

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



ECOLOGICAL TRENDS
ALLIANCE

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All Photos / Ecological Trends Alliance
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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

8

Is the number of publications produced

Over **UGX 530,0000,000**

Is the total amount of funding received

5

Is the number of Districts worked in

35

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

7

Is the number of projects we implemented

2

Is the number of networks we belong to

3

Are the new Memorandum of Understanding we negotiated





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Ecological Trends Alliance Board is the governing body for the Organisation tasked with the main responsibility of offering strategic policy guidance for overall growth of the organisation and ensuring that the organisation delivers on its mission and goals while supporting (inter)national policies' implementation in environment and development. The board is purely voluntary and conducts business at least twice annually.

The year 2020 was overshadowed by COVID-19 to which we were also negatively impacted. However, we worked through our means and still delivered on our goals. I am therefore pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report. These achievements were made possible by our dedicated staff and team of researchers.

As you may be aware, our organisation was conceived in 2011 and on 15th April 2021, we shall mark 10 years. I therefore call upon all of us to reflect on what we have achieved so far and where we need to go. I believe we still have a lot to offer.

As board members, we supervise the operations of the organisation through approval of plans, budgets and reports. We commissioned and approved the financial statements at the end of this Annual Report. This we believe has allowed us to contribute to saving our environment.
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

Ecological Trends Alliance core areas of work are six but implemented under four thematic areas. These are 1. Research, 2. Capacity development (which also includes mentorship), 3. Community engagement / development and 4. Conservation programmes (which also includes climate change actions). We believe that once we implement these thematic areas well, we will have achieved our goal of “enhancing environmental conservation and knowledge for the benefit of the people and sustainable national development”.

Ecological Trends Alliance has continued to grow. We implemented programmes worth over **UGX 530,000,000** with support from Tropenbos International and International Union for the Conservation of Nature through Save Our Species programme.

We were able to work with five local governments to conserve the forests in their jurisdiction and in four enclaves of Queen Elizabeth National Park to protect the threatened African Lion population through our programs, research and policy advocacy.

We thank our funding partners, the board and members for the faith you have put in us and for the continued support. Uganda has prioritised agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, minerals and energy and yet the environment remains fragile. This means we still have work to do. With much appreciation

Michael Opige
Executive Director

OUR PROGRAMMES

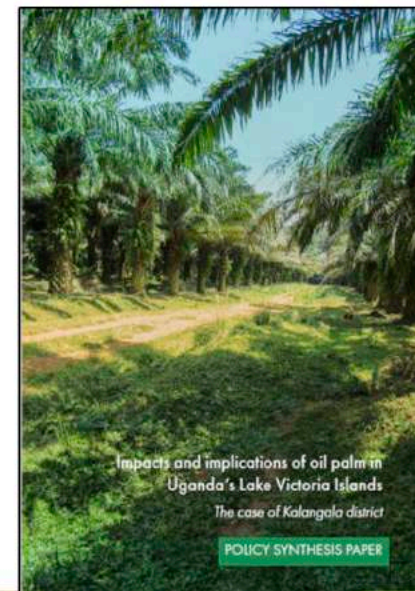
1. Research

Tailored researches/ studies were conducted to inform documentation of best practices that are aimed at diversifying livelihood options for communities.

We worked on **8 publications** focusing on land-use plans, agroforestry, and oil palm intercropping and oil palm price fluctuations

The dissemination was done widely through our website and partner websites, community dissemination workshops and printed copy distribution

The publications were used to influence policies at both field and national levels including forest management and management of private sector-led development projects in communities



OUR PROGRAMMES

ETA, 2020 (In preps). Land use plans for Buvuma main island, Buvuma district, Uganda. Parts I-IV. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 160pp.t

Opige. M., Ssemmanda, R. and Pasiiecznik, N. 2020 (In preps). Oil Palm Agroforestry: A guide for extensionists and farmers. Intercropping food, fuel and cash crops in and around oil palm plantations in Uganda. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 36pp.

Kiyingi GK, Opige M, Ssemmanda R, Kisakye J, Wamala P, 2020. Oil palm development in Buvuma: Learning from previous experiences and recommendations for future developments. Policy synthesis paper. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 10pp.

Kiyingi GK, Opige M, Ssemmanda R, Kisakye J, Wamala P, 2020. Impacts and implications of oil palm in Uganda's Lake Victoria Islands: The case of Kalangala district. Policy synthesis paper. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 10pp.

Namanji S, Ssekyewa C, Slingerland M, 2020. Oil palm intercropping in Uganda – an assessment of farmer practices and potential for expansion. 20pp

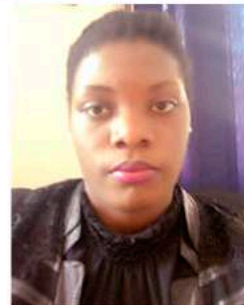
Masiga M, 2020. Fluctuating oil palm prices in Uganda: impacts and risks involved. 20pp

Namanji S, Ssekyewa C, Slingerland M, 2020. Oil palm intercropping in Uganda – an assessment of farmer practices and potential for expansion. Policy brief. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 4pp.

