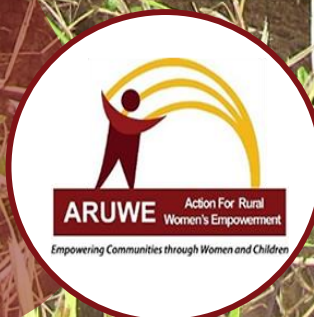


ROLE OF WOMEN IN FOREST GOVERNANCE

A Case Study of Wambaya – Bugoma Landscape



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Opinions and views expressed in this report are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not reflect the opinions and views of the above organizations or their partners.

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Executive summary

Uganda developed collective rights over forest lands and resources for local communities and Indigenous Peoples (IPLCs) in the form of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM). The model has been in existence for over 25 years now. Many Organisations have supported implementation of the CFM programme in Wambabya - Bugoma – Budongo landscape. These provisions were geared toward formalisation of the CFM groups, building their capacity to implement their plans and ultimately contribute to the overall conservation of the forest reserves. It is upon this that a study was commissioned to understand the roles and contribution of women in forest governance with a case from Wambabya - Bugoma landscape. The study was limited to one group from Wambabya (WAFCODA), one from Bugoma (KATOA) and one from Munteme (FICCA), a privately owned natural forest reserve within the landscape.

Qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were used. Semi-structured questionnaires were administered to 37 individuals to obtain specific information on a number of variables. Of these, 54% were male and 46% female. Seven Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) of between 8 and 16 people were organized by the interviewers. Of these, four were male only and three were female only groups. In these FDGs, the relevant

areas of interest were discussed with guidance from the interviewers. The community groups interviewed were KATOA with 51%, FICCA with 35% and WAFCODA with 14% of the respondents. The qualitative data were synthesised and processed to highlight issues of women participation, inclusion in governance, engagement in enterprise development and general conservation. Indication of costs and benefits included real figures to such items. Simple Excel analyses were used to provide charts and scales where necessary.

The study indicated that there is active participation of women in activities and decision-making and implementation. This fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to greater project sustainability and positive conservation outcomes. Overall, as a result of inclusion of women, there is observed reduced forest illegalities such as reduced charcoal burning, reduced cutting of trees, reduced hunting of animals. Women are less involved in forest related irregularities and have since been used to convince their husbands to leave forest related irregularities. Including women as part of the patrol teams produced good results. It halted claims of rape from some women caught by men only patrol teams doing illegal activities in the forest. When such a capacity is built, irregularities are reduced and forest management is improved.

However, there is need to transform harmful gender norms and stereotypes that limit women's participation in forestry. By actively engaging women in forest conservation efforts,

communities can unlock their potential as powerful agents of change, leading to healthier forests, improved livelihoods, and a more sustainable future.

Facts and Figures



37 individuals
Interviewed.



7 Focused Group
Discussions held.



3 Community Groups
consulted.



8 Forest Business
Enterprises assessed



The Tree Nursery
found most profitable.



Women Inclusion gives
conservation results.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Sustainable management of forest resources in Uganda has remained a challenge to forest managers and policy makers because the population is highly dependent on them for timber, agriculture, energy production and other non-timber forest products (Turyahabwe & Tweheyo, 2010). In addition, forest agencies responsible for forest management have been unsuccessful in their effort to sustainably manage forests due to breakdown in law and order, ineffective rules and inadequate funding to manage forest resources (Banana et al., 2007). Since most of the forest reserves are small and scattered over a large area, the government lacks both financial and human resource to monitor the use of the resources (Buyinza & Nabalegwa, 2007). Therefore, in the current forest policy, there has been a shift of control of forest resources, especially those outside protected areas from state controlled to community level in an attempt to improve management (Kugonza et al., 2009).

Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) was viewed as the one approach to achieving

improved and more efficient management of the country's forest estate. The rationale behind CFM approach include: (i) a recognition that Sustainable Forest Management can only be adequately managed if cooperation of forest adjacent communities is obtained; (ii) a desire to overcome conflicts with neighbouring communities; (iii) a desire to create opportunities for local people to contribute towards protection and rehabilitation of forest resources thus reducing the costs of management; (iv) a philosophical commitment to human rights and thus to fair and equitable treatment of communities living adjacent to forest to forest reserves that they have traditionally utilised for products and services; (v) a mechanism for supporting sustainable forest based livelihoods in poor rural communities; (vi) an awareness that forest reserves are decreasing while human population is increasing; and (vii) a move towards participatory approaches and decentralised governance in natural resources management.

As such Uganda developed collective rights over forest lands and resources for local communities and Indigenous peoples in the form of CFM. The model has been in existence for over 25 years. Its major objective has been enhancement of sustainable conservation of forests, improvement of livelihoods and social justice. Many Organisations have in one way or the other supported implementation of the

CFM programme in Wambabya - Bugoma – Budongo landscape. These supports were geared toward formalisation of the CFM groups, building their capacity to implement their plans and ultimately contribute to the overall conservation of the forest reserves. It is upon this that the study was commissioned to understand specifically, the contribution of women.

1.2 Objective of the study

The overall aim of the study was to understand the role of women in Forest Governance, with a case from Wambabya - Bugoma landscape. Specifically, the study looked at:

- i. Participation of women in forest management and their inclusion in the governance processes
- ii. Knowing the benefits that come with women participation and inclusion in the management and governance
- iii. Different forest-based enterprise women engage in and their roles in development of such enterprises
- iv. Evaluate the returns from the local forest enterprises identified.
- v. Identify challenges and barriers limiting women participation and inclusion in forest management and governance.
- vi. Make practical recommendations to inform next steps in empowering women to play their roles better.

1.3 Scope of the study

The study was limited to three CFM or community groups. One group from Wambabya (WAFCODA), one from Bugoma (KATOA) and one from Muntele (FICCA), a

privately owned natural forest reserve within the landscape. The study was interested in finding out the participation of women in related forest conservation matters.

1.4 Rationale of the study

Uganda started implementing CFM in the late 1990s for Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to participate in forest management and governance. The model has been in existence for over 25 years now. Its major objective has been enhancement of sustainable conservation of forests, improvement of livelihoods and social justice. Through the Green Livelihoods Alliance programme, ARUWE and ETA has been developing capacities of the IPLCs in the Wambabya – Bugoma landscape. This study has therefore, been commissioned to consolidate the efforts of mainstreaming gender in conservation.

1.5 Report structure

Section I of the report provides an introduction/background, objective and scope of the study. Section II describes the methods employed and analyses in the study. Section III provides a general overview of related literature. Section IV provides the results while Section V and VI provides the main conclusions and recommendations respectively.



2 Methods

2.1 Literature review

The literature review synthesized the current knowledge on the community participation in conservation, community engagement in forest-based Enterprises and gender inclusion in forest management. It looked at academic

and peer review papers, development of policy and legal frameworks, guidelines for collaborative forest management and issues of concern relating in involving IPLCs.

2.2 Questionnaires



Qualitative methods of data collection were used in the study. Semi-structured questionnaires were administered to 37 individuals to obtain specific information on a number of variables. Of these, 54% were male and 46% female. Seven Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) of between 8 and 16 people were organized by the interviewers. Of these, four were male only and three were

female only groups. In these FDGs, the relevant areas of interest were discussed with guidance from the interviewers. This was used since it was thought to generate more detailed information about the topic of interest and correlate with responses from individual questionnaires. The community groups interviewed were KATOA with 51%, FICCA with 35% and WAFCODA with 14% of the respondents.

