

ECOLOGICAL CALL

"Sustainability a Must!"

Newsletter: Issue 1: April - June, 2026



ECOLOGICAL TRENDS
ALLIANCE

Featured Highlights:

- Community Transformation And Resilience.
- Stakeholder Mobilisation For Sustainable Wildfire Management.
- ETA takes leadership of the Forest Thematic Group of ENR-CSO Network
- The Protection Of Sovereignty Bill, 2026
- National Cleaning Day 2026.
- Staff Changes.

Message from the Director Programmes



I am delighted to share with you the April–June 2026 edition of our Periodic Newsletter. In this edition, we highlight stories demonstrating how biodiversity conservation can thrive alongside sustainable development through collaboration, innovation, and community action. A key milestone during this period was the continued progress towards implementing the Wildfire Management Strategy for the Budongo–Bugoma Landscape, a landscape approach addressing wildfires as a major threat to biodiversity, livelihoods, and economic stability.

In this edition, we bring you stories highlighting **community transformation and resilience**, **stakeholder mobilization for sustainable wildfire management**, **ETA's leadership in the Forestry Thematic Area**, **National Cleaning Day 2026**, and **key staff changes** shaping our continued growth and impact.

We sincerely appreciate our partners for their continued support and collaboration towards achieving our mission: *"Securing solutions to biodiversity and development challenges through providing biologically diverse and proven alternatives."*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Ssemanda'.

Richard Ssemanda.
Director Programmes

Community Transformation And Resilience



Positive Progress on Sustainability

A recent sustainability assessment of Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) projects in Kaseeta, Munteme, Kiziranfumbi, and Wambabya highlights encouraging progress in community-led conservation and livelihoods. Interventions such as agroforestry, beekeeping, and fuel-efficient stoves are strengthening household resilience and promoting sustainable natural resource management.

The assessment found that coffee trees established through the agroforestry programme are thriving, providing participating households with future income opportunities and improved soil health. However, restoration efforts along River Hohwa continue to face challenges from encroachment, grazing, and vegetation clearing, emphasizing the need for stronger community awareness and protection measures to safeguard these important ecosystems.

— By Omondi Denis.

Benefits from Sustainable Beekeeping

The FICCA Group is experiencing positive livelihood impacts from ETA-supported community beekeeping initiatives. Through honey production, members are generating additional household income while contributing to the protection of Itohya Forest. The initiative demonstrates how sustainable enterprises can strengthen community resilience while promoting conservation, as healthier ecosystems support improved honey yields.

Nursery Supports Restoration Efforts

The ATGANCA nursery bed continues to play a vital role in supporting afforestation efforts by supplying indigenous and multipurpose tree seedlings to local restoration initiatives. However, production capacity has been affected by resource limitations, changing weather conditions, and operational challenges, highlighting the need for continued support to meet the growing demand for planting materials.



Stakeholder Mobilisation For Sustainable Wildfire Management In Bugoma–Budongo Landscape

Strengthening Local Alliances under the Wildfire Project

Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) has maintained its field activities across the Bugoma–Budongo Landscape, focusing on wildfire management, ecosystem protection, and strengthening community resilience. The initiative is building collaboration with District Local Governments in Kikuube, Hoima, Masindi, and Buliisa, while engaging national stakeholders to strengthen the wildfire management strategy and support the development of a broader national framework for wildfire management in Uganda.

The early engagements with the DLGs and relevant authorities fronted:

- ❖ MoU Renewal (Hoima & Kikuube).
- ❖ New MoU signing with (Masindi District).
- ❖ Mobilizing the Communities as Wildfire Champion

ETA is initiating formal engagement to renew Existing MoUs through re-engagement of leadership in Hoima and Kikuube districts to update shared objectives.

Establish new MoU with Masindi District to expand our legal and operational footprint into Masindi District to ensure progress, landscape-wide management strategy spanning the entire Bugoma–Budongo. With communities including the private sector Wildfires pose an increasing threat to forest, agricultural , and local livelihoods throughout the Albertine region. ETA's field teams are mobilizing the communities and private sector, setting up local awareness channels, and refreshing the training of Community Wildfire Champions to ensure early warning and rapid response.

— By Omondi Denis.

"Wildfire management cannot happen in isolation being a shared enemy. By aligning Hoima, Kikuube, Buliisa and Masindi under a single operational vision, we build a continuous defense line for both community livelihoods and forest ecosystems."



Ecological Trends Alliance takes leadership of the Forestry Thematic Working Group of ENR-CSO Network

ENR-CSO Network strategic guidance rests on the Steering Committee built under Thematic Working Groups. The Network mobilizes members for joint lobbying, advocacy, good governance, policy reform, and improved service delivery in Uganda.

It engages in policy processes at both national and sub-national levels. The Steering Committee has opportunity to review and deliberate on key matters arising from member's program implementation.