Masiga M, 2020. Fluctuating oil palm prices in Uganda: impacts and risks involved. Policy brief. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 4pp.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

I We mentored three volunteers under
(a) Information Technology
(b) Community development
(c) GIS and land-use respectively



II We supported training of 100 households belonging to women groups in Buvuma in making and using energy efficient and saving cook stoves

III Upto 20 Volunteers (lion queens and kings) underwent training in Human Wildlife Conflicts especially those conflicts coming from the carnivores

IV The full-time Staff development programme included training in gender mainstreaming in organisational policies and social media management and publishing

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DEVELOPMENT

1. Empowered communities of Kalangala, Buvuma, Bwike and Mayuge to be able to engage government and oil palm investors on rights-based advocacy through tailored trainings and information provision. This empowered communities and enhanced their ability to engage informatively on land rights and access to benefits of land.
2. Raised awareness to government on the social and environmental impacts of oil palm growing through production and dissemination of policy briefs in different forums
3. Organised a seminar on the impact of different large scale agro-commodities (oil palm, sugar cane, tea, coffee) on environment and community livelihoods.
4. Integrated national and local government actors in community engagement so that they appreciate environmental problems of oil palm and start safeguarding forests for improved community livelihoods. This was done through research packaged in info-graph and through continuous engagement with government agencies.
5. Worked with over 80 Cattle Keepers in the four enclaves of Katwe, Hamukungu, Kasenyi and Katunguru B on the conservation of the threatened African Lion in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
6. Conservation and awareness messages on importance of protecting Lions by the communities in the enclaves were done through community Radio programmes in the enclaves.



CONSERVATION

✓ Provided information for the boundary reopening of two Forest Reserves in Buvuma District. This aimed to protect the forest habitats for improved environment and ecosystem services.

✓ Promoted the use of Improved and Energy efficient Cook Stoves as a Conservation Action model to strengthen community resilience amidst fuel scarcity and looming effects of climate change.

✓ Worked with communities in the four enclaves of Katwe, Hamukungu, Kasenyi and Katunguru B on the conservation of the threatened African Lion in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

✓ Agroforestry Farming models in Oil palm growing were simplified through a farmer guide that allow farmers to demonstrate sustainable models of oil palm growing in oil palm growing hubs.

✓ Impacts of oil palm expansion on two islands in the Kalangala landscape and in the new oil palm hubs were dealt with through building upon the research results to community-based sustainable and inclusive landscape/ land-use plans and management.



GROWTH OF THE ORGANISATION



Our organisation has continued to grow. We have good working relationships with Uganda Wildlife Authority and National Forestry Authority whose resources are the bases of our work. We worked with Districts of Kalangala, Buvuma, Mayuge, Buyikwe and Kasese through their Departments of Natural Resources.

We have been working in partnership with other like-minded Organisations and Networks. In the year, we worked with Tree Talk Plus, Environmental Alert, Uganda Conservation Foundation and Civil Society Organisation Environment and Natural Resources Network (CSO-ENR Network) in various programmes. We initiated and negotiated three Memorandum of Understanding with Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Conservation Foundation and Uganda Wildlife and Research Training Institute (UWRTI) to enhance our programme delivery.



MENTORING NEXT CONSERVATIONISTS

My Internship Experience at Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA)

After my course at Makerere University, I was extremely interested in finding more exposure in “Land Use Planning” with an objective to promote environmental conservation, so when I got an opportunity to do so through the internship at Ecological Trends Alliance, I was overjoyed.

On 6th.06.19, I joined Ecological Trends Alliance to complete my 1-year internship and it was a great learning experience for myself and the other two interns. One thing that made my experience very special was the people that I met. Both the staff of ETA and the other two interns were so kind and working with them was really amazing. Lots of teamwork was required and having great people to do it with made every task fun.