2.3 Enterprise valuation

A table of expected costs and revenue was generated to provide indicative costs and benefits from each enterprise as seen by the communities engaged in those enterprises. This was done to provide a quick snapshot as to

whether there are already monetary gains in the different enterprises initiated by the three communities interviewed. It was also used to identify barriers and make recommendations.

2.4 Data syntheses and reporting

Both quantitative and qualitative data were captured. The qualitative data were synthesised and processed to highlight issues of women participation, inclusion in governance, engagement in enterprise development and general conservation. The limitations and challenges and suggestions for improvement were highlighted. The qualitative data involved banded scales to understand most appropriate responses when in involved judgement. Indication of costs and benefits included real figures to such items. Simple Excel analyses were used to provide charts and scales where necessary.



3 Literature review

3.1 Policy, legal and institutional framework for CFM.

3.1.1 The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995)

Under the Public Trust Doctrine of the Constitution, government is a trustee that holds forests for the benefit of the citizens of Uganda and requires that government preserves and protects forests that it holds in trust of the public. Involvement of local people and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), including CFM Groups and Associations, in forest

management is viewed as a practical and equitable alternative to policing (MWLE, 2002). Under this arrangement, CSOs and CBOs mediate and facilitate sustainable management of forests and sharing of benefits at the grassroots through different models; Collaborative Forest Management being one of them.

3.1.2 The Forestry Policy 2001

The policy guides that local communities have to be genuinely involved in the management of the forest resources through a negotiated process in which rights, roles, responsibilities and returns for sustainable management of forest resources are shared. It highlights collaborative forest management model (see policy statement 5) for individual farmers or local residents who depend on these forests for wood and non-wood products, as a means for regulating open access. Through this,

organised communities play a key role in natural forest management and conservation in government forests, while substantially improving their livelihoods. The limitations are that there is lack of capacity and organisation in communities and government agencies to deliver collaborative forest management, and therefore communities are left behind in decision-making about resource management. This limitation, in essence, affects access to community forest right.

3.1.3 The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003

Section 15 of the law provides for entry into collaborative forest management arrangement between the responsible body and resource user group, for purposes of managing part of a forest, under set guidelines and regulations. Section 4 (c), 4 (d) and 4 (e) mention community forests, private forests and forests forming part of a wildlife conservation area declare under wildlife law, as classes of forests. These form important models for community forest rights. Despite all the good provisions, it is still a challenge to formalise rights. To date, it is still optional for NFA and the DLGs to enter into collaborative forest management approaches. It also takes long for other community forest rights models; taking long to register private forests and taking long to declare community forests.

Both the Act and the Policy are expanded through the Forestry Regulations (2015) which

provide a broad framework through which CFM is implemented. The CFM Guidelines (2003) provide a flexible step by step process that starts with CFM initiation and culminates into a CFM agreement and management plan. The only prime limitation of the CFM guideline is that it fails to prescribe cost and benefit sharing arrangements leaving that to stakeholder negotiations. Failure to provide for benefit sharing means no sharing of benefits with the communities. In comparison, the Uganda Wildlife Policy, 2014, and the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019, that provide for Community Wildlife Management as a model for accessing forest rights in the wildlife sector, provides that 20% of the park entry fees collected from a wildlife protected area go to the local governments of the area surrounding the wildlife protected area from which the fees were collected as a conditional grant¹.

¹ See Section 86 (2) (d) of the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019.

3.1.4 Institutional arrangements

The mandate to manage forest reserves lies with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) supported by the Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD), the National Forestry Authority and the District Forest Services. The mandate to manage forests in national parks and wildlife reserves is with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage (MTW) supported by Uganda Wildlife Authority.

Forests outside the protected areas are managed under the Ministry of Local Government (MOLG) with delegated responsibility to the District Local Governments under the District Forest Services. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, for the reason that it oversees land and land management, has a role to play in managing forests outside protected areas.

3.2 Community participation in conservation

The deterioration of tropical forests is increasing (FAO, 2007, UNEP, 2007). The need for new initiatives for sustainable forest management has been raised by many authors and institutions. There is a serious concern about insufficient means and instruments for a possible future sustainable use, management and governance of biodiversity and ecosystem resources. Especially indigenous and poor communities are vulnerable to failed governance because of their heavy reliance on local, natural resources for subsistence and income (WRI, 2005). Indigenous people and communities are also on the defensive in order to protect and develop their historical rights, cultural heritage, ecosystem resources and land.

Especially in cases where many stakeholders and their interests pose a complex cultural and

social relationship to the resources, the process to define targets for environmental improvement and performance can be difficult. The process involves negotiation and mediation between those involved. A tropical forest land where local people are directly dependent on forest resources is an example of such a case. Community participation is crucial for effective and sustainable forest conservation. Involving local communities in the management and decision-making processes related to forests fosters a sense of ownership, enhances resource management, and ensures long-term sustainability of conservation efforts. This participation can take many forms, from co-management of forests to contributing labour and resources, and even participating in the development of forest management plans.

In many countries including Uganda, management of forest resources has moved away from command-and-control system to a more participatory approach that require involvement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The introduction of Participatory Forest Management (PFM) was sparked by several factors: both international and local. At the international level, treaties and accords such as the Tropical Forest Action Plan (TFAP), an outgrowth of the agenda 21 framework initiated in Rio-de-Janeiro in 1992, sought to reverse the loss of forests through the involvement of stakeholders, especially adjacent communities. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992) highlights the importance of sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from biodiversity resources. At the local level, the

original argument for increasing community participation in the maintenance of rural conservation projects stemmed from the need to better target people's needs, incorporate local knowledge, ensure that benefits were equitably distributed and lower management costs (Wily, 1998). The inclusion of communities in the management of state-owned or formerly state-owned forest resources has become increasingly common in the last 25 years. PFM encompasses a wide range of different co-management arrangements with different levels of control from relatively conservative "benefit sharing" to genuine "community-based natural resource management" where local communities have full control over management of the resource and the allocation of costs and benefits (Wily, 2002).

3.3 Communities and forest-based Enterprises (FBEs)

Community forestry is known to provide opportunities for economic development. Through small and medium scale enterprises, community forestry has generated income and employment to rural communities. However, it is the potential on generating income and scalable business models that has not been fully realized. Similarly, majority of the lucrative forest-based enterprises, for instance timber enterprisers, are largely dominated by men whereas small scale enterprises, mainly non-timber forest products (NTFPs) based, have

involved women and have generated opportunities in terms of income and employment. Yet, women face struggles in terms of registering forest-based business, finance their enterprises, and selling their products, which are relatively less examined. Thus, evidence-based knowledge generation for linking women to productive resource-decisions, and entrepreneur linkage to enhance community-based enterprises for social resilience is crucial.

It is estimated that small and medium forest-based enterprises could generate more than \$8.7 billion and 1.38 million workdays (IIED 2016). Over the years, forest cover has increased nationally, however, despite the huge theoretically projected benefits of the forest to promote the livelihood through forest-based enterprises; Uganda has not been able to tap into this potential. Furthermore, this is still unclear as how the local people and in particular, are utilising forest resources for enterprise development under community forest management for the maximum benefit.

