 12pp.

Masiga M, Khauka S, Nabatanzi M, 2019. Economic trajectories of palm oil development in Buvuma and Kalangala districts. 16pp.

Mwima P, Opige MO, Ssemmanda R, 2019. Analysis of oil palm projects in Uganda – impacts and implications for future development. Policy brief. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 2pp.

Nangendo G, Namuwaya S, Timbuka M. 2019. Impact of oil palm on land cover and land use in Kalangala and Buvuma – trends and future predictions. Policy brief. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 3pp.

Bigirwa J, Anena S, Katunguka G, 2019. Impacts of oil palm on employment, demography and gender issues in Kalangala. Policy brief. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 2pp.

Kakungula-Mayambala R, Tibugwisa DN., 2019. An assessment of land deals undertaken by the National Oil Palm Project in Kalangala and Buvuma districts. Policy brief. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 3pp.

Masiga M, Khauka S, Nabatanzi, M, 2019. Future economic trajectories for oil palm in Buvuma and Kalangala districts. Policy brief. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 2pp.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Ecological Trends Alliance appointed a gender focal person and hired a gender consultant who supported the development of a gender policy. The organisation has prioritised gender specific training of staff and research focusing on gender issues to ensure proper mainstreaming.
2. Organised a write-shop for all staff and researchers to acquire summary writing skills for reporting and influencing policies
3. Ecological Trends Alliance joined and made contributions to the Environment and Natural Resource CSO Network and continues to benefit from the various training opportunities that come through the network.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DEVELOPMENT

- 1.** We worked with two community groups one from each of the district of Kalangala and Buvuma. The groups were used as vehicles of change away from unsustainable agriculture.
- 2.** We promoted nature-based/sustainable approaches in the management of forested landscapes. Advocated for supportive National Government that appreciates oil palm safeguards and protects forests. And strengthened the communities' capacity to protect public forests left such that they continue to access ecosystem services
- 3.** Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) together with NAPE brought together MAAIF, IFAD, Dutch Embassy, Buvuma and Kalangala community, BIDCO, KOPGT, NEMA and other stakeholders in a field visit to see the oil palm impacts documented by ETA research.
- 4.** After the meeting in April 2019, MAAIF made a return mission that was meant to rectify mistakes committed under the oil palm project. One of the recommendations was monitoring support by the DNRO as recommended during the multi-stakeholder field visit.



CONSERVATION

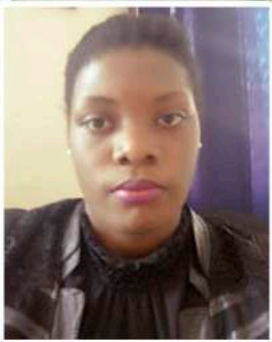
- 1.** National Forestry Authority (**NFA**) used 2018/19 maps generated by **ETA** to have boundaries of Kakonwa **CFR** in Buvuma opened. Buvuma local government also used 2018/19 maps to open boundaries of Nawaitale Local Forest Reserve (**LFR**).
- 2.** The production of maps with trends analysis in forest cover change and projection of the extent to which oil palm will dominate other land uses on main land Buvuma in future, coupled with meetings to share this information, led to swift conservation actions by the responsible bodies.
- 3.** Through research and engagement with **BIDCO**, they recognised and accepted to change their bad practices and revert their illegalities on lake buffer zones and chemicals use in Kalangala and Kalangala district Natural Resource Office submitted work plan to MAAIF to facilitate oil palm impact monitoring.
- 4.** Some communities in Buvuma resisted sale of their land and therefore ensured some area remained for crop production and access of fuelwoods that would otherwise put more pressure on Forests.
- 5.** Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Trust (**KOPGT**) showed interest in intercropping as complementary to oil palm monoculture a gesture that would improve on sustainability and inclusivity in oil palm business.

WORKING IN COLLABORATION

Ecological Trends Alliance (**ETA**) and Tree Talk Plus (**TTP**) initiated a multi stakeholder process to engage agro-commodity producers to be more responsible and adhere to basic standards and practices that can improve the management of the environment in which they work and make their businesses sustainable. It included:

- i)** Bringing together like-minded entities, to discuss modalities of engaging agro-commodity producers,
- ii)** Meeting selected private stakeholder entities and communities in sugarcane and tobacco growing areas (Masindi and Gulu) and oil palm growing stakeholders in Kalangala and Buvuma and,
- iii)** Building the capacity of farmers and farmer leaders of oil palm, sugarcane and tobacco agro commodities to promote green growth practices among commercial farmers of oil palm, sugar cane and tobacco in Kalangala, Amuru and Masindi districts.





MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to thank Ecological Trends Alliance for giving me an opportunity for internship. To me, it was a unique experience to be part of ecological researcher's team. It developed my interest in the ecosystem, environmental preservation and the importance of biodiversity. I would also love to thank everyone at Ecological Trends Alliance for their openness and patience, they made my work interesting and simple.

When I joined Ecological Trends Alliance, I didn't know anything about research or office work and didn't know that one day I would end up doing it. I made a lot of reading about ministries in Uganda of which I didn't know some ministries existed.

This internship was a useful experience and I have achieved a lot from it. I have gained new knowledge, skills and met many new people. I achieved several of my learning goals.