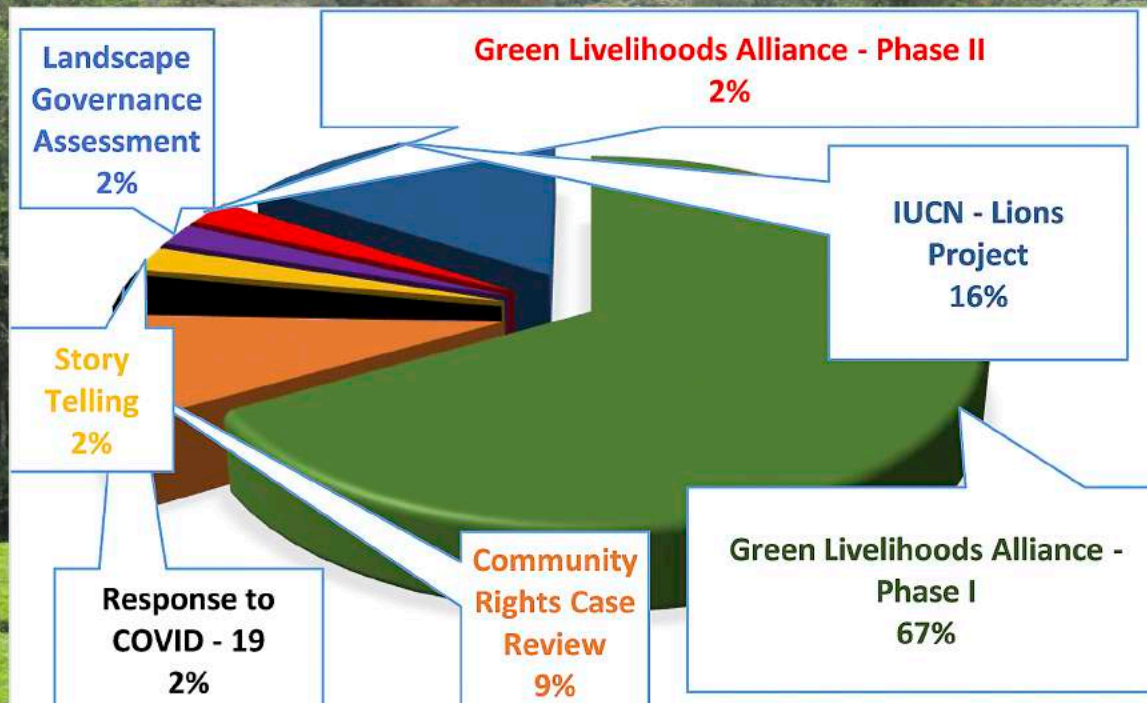
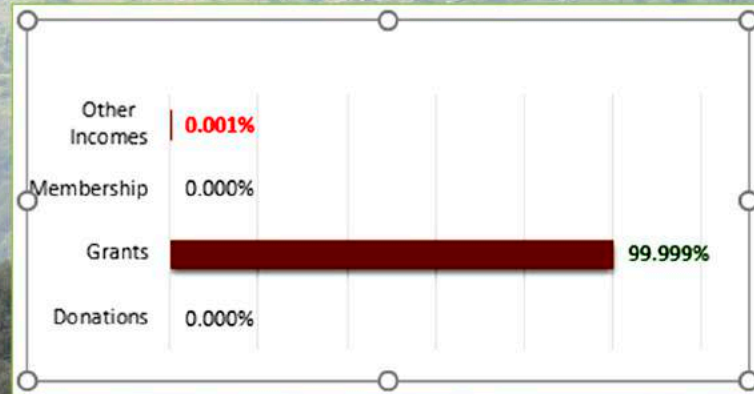
Overall, my experience as an intern at ETA was a very positive one. I attained practical skills in carrying out land use planning for sustainable growth but most importantly to promote environmental health through environmental protection. I was directly incorporated in the Green Livelihood Alliance program, Forested Landscapes for Equity and had an opportunity to visit the island districts of Uganda that is; Kalangala district and Buvuma district. While at Kalangala, I evidenced extensive oil palm fields in areas that were formerly occupied by forests and subsistence farm lands and furthermore appreciated the environmental degradation rate at the district and its consequences ecologically, socially and economically.

I was also part of the team that carried out land use planning in Buvuma district where oil palm production had nearly commenced plus Mayuge and Buikwe districts that had been earmarked by the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries. I firmly believe that the oil palm developments in the new districts will cause less harm to the environment as compared to what is actually happening in Kalangala and this is greatly because of ETA’s works in these new districts.

This internship helped me narrow down the studies I want to pursue, what kind of work I want to do in the near future and furthered my passion for environmental conservation. I will forever remain grateful to the staff of Ecological Trends Alliance.