Forests and FBEs are treasured natural assets contributing about 8.7% to the national economy based on conservative estimates (NEMA, 2011). For example, Uganda's COVID-19 recovery packages (based on extracts from *Wabugia ugandensis*) worked closely with natural capital, particularly forest products, to develop a medical therapy for COVID-19. Therefore, the demand and pressure exerted on forest resources call for a concerted effort to invest in the raising of stock to support forest-based enterprise development.



3.4 Gender inclusion in forest management

Gender inclusion in forest governance is crucial for sustainable forest management and achieving broader social and economic goals. It involves ensuring that women and men have equal access to and control over forest resources, participate in decision-making, and benefit equitably from forest management activities. Integrating gender perspectives into forest policies and programs is essential for addressing gender-differentiated needs and promoting effective and sustainable forest conservation.

Various roles are played by both men and women in CFM. However, in many roles, men are dominant and some reported constraints to women's participation included; women's needs differ from those of men, many programmes tend to overlook women's specific needs regarding forestry. This has resulted in political, cultural and economic barriers that restrict women participation. Buyinza and Naguula (2007) also, noted that policy makers lack data, information and methodologies to address these constraints, If community forestry management approach is to succeed then local people especially women should be stakeholders in policy formulation and decision-making. Some reports indicate that women lack accessibility to tree resources like timber. There is imbalance in sharing

revenue accruing from tree products, unequal opportunity to conservation education and training and the general under valuation of women's roles in sustainable forestry management. This corroborates with Muhereza (2006) who reported that women tend to be more dependent than men on trees and small-scale forest industries for income.

For several decades, food, agriculture and natural resource management policies have been designed without acknowledging that rural men and women may have different preferences, face different constraints and respond differently to incentives (Lise, 2005). Traditional gender roles assign different responsibilities to women and men. These gender-based differences can vary depending on the traditions and on environmental, social and economic circumstances. The triple roles of gender are basically the main determinants of how much plant and tree resources will be utilized by a particular gender group (Barton & Gimono, 1994). In Uganda, the situation is not different; women play a significant role in agricultural production. They constitute over 80% of the agricultural labour force and use the hand hoe to produce almost all food crops, as well as 60% of the cash crops. The potential contribution of women to the forestry sector is not explored and fully recognized yet.

There is, therefore, a need for gender mainstreaming as a strategy aimed at achieving equal participation, and access to benefits and resources in any intervention. Gender mainstreaming should entail the inclusion of the needs, roles, responsibilities, rights and interests of both men and women in tree farming activities (Warner, 2000). Women's survival and that of their household and communities depend on access to and control of natural resources, such as forest, land and vegetation. Women are traditionally the prime participants in both the agricultural

and forestry components of agroforestry production systems (Lise, 2005; Warner, 2000). They have learned to manage these resources in order to preserve them for future generations. Yet, women's access to and control of these resources are far from guaranteed. Full participation of women in all aspects of the management and conservation of forests should be actively promoted. The factors affecting participation need to be determined to achieve an effective and balanced participation of all stakeholders.



4 RESULTS

4.1 Participation in conservation groups

Community participation in conservation groups is crucial for successful and sustainable conservation efforts. Local communities possess invaluable traditional knowledge about their ecosystems, and their involvement ensures projects are effective, equitable, and culturally appropriate. By actively participating in decision-making and implementation, communities foster a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to greater project sustainability and positive conservation outcomes. The study indicated that women participation in conservation groups was adequate (Figure 1).

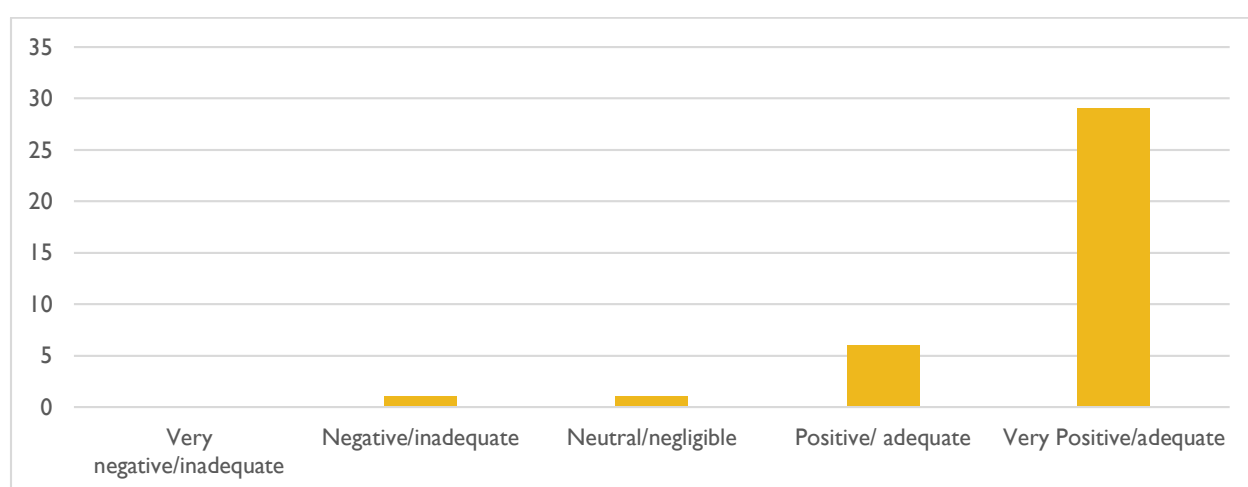


Figure 1 Participation of women in conservation groups; N=37; Average Score is 1.703. This means that participation of women was considered adequate.

4.1.1 Factors considered contributing to adequacy of women participation

- i. Women are encouraged by the activities of the groups. Some of the activities directly answer to their needs. These include but not limited to farming activities and small businesses.
- ii. Such groups create great environment for initiating and implementing livelihoods projects and sharing of resources. Sharing of resources is seen as a way of reducing investments costs and NGOs favour the approach.
- iii. Women are also encouraged to participate in conservation groups if the groups have savings and loans as one of the objectives. Participating in other activities is motivated by the ability of one to access loans from the group.

- iv. Other women are motivated by the fact that such opportunities allow them get together, share ideas and support members. This could be during meetings, functions and looked at as opportunity for the wellbeing of both the individual and the group.
- v. The payment of registration fee, a requirement for the group's membership is looked at as sign of commitment and therefore one has got to participate in groups activities. This applies to women members too.
- vi. The participation of women is sometimes hinged on the conservation aspect of the group. This includes tree planting, bee keeping, agro-forestry, forest patrols, enrichment planting, use of energy efficient cook stoves etc.
- vii. Some women are motivated through the direct skills given through groups. Trainings given through the groups are good means of sensitization. The women therefore are willing to avail time for such activities that impart forest conservation knowledge.
- viii. Some women are participating because they now feel empowered. The empowerment of women has reached levels where women are taking leadership positions and with responsibilities to serve the group.

4.1.2 Factors considered limiting participation of women

- i. Women are often underrepresented in decision-making processes and therefore their needs, potential and participation get overlooked.
- ii. Women are usually less than men in committees due to traditional gender roles that often limit their access to resources, decision-making power, and leadership opportunities.
- iii. Women face challenges in accessing land resources, financial opportunities, technologies and innovations, and capacity needed for effective participation in conservation group activities
- iv. Women may also get discouraged when their voices are not captured into the group's aspirations. This may lead to laziness and unproductive tendencies.

- v. Women often bear the primary responsibility for household chores and childcare, leaving them with limited time and energy for public engagement.
- vi. Inability to access knowledge through the different modes that are aimed to improve knowledge and livelihoods can deter women from participating in activities of the groups.
- vii. Not being positive about the intentions of the group e.g. deficiencies in accountabilities, expectations not being met etc. may lead to losing members from the group.
- viii. The general community negativity towards conservation and selfishness among members may be a barrier for women participation. These negativities may be in the form of trade in illegal forest products etc.

4.1.3 Suggested solutions to barriers of women participation in conservation groups

To increase women's participation in conservation groups, there is need to overcome barriers like limited access to resources, lack of decision-making power, and social norms that restrict their involvement. Specifically;

- i. Support women-led initiatives and provide access to resources and opportunities to enhance their economic independence, which can further enable their participation in conservation.
- ii. Provide tailored training to women to improve knowledge and skills necessary for meaningful participation in conservation.
- iii. Create opportunities and strategic programmes for women to participate. Such may be women specific activities, forums and workshops.
- iv. Promote women's leadership in conservation through affirmative action. In that way, the gender biases and social norms that limit women's participation will be broken.

4.1.4 Focused Group Discussions in women participation in groups

	Q1. Appreciation of Participation	Q2. Confidence & Security	Q3. Improvements Needed	Q4. External Help Needed
	i. What are the things you do in the group to make women appreciate that they are part of the group?	ii. What makes you feel (less) confident and secure as a woman member in a group?	iii. What things need to be improved to advance women participation in the groups work?	iv. What external help would you need to improve participation?
KATOA (MALE)	Participating in FBEs, planting trees, Apiary, and patrolling	Women are breaking entry to what used to male only activities such as (patrol teams)	Empower more women; Affirmative action	Capacity building; Involvement in other livelihood projects; Provision of patrols' PPEs and modern data collection tools; Financial support
WAFCODA (MALE)	Sharing of resources like tree seedlings; Participating in revolving goat rearing; Joint trainings; teamwork, respect from community for each other, Joint savings and credit arrangements; sharing knowledge, skills and responsibilities; Democracy and women empowerment and involvement	Members are embracing women in all activities; Women are breaking male dominance in leadership; Women members are participating in stopping illegal activities; Regulations of the group encourage women participation	Implementation of group laws and regulations; Attitudes towards women abilities	Capacity building; Livelihood projects (such as coffee and cocoa seedlings, poultry etc.); Financial support.
FICCA (MALE)	Membership and registration in group activities; Joint Savings and loans Association	Membership is open to all gender categories	Capacity building to inspire leadership in women	Supporting the group with profitable livelihood projects; Training (capacity development)
FICCA (MALE)	Planting trees; Membership is open to all	The number of women and men are almost equal in the group.	Increase opportunities where women can participate	Financial help for the group
KATOA (FEMALE)	Participation in group activities is open; Participation in FBEs involves all gender	Women are now making more time for the group better than before	Encourage more women to join the group and open opportunities where women can benefit directly	More capacity building and technical assistance
FICCA (FEMALE)	Paying registration fees; Paying membership fees; Participating FBEs is non discriminatory	Women are able to take up leadership roles when called upon	Empower women	Sensitization and awareness; Financial assistance
KATOA (FEMALE)	Joint Savings and Loans scheme; Cooperative farming; Joint Forest patrols	The women are able to save in the saving scheme of the group	Empower women	Training and capacity building

4.2 Inclusion of women in group's governance

Inclusion of women in group governance is crucial for a more representative, effective, and just society. It ensures diverse perspectives are considered in decision-making, leading to better policies and outcomes, particularly for women and marginalized communities. Many countries and organizations are actively working to increase women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles.

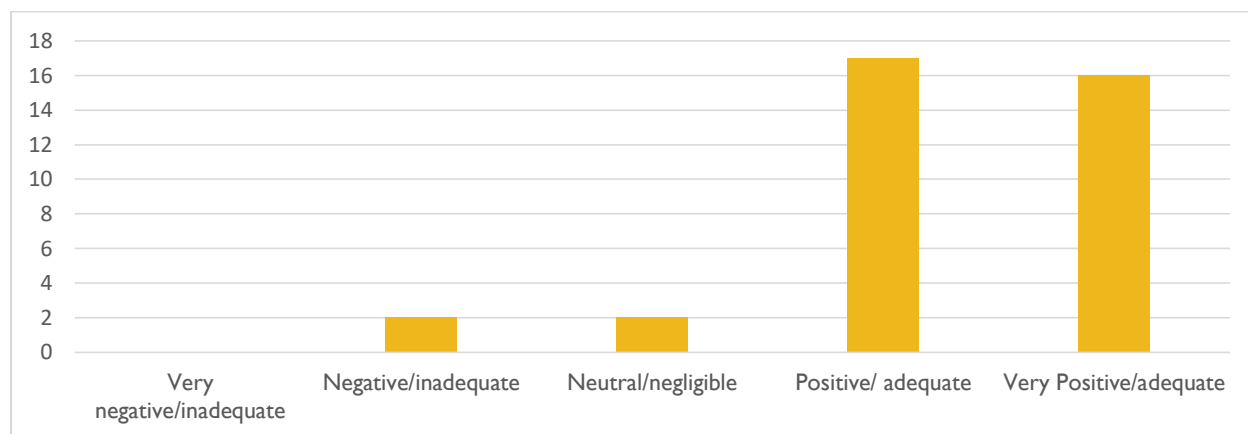


Figure 2 Inclusion of women in group's governance; N=37; Average Score is 1.270. This means that the current state of inclusion of women is considered adequate.

4.2.1 Current roles women play in governance

- i. Some women have taken up leadership roles such as Secretary to the committees, Vice Chairpersons and Treasurers while others are committee members.
- ii. Some of the women are engaged in enterprises such as tree planting, agro-forestry, construction of fuel efficient cook stoves, crafts and different Forest-based Enterprises.
- iii. Others are engaged in Group Forest Patrols to ensure that the cases of illegal activities in the forest are reduced.
- iv. Other women are taking up the roles of teaching other members, sensitizing the community and sharing information about conservation matters with the general public.

4.2.2 Factors contributing to inclusion of women in group's governance

- i. There is a legal requirement to include women in committees for gender balance and representation. However, women are usually less than men on the executive. This is part of women empowerment and their roles can't be ignored. This is part of the affirmative action and the implementation of quotas targeting women representation in leadership positions.
- ii. Because of the commitment exhibited by women, more environmentally sensitive, more positive, effective and trust make them be included in governance roles.
- iii. Participation in groups conservation and livelihood activities such as tree planting and handicrafts, savings and loans schemes, make women good candidates in governance roles.
- iv. Building capacity of women with the skills and knowledge they need to participate effectively and sometimes connecting women with experienced leaders who can guide and support them have provided better foundation to women inclusion in governance structures.
- v. Creating safe and inclusive spaces where women feel comfortable and empowered to share their views is key in promoting a culture of equality and respect for women's contributions.

4.2.3 Factors limiting inclusion of women in group's governance

- i. Some women lack the required knowledge and skills and therefore limit them from effectively being included in governance systems.
- ii. They sometime have a negative attitude with some women not willing to take up responsibilities with the groups. Some women may not be aware of their rights or lack the confidence to participate in governance.
- iii. Many women have a lot of home responsibilities therefore balancing work and family obligations can be a challenge for women.
- iv. Deep-rooted societal norms and traditions limit women's access to leadership positions. Male-dominated structures can exclude women from decision-making processes.

4.2.4 Lessons learned from inclusion of women in group's governance

- i. Women's active participation ensures education through peers learning. Women often possess valuable traditional knowledge about forests, gained through their roles in resource collection and daily interactions with the forest and this can better be transferred through peer-to-peer learning.
- ii. In groups where women are in governance, there has been more production of modern efficient cook stoves, better innovative forest products, environmental protection and better saving culture. Generally, when women have a voice in forest management, it leads to more effective conservation.
- iii. Inclusion of women encourages better relationships between gender, improves opportunities for increase in family income and sustainable forestry initiatives, such as non-timber forest product harvesting and agroforestry. This can improve their livelihoods and reduce reliance on destructive practices. Being able to do your business and supporting other people
- iv. Treating all people equal ensures that women rights are not violated. There is need therefore to include women in the group structure. Women inclusion makes then help men bridge and enrich the gender sensitive discussions.
- v. Some organizations target groups that are gender compliant. Including women in decision-making positions therefore ensures a wider range of tapping from opportunities coming through such perspectives. This therefore ensures balance and equity is maintained in plans and strategies.
- vi. Inclusion of women builds trust to all members and it gives a chance for sharing of ideas such that no one is left behind.

4.2.5 Focused Group Discussion on inclusion

	Q1. Appreciation of Inclusion	Q2. Happiness/Unhappiness in Governance	Q3. Improvements Needed	Q4. External Help Needed
	i. What are the things you do in the group to make women appreciate that they are included in the governance of the group?	ii. What makes you feel happy / (unhappy) for women's participation in governance of the group?	iii. What things need to be improved to advance women inclusion in the group's governance?	iv. What external help would you need to improve inclusion?
KATOA (MALE)	Participate in tree planting, and other FBEs	Empowered women to have leadership positions makes us happy and women participation in trainings	Putting specific days for conservation work; Gender balance consideration while assigning work; Behavioural change and being self-driven	Saving and credit scheme; Trainings and capacity building; Access to financial resources
WAFCODA (MALE)	Women participation in patrols; Capacity building activities; Livelihood improvement activities	Exposure of women in different aspects, and economic empowerment, confidence in public, financial management skills, trust and confidence in leadership is good. However, some believe women empowerment disrespect to their men, leading to domestic violence and negligence of family responsibility	Considering gender balance while giving out positions; Change of attitude; Improve all gender activeness in group activities; Streamline responsibility allocation to women; Make gender-based sensitization.	Special capacity building trainings for women; Group constitutional review; Economic empowerment
FICCA (MALE)	Allowing them to join the group; Participation in leadership roles	Women can combine responsibility of the groups and family responsibilities; Women empowerment	Trainings and capacity development	Facilitating trainings; Establishment of gender inclusion projects
FICCA (MALE)	Women are given opportunities to participate in leadership positions like the Treasurer and Vice Chair	Some women do not commit to the group with the excuse of lack of time	Investing more in livelihood projects (apiary); Initiate a saving and loan scheme; starting up enterprises that the women can do from home e.g. handcrafts	Involving women in meaningful Enterprises
KATOA (FEMALE)	Women are given opportunities to participate in leadership positions	Many women are still not confident enough to lead and some do not even participate at all due to family responsibilities	More capacity building and trainings	Additional funding of community led programs
FICCA (FEMALE)	Being included in the leadership of the group; Participating group's activities	If the groups fail to support women priorities; If there are misunderstandings in the group; If there is discrimination during elections	Setting rules and regulations for the group that encourage participation of women; Leadership trainings.	Supporting livelihood activities that can uplift women; Training and capacity development
KATOA (FEMALE)	Participation in meetings; in activities of the group	Practice the principle of equality and equity	Trainings and capacity development	Building capacity and provision of seed funding

4.3 Women in Forest-based Enterprise development

Forest-based enterprises (FBEs) are businesses that utilize forest resources to produce goods and services, playing a vital role in rural economies by providing income and improving livelihoods. They can range from small-scale to larger operations, often involving the processing of wood, non-timber forest products, or the provision of forest-related services. They can also contribute to conservation efforts by incentivizing sustainable forest management practices. Viable forest enterprises depend not only on market demand but also on the sustainable management of resources. However, there are constraints that will affect FBEs and they should be addressed. These include: (a) inadequate information on markets; (b) weak linkages between small suppliers and large buyers; (c) limited access to credit, finance, capital and technology; and (d) shortage of business and technical skills.

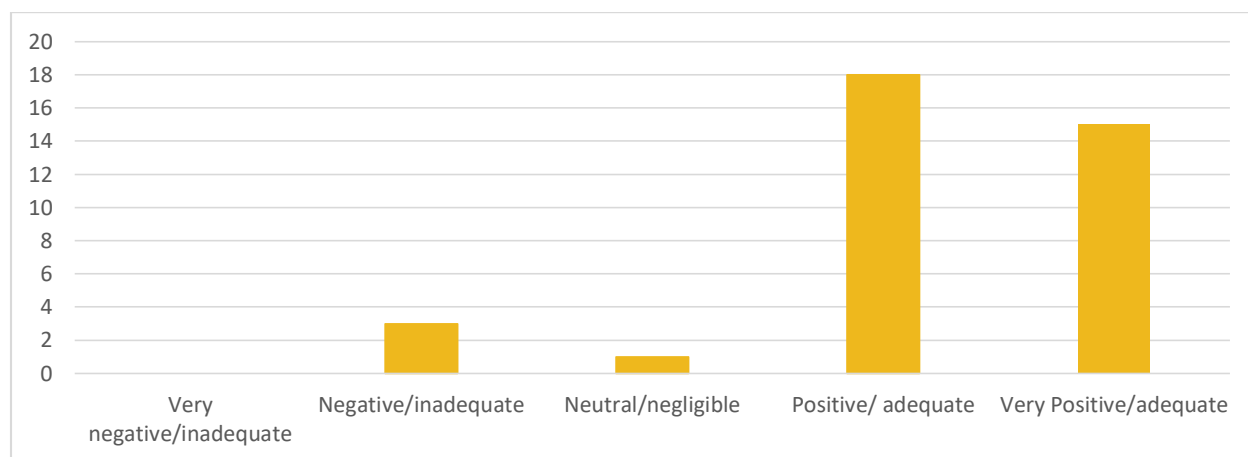


Figure 3 Women's involvement in forest-based enterprise development; N=37; Average Score is 1.216. This means that women involvement in forest-based enterprises is considered adequate.

4.3.1 Types of Forest-based enterprises women are participating in

- i. Tree nursery bed operation
- ii. Farming (including goat rearing), agroforestry and tree planting
- iii. Beekeeping and development of apiary value chain

- iv. Construction of fuel efficient cook stoves
- v. Handcrafts and development of handcrafts value chain
- vi. Business development through Saving and Loans schemes linked conservation

4.3.2 Analysis of Financial Returns for Women's Enterprises

The financial analysis of selected three local forest-based enterprises showed a wide range of profitability, with varying initial investment costs, operational expenses, and potential returns.

1. Tree Nursery



Costs: This enterprise has the lowest initial capital requirement, with total costs estimated at UGX 768,000. Key expenses are for polybags, seeds, and labor.



Returns: A total of 30,000 seedlings can be sold at UGX 500 each, generating a gross revenue of UGX 15,000,000. This is the highest potential revenue among the three enterprises.



Profitability: The enterprise yields a very high net profit of UGX 14,232,000. The high return on a relatively small investment makes this the most financially viable enterprise, with the greatest potential for empowering women economically.

2. Bee Keeping



Costs: Bee Keeping has a moderate initial capital requirement, with total costs estimated at UGX 1,510,000. The major expenses are for purchasing beehives, protective gear, and honey harvesting equipment.



Returns: The enterprise can produce up to 250kg of honey annually, which can be sold at a market price of UGX 10,000 per kg, generating a gross revenue of UGX 2,500,000.



Profitability: This enterprise results in a **net profit** of UGX 990,000. While profitable, the returns are significantly lower than the tree nursery, indicating a more modest but stable source of income.

3. Charcoal Briquettes



Costs: This enterprise requires the highest initial investment, with total costs estimated at UGX 2,345,000. Significant expenses include a briquette-making machine, carbonization drums, and raw materials.



Returns: The enterprise can produce and sell 12,000kg of briquettes at UGX 600 per kg, resulting in a gross revenue of UGX 7,200,000.



Profitability: The enterprise yields a **net profit** of UGX 4,855,000. Despite the higher initial investment, the returns are substantial and greater than those from bee keeping, making it a viable and profitable venture.

The analysis therefore showed that all three enterprises are financially viable. However, the **Tree Nursery** offers the highest returns on investment, making it a highly attractive option for women seeking to maximize their income. The **Charcoal Briquettes** enterprise offers a strong return, but requires a significantly higher initial investment, which could be a barrier to entry. **Bee Keeping** provides a more accessible entry point with a moderate initial cost, but with the lowest profit margin among the three. These findings are crucial for developing targeted recommendations to support women's economic empowerment in the Wambabya - Bugoma landscape.

4.3.3 Additional non-monetary benefits of forest-based enterprises

- i. Access to forest products such as firewood
- ii. Access to herbal medicine
- iii. Access to enterprise development skills through trainings
- iv. Development of networks (social capital, friendship and a stress-free environment)
- v. Rainfall and better environment
- vi. Access to food and honey and for improved nutrition

4.3.4 Comparison of women run forest-based enterprises to that by men

Forest-based enterprises offer significant opportunities for women's economic empowerment, particularly in developing countries. While women often play a vital role in gathering resources from forests, they are often excluded from higher-value, more formal forest-based enterprises. Promoting women's participation in these ventures requires addressing gender inequalities in access to land, capital, and decision-making, while also providing training and support for sustainable resource management. When respondents were asked to rank the performance of investments by women (whether as group or as individuals) to those that are managed by men, they indicated women run enterprises were deemed better.

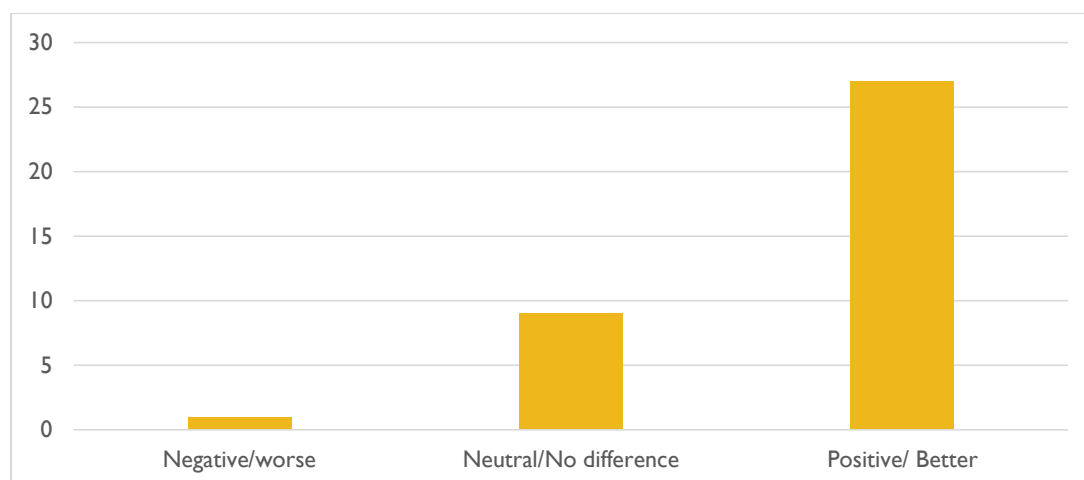


Figure 4 Comparison of women run forest-based enterprises to that by men; N=37; Average score is 0.73. This means that the respondents considered women run forest-based enterprises better than those by men

4.3.5 Factors contributing to adequacy of women engaging in enterprises

- i. These are viewed as having conservation benefits. It has potential of creating new products and services, like carbon sequestration or agroforestry, can create new income streams for families.
- ii. It offers opportunities for training and capacity development of women in business generally. Opportunities may go beyond forest-based enterprises and include higher-value products.
- iii. Women are trusted and cooperative. They have been empowered to support the development of the group. They are now more engaged in the group enterprise development than others.
- iv. Government policies that support FBEs, such as access to credit, training, and market access, can be crucial for their success.

4.3.6 Factors limiting participation of women in enterprise development

- i. The urge for quick gains may make some women stay away from long term forest-based enterprises.
- ii. Competing interest including household work may make some women shy away from taking to such businesses in favour of their home duties.
- iii. Sometimes limitation accessing markets and particularly for value-added products which pits small businesses against big businesses may make women be out competed.
- iv. Small-scale FBEs often struggle to access the necessary capital and technology to grow and innovate.

4.3.7 Lessons learned from having women participate in forest-based enterprises

- i. Women are able to gain social capital, learn development ideas and support their household's business knowledge which can lead to family income stability.
- ii. Women are great managers and better in business management. They are more supportive to each other and more innovative. Because of this, most Saving and Loans schemes groups have trusted the position of treasurers to women.
- iii. Women are more impactful when they get involved. Women are able to devote more hours looking after projects and are more committed. Their entrepreneurial skills are easily seen when they give time to the group enterprise.
- iv. Continuous capacity development is vital for the success of the enterprises. This can be targeted through individuals or groups to access knowledge, strengthen capabilities and innovations. These allow groups achieve their own development objectives.

4.3.8 Potential of FBEs in the landscape

The enterprises trialed by the different groups have been in existence for between 1 – 15 years with varying experiences in monetary returns. The respondents indicated they earn between UGX 250,000 – 8,000,000 with the average estimates being UGX 600,000 - 1,200,000 per year. Depending on the enterprise. However, the estimations from the focused Group Discussions indicated earnings between UGX 1,000,000 – 5,000,000 per year.

#	Forest-based Enterprise	Estimated Revenue	Estimated Costs	Net benefits
1	 Revolving goat rearing	2,000,000	228,000	1,772,000
2	 Apiary	15,000,000	10,000,000	5,000,000
3	 Efficient Energy Stoves	2,400,000	600,000	1,800,000
4	 Plant nursery (Seedlings)	5,515,000	2,200,200	3,315,000
5	 Agro-forestry (Vegetables)	2,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000
6	 Gathering (Herbs and food)	1,000,000		1,000,000
7	 Village Saving and Loan Scheme	12,000,000	8,000,000	4,000,000
8	 Charcoal Briquettes	7,200,000	2,345,000	4,855,000

4.3.9 Focused Group Discussion on forest-based enterprises

	Q1. Types of Enterprises	Q2. Benefits from Enterprises	Q3. Improvements Needed	Q4. External Help Needed
	i. What are the kinds of (forest) enterprises that the women are engaged in?	ii. What are the benefits that the women are getting from engagement in such enterprises?	iii. What things need to be improved to advance your benefits from such enterprises?	iv. What external help would you need to improve access to such benefits?
KATOA 001 (MALE)	Beekeeping, basket weaving; and agroforestry	Gaining skills; income, medicine; Clean cook stoves	Improve benefit sharing between members; Team work	More trainings and capacity building, Access to loans and financial support
WAFCODA 002 (MALE)	Beekeeping, handicrafts, Fuel Efficient Stoves, Tree planting, agro-forestry and cash crops growing, kitchen gardening	Income; Skills; Exposure; Family stability, Health; Improved nutrition	Increase financial support; Provide market connections, and More trainings (financial management)	More trainings and capacity building
FICCA 003 (MALE)	Fuel Efficient Stoves; Agroforestry; Apiary	Good health from the cook stoves; Income from the Apiary project	Improve financial support; Markets for their products	Financial support and find Market for their products
FICCA 004 (MALE)	Apiary; Agro-forestry	Income; Skills	Empower women in the group with specific and targeted programs	Providing incentives to invest in FBEs
KATOA 005 (FEMALE)	Energy Efficient stoves, goat rearing, beekeeping and handicrafts	Income; Skills	Capacity development (trainings) and financial support	Financial support and experts in specific areas of development for the group
FICCA 004 (FEMALE)	Taungya farming; making baskets.	Agroforestry, forest restoration, crop yields; Income	Market for the products	More skill development
KATOA 005 (FEMALE)	Weavings and agro-forestry	Income; Social capital, crop yields	Capacity building	More funding and capacity building

4.4 Community participation in stopping forest degradation

Under the CFM agreements, communities have been allocated specific compartments to co-manage with the NFA. However, when it comes to joint protection work (community and NFA), the community's work extends beyond the boundaries of the designated compartments. This is testament that communities can contribute to conservation activities and therefore their contribution cannot be under rated. This can also help communities link their activities to conservation and development objective of the overall forest plans.

Community participation is crucial for preventing and mitigating forest degradation. Active involvement of local communities in forest management, planning, and decision-making processes fosters a sense of ownership, enhances resource management, and improves the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts. Specifically, women play a crucial, yet often overlooked, role in combating forest degradation and promoting sustainable forest management. Their involvement in community forestry, resource management, and decision-making processes is vital for achieving effective and equitable conservation outcomes.

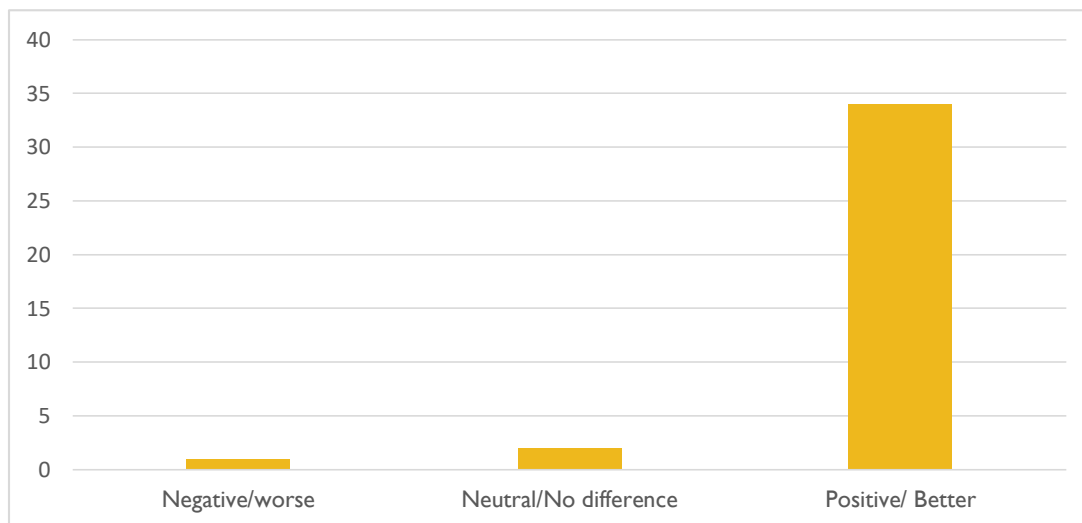


Figure 5 Participation of women in stopping degradation; N=37; Average score is 0.919; this means that the respondents considered women participation in stopping degradation as positive

4.4.1 Activities of women that can stop degradation

- i. Enrichment planting for restoration
- ii. Engagement in FBEs such as tourist guiding, crafts, apiary etc.
- iii. Tree planting (with Eco trust for carbon credits)
- iv. Being a part of the forest patrolling team
- v. Vigilance in stopping illegal activities (such as preventing charcoal burning)
- vi. Operating nursery bed and supplying tree seedlings

4.4.2 Impacts/lessons of women involvement in conservation works

- i. There is reduced forest illegalities such as reduced charcoal burning, reduced cutting of trees, reduced hunting animals. Women are less involved in forest related irregularities and have since been used to convince their husbands to leave forest related irregularities.
- ii. There has been increased tree cover by involving women. More women have taken to planting of trees in areas which had no trees. This is because progressively, more women are having access to land resources. This has led to general environment and forest conservation.
- iii. The capacities of women doing conservation activities have greatly improved. By involving more women, their opportunity to access training and capacity development have improved and hence the numbers of women participating in conservation activities have increased. By actively involving women in forest management, we can create more effective, equitable, and sustainable solutions for forest conservation and climate change mitigation.
- iv. Including women as part of the patrol teams produced good results. It halted claims of rape from some women caught by men only patrol teams doing illegal activities in the forest. When such a capacity is built, irregularities are reduced and forest management is improved.

- v. The inclusion of women has seen the uptake of Forest-based Enterprises go up. These FBEs are a source of employment that can not only lead to improved livelihoods but improved forest management.

4.4.3 Factors contributing to women engaging in stopping degradation

- i. Embracing gender roles and encouraging working together. Women are presumed more responsible than men. Women help in information gathering for people involved in forest related irregularities.
- ii. Some women have taken up leadership positions and gained conservation knowledge and therefore able to manage the related roles and responsibilities.
- iii. Some women are able to earn from group and business enterprises initiated and therefore an incentive to participate in conservation activities.
- iv. The capacity building and related trainings and sensitization have made women gain more skills. This has also improved respect for women in the groups, which help them build confidence and are more active.