ETA coordinates the Forest thematic Working Group and collates key issues, and recommendations from the Regional Nodes to set priority actions nationally. This year during April – June quarter ETA collated 2026 Network reports under the forest theme. This also feeds into the ENR-CSO Network's contribution to the 2026 Ministry of Water and Environment Annual Program Performance Review (APPR) 2026 process.

— By Michael Opige

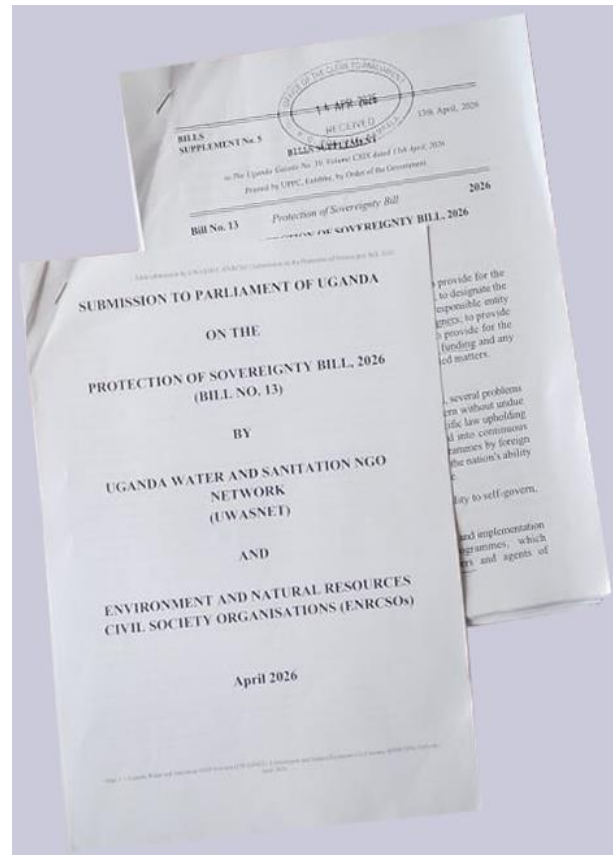


ETA Joins Other Civil Society Organizations To Input On The Protection Of Sovereignty Bill, 2026

In response to the Protection of the Sovereignty Bill, 2026, Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET) and the Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organization Network (ENR-CSO-Network) to which Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) belong consulted severally and responded by contributing to the Memoranda that have been submitted by both International and National CSO Networks.

ETA also participated in putting together a draft Position paper that was used to engage with Members of Parliament before the bill was tabled for the last time. The final engagement was done 28th Apr 2026 within time given for receiving proposals from all stakeholders.

— By Michael Opige



National Cleaning Day 2026.

Uganda's National Cleaning Day is a monthly nationwide sanitation initiative held on the **last Saturday of every month** from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. During this window, citizens are expected to clean their neighborhoods. Ours got a different twist. Away, on our reconnaissance trip for an Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study for a proposed Hydro Electricity Power (HEP) plant in Murchison Falls National Park, we found ourselves engaging in poacher chase and poacher camp clean-up at the remote part of the Park, Kiba.

Together with the Rangers we found two poacher groups and one camp. This was a different expectation and experience for a Day designated for cleaning the neighborhoods and improve sanitation.



Ours could have saved the nation's number one foreign exchange earner, TOURISM.

— By Michael Opige



Staff Changes

A word from our new Accounts and Administration Officer

Stepping into the role of Accounts and Administration Officer at Ecological Trends Alliance has been an incredibly rewarding transition for me. From my very first interaction during the recruitment and interview process, it was clear that the organization values structural efficiency just as much as its environmental mission. Upon joining, I received a wonderfully warm welcome from a remarkably friendly and approachable team. This welcoming environment was further complemented by a thorough and highly structured orientation process.

The onboarding sessions gave me deep clarity into our operations and effectively equipped me with the insights needed to handle the complex administrative and financial workflows that keep the organization moving forward. I feel welcomed.



Re-structuring and Modern Way of Working: A learning space for ETA

Given the reduced current funding opportunities, ETA has embraced a hybrid workspace as an excellent model for this 'modern' operational balance. We successfully merged productive physical office days with agile online engagements, which keeps our core team interconnected and responsive. This flexibility is enhanced by a smart, assignment-based workflow, where specialized experts join as part-time precisely when specific project deliverables demand their unique skills.

This fluid structure minimizes overhead costs, maximizes resource allocation, and fosters an institutional culture built on deep trust and high accountability. We hope this can of approach will help steer the organization through and achieve its mission to secure solutions to biodiversity and development challenges through providing biologically diverse and proven alternatives.

— By Simon Peter Nkuke



GROUP 2

1. What do you use to fight fires
 - We use fire lines
 - We use water
 - We use soil
 - Spade
 - Pangas, Hoes.
2. How do you protect your self.
 - We don't protect our selves because it comes as an emergency. / Avoid using things which
 - Run off / Can lead to fire break out like Agony
3. If you need help whom do you call.
 - Abatake
 - C/person L.C.I



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Thank you for your support and interest in our work.
Together, we can make a difference for our planet and its people.