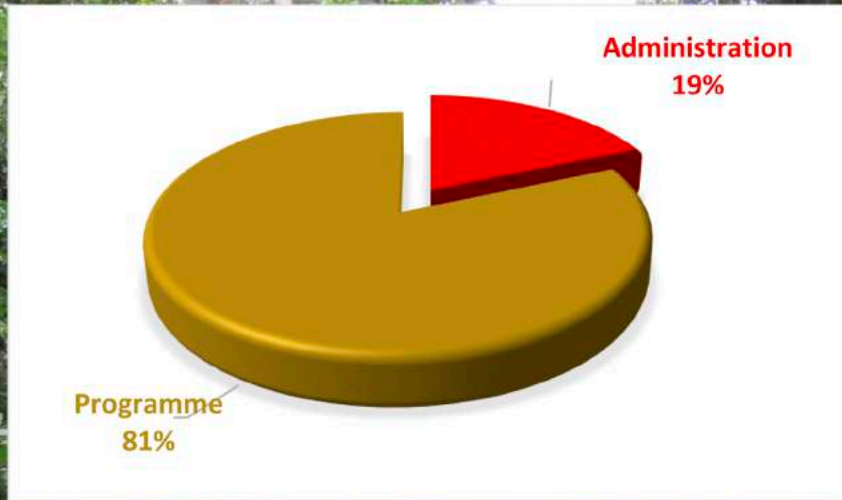
MAKANGA JOHN COLLINS

FUNDING

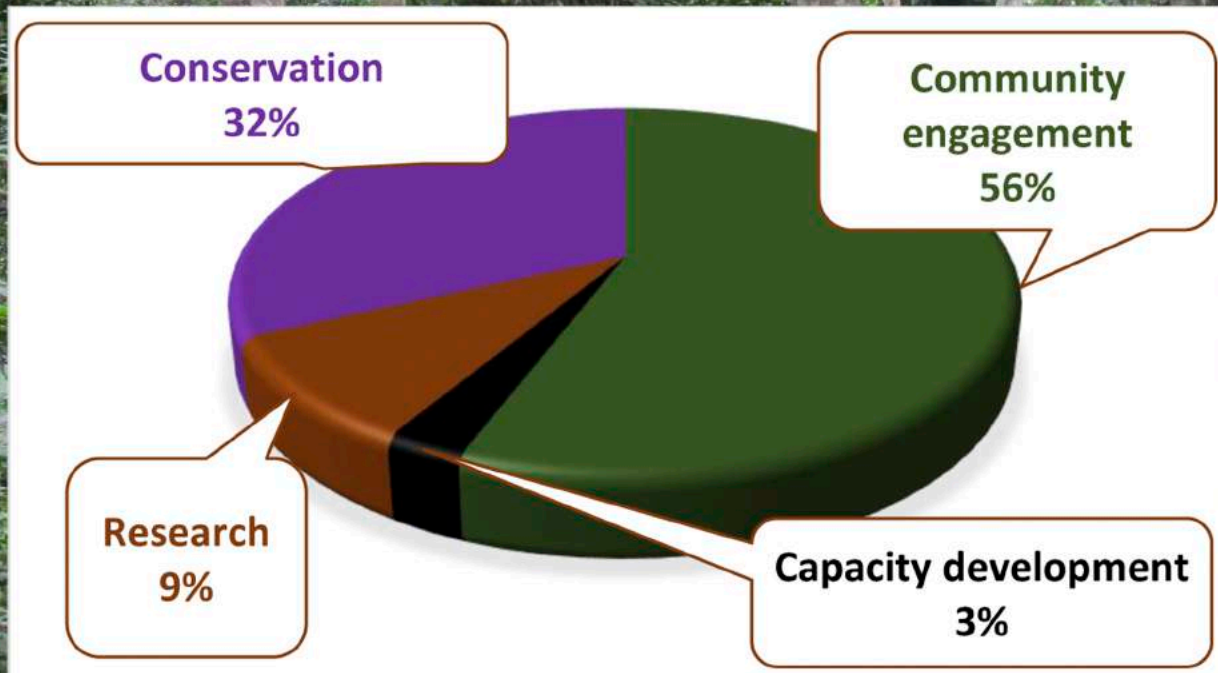


We implemented programmes to the tune of **UGX 536,461,694** with largely donor funding in form of grants to support seven small projects targeting Forests and National Parks.

EXPENDITURES



Of the grants received, **19%** was spent on administration and the bulk (**81%**) was spent on programmes under our core areas of work of research, capacity development, community engagement and conservation.



AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Ecological Trends Alliance
 Directors' Report and Financial Statements
 For the fiscal period Ended 31 December 2020

4.2. Statement of Comprehensive Incomes and Expense

	Notes	2020 UGX	2019 UGX
Incomes			
Grant Income	5.19	568,439,661	280,642,587
Other Income	5.20	437,838	1,417,425
Less: Capital expenditure		(32,415,850)	(4,200,000)
Net available income for operating activities		536,461,649	277,860,012
Expenses			
Program Costs	5.21	291,162,606	180,135,000
Administration Costs	5.22	245,299,043	97,725,012
Total Expenses		536,461,649	277,860,012
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		-	-

All activities relate to continuing operations. The notes to these financial statements for the fiscal period ended 31 December 2020 form an integral part thereof and should be read and construed as such.

PARTNER APPRECIATION



Government of
the Netherlands



Here are the partners with whom we have worked in 2020.
Thank you for the trust you have shown in us and we acknowledge that without your financial and technical support, we could not have achieved 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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