4.4.4 Factors limiting women engaging in stopping degradation

- i. Women often face barriers in accessing land, credit, and other resources needed for meaningful participation in conservation works.
- ii. Cultural norms and patriarchal structures often exclude women from decision-making processes related to forest conservation.
- iii. Women often have responsibility for looking after their homes and children thereby limiting their ability to engage in conservation works.
- iv. Limited access to capacity building and training opportunities hinder women's ability to participate effectively in forest management.

4.4.5 Some solution to barriers in women participating in conservation

- i. Develop and implement policies that prioritize gender equality in forest management, ensuring women's equal access to resources and decision-making power.
- ii. Encourage women to take on leadership roles in forest user groups and community forestry initiatives.
- iii. Provide women with access to education, training, and financial resources to support their participation in sustainable forest management.
- iv. Challenge harmful gender stereotypes and promote a more inclusive understanding of women's roles in forest conservation.
- v. Create spaces for dialogue and collaboration between men and women to address gender-related challenges and promote joint solutions.
- vi. Document and value women's traditional knowledge and practices related to forest management.
- vii. Support the development of alternative livelihoods for women, such as beekeeping, handicrafts, and ecotourism, to reduce their reliance on forest resources for income.

4.4.6 Focused Group Discussion on conservation

	Q1. Conservation Activities	Q2. Motivation	Q3. Improvements Needed	Q4. External Help Needed
	i. What are the conservation related activities that the women of the groups are engaged in?	ii. What motivation is there for women to participate in conservation?	iii. What things need to be improved to advance women participation in conservation work?	iv. What external help is needed to improve women participation in conservation?
KATOA 001 (MALE)	General conservation awareness programs, FBEs, and agroforestry	Access to Fuel Efficient Stoves to cook; Benefit from group labour; Benefit from group projects	Increase projects targeting women; specify working days for women; Encourage teamwork	Special trainings for women (exchange visits); Livelihood projects
WAFCODA 002 (MALE)	Fuel Efficient Stoves, Planting of trees, awareness and sensitization, raising trees in nursery beds, and patrolling	Benefit from related projects; Indirect benefits like rainfall; Mitigation of negative climate change	More sensitization; Increase direct benefits (livelihoods); Teamwork,	Specialized trainings (exchange visits); Livelihood projects
FICCA 003 (MALE)	Awareness and sensitization	Benefit from non-Timber Forest products	Increase engagement of women in tree planting	Financial support; Capacity development (trainings)
FICCA 004 (MALE)	Handcrafts and Agroforestry	Benefit from the group projects	Increase membership to the group; Increase livelihoods (benefits)	More training and capacity building
KATOA 005 (FEMALE)	Tree planting and participating in forest patrols	Benefit from the group projects	More awareness and sensitisation in the communities are needed	More trainings in conservation, leadership, and enterprise development; Support to FBEs; Patrol equipment
FICCA 004 (FEMALE)	Tree planting and awareness and sensitization	Benefit from the group projects	More awareness and sensitisation in the communities living near the forests	Financial support; Capacity development (trainings)
KATOA 005 (FEMALE)	Tree planting	Benefit from the group projects	More trainings and capacity building initiatives.	Funding livelihood projects

5 Conclusions

The study demonstrates that the active participation of women in forest management and conservation efforts is a powerful catalyst for both environmental and socioeconomic progress. Their involvement in decision-making and implementation, which is often motivated by the ability to access savings and loans schemes, fosters a strong sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to greater project sustainability and positive conservation outcomes.

The inclusion of women in leadership positions, as supported by national laws and affirmative action, is a vital component of this success. Although they are still often underrepresented on executive committees, their unique entrepreneurial skills and commitment to projects, such as the forest-based enterprises (FBEs), have proven to be highly impactful.

The financial analysis of the FBEs, specifically Bee Keeping, Charcoal Briquettes, and Tree Nursery, provides concrete evidence of their success. The Tree Nursery, in particular, offers a substantial net profit and a high return on a modest investment, showcasing the significant potential of these enterprises to improve livelihoods and promote economic independence for women. This economic empowerment, in turn, strengthens their commitment to forest conservation.

Overall, the inclusion of women in all aspects of forest governance has led to a significant reduction in illegal activities such as charcoal burning and tree cutting. Their involvement in patrol teams has also addressed issues of trust and safety. This dual benefit—environmental protection and improved livelihoods—confirms that empowering women is not only a matter of gender equity but a strategic necessity for achieving sustainable forest management and fostering resilient, prosperous communities in the Wambabya - Bugoma landscape.

6 Recommendations

1. **Prioritize Investment in High-Yield Enterprises:** Based on the financial analysis, prioritize funding and technical support for enterprises that have proven to be the most profitable, such as the Tree Nursery. This targeted investment will maximize economic returns for women and serve as a powerful incentive for broader participation in conservation.
2. **Enhance Capacity Building and Enterprise Development:** Implement targeted training programs that go beyond basic conservation skills to include advanced knowledge in financial management, business planning, and market access for high-potential enterprises. This will strengthen women's entrepreneurial skills and their ability to sustain and grow their businesses.
3. **Promote Gender-Responsive Policies for Financial and Resource Access:** Advocate for policies that address the specific barriers women face in accessing finance, land tenure, and resources. Given the capital requirements for enterprises like charcoal briquettes, ensure there are equitable loan schemes and funding opportunities to enable women to enter and scale up these businesses.
4. **Strengthen Collaborative Partnerships:** Improve relationships and communication between forest partners, such as the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and conservation group leaders. This collaboration is essential for ensuring that women's enterprises operate within a supportive and regulatory compliant framework.
5. **Foster Women's Leadership and Representation:** Continue to advocate for the inclusion of women in leadership positions on conservation committees, moving beyond simple quotas to ensure their voices and insights are genuinely integrated into decision-making. Highlighting the success of women's enterprises can serve as a powerful case study for their leadership capabilities.
6. **Leverage Success for Community-Wide Change:** Use the documented success of women's enterprises and their positive impact on conservation to challenge harmful gender norms. By showcasing women as effective economic agents and environmental stewards, the project can transform community perceptions and lead to a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

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7 Appendices

7.1 Appendix I. INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

A) Participation

- i. Do you belong to any (forest) conservation groups? (YES) or (NO) If NO – *stop the interview*
- ii. Does this give you a sense of belonging and the ability to invest in in-forest or forest neighborhood enterprises. (YES) or (NO) If YES/ NO – *please rank*

Very negative/inadequate	-2
Negative/inadequate	-1
Neutral/negligible	0
Positive/ adequate	+1
Very Positive/adequate	+2

- iii. What makes you feel (less) confident and secure as a member? *Please list.*
- iv. What are the things you do in the group to make you appreciate that you are part of the group? *Please list.*
- v. What things need to be improved to advance your participation in the groups work? *Please list*

B) Inclusion of women in group's governance

- vi. Do you have any role in (forest) conservation group? (YES) – *what are these roles?* or (NO) If NO – *why not?*
- vii. How do you rank the groups attempt to include women in the overall works of the group? – *please rank*

Very negative/inadequate	-2
Negative/inadequate	-1
Neutral/negligible	0
Positive/ adequate	+