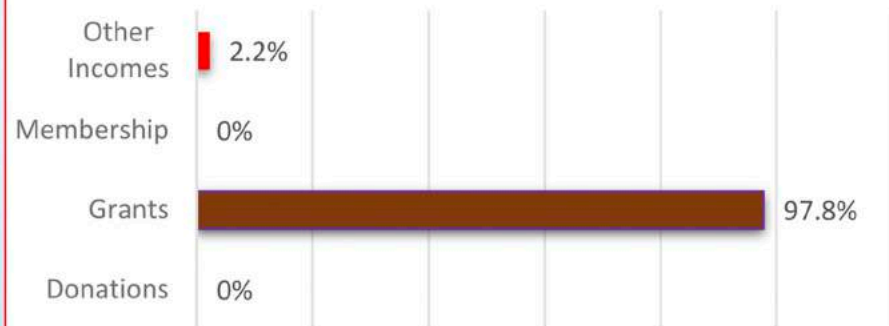
The internship was good because I was able to notice my strengths and weaknesses and this will help me to define what skills and knowledge I have to improve on in future. At first I was too quiet but I learnt to be bolder and more confident, also learnt a lot on how to communicate and interact with other people in the communities that are very different from mine.

Lastly, this internship has given me new insights and motivation to pursue a career in research or related fields and to prepare myself for my future career. I can improve several things like working on my communication skills so that I am able to present and express myself more confidently.

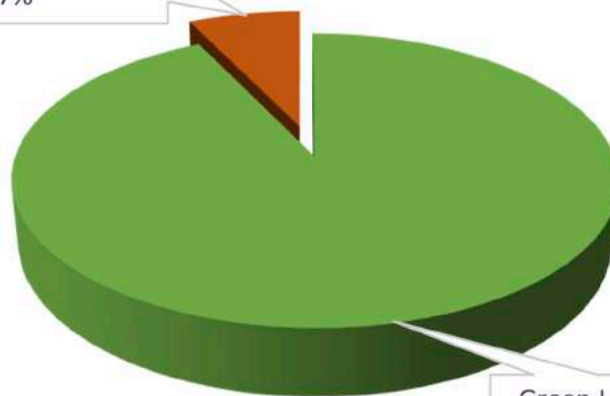
Thank you Ecological Trends Alliance

Judith Nantumbwe

FUNDING



Community Rights Case Review
7%



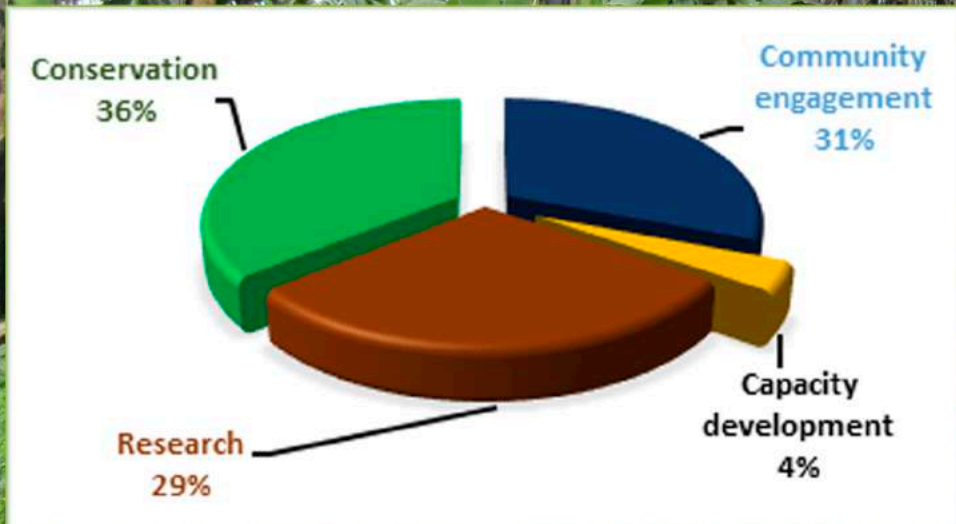
Green Livelihood Alliance - Phase I
93%

There were two main sources of funds however, funding through grants remain the major source. Most of the funds (93%) were earmarked for Green Livelihood Alliance activities with the remainder going to Community Rights case review in Community Forestry.

EXPENDITURES



Overall, most of the funding went to programme work and only 19% was spent on administration. We spent 36% on conservation, 31% on community engagement, 31% on research and 4% on capacity development.



AUDITED ACCOUNTS

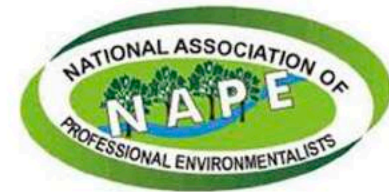
**Ecological Trends Alliance
Directors' Report and Financial Statements
For the 6 months Ended 31 December 2019**

5.2. Statement of Comprehensive Incomes and Expense

	Notes	Dec-19 UGX	Jun-19 UGX
Incomes			
Grant Income	6.10	280,642,587	129,992,398
Other Incomes	6.11	1,417,425	7,863,680
Less: Capital expenditure		(4,200,000)	(8,800,000)
Net available income for operating activities		277,860,012	129,056,078
Expenses			
Programme Costs	6.12	180,135,000	44,472,200
Administration Costs	6.13	97,725,012	84,583,878
Total Expenses		277,860,012	129,056,078
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		-	-

All activities relate to continuing operations. The notes to these financial statements for the 6 months ended 31 December 2019 form an integral part thereof and should be read and construed as such.


PARTNER APPRECIATION



Government of
the Netherlands



Here are the logos of the partners we worked with in 2019. Thank you for the trust you have shown in us and we acknowledge that without your financial and technical support, we could not have the goal we set for ourselves.



**...“enhancing environmental
conservation and knowledge for
the benefit of the people and
sustainable national
development”...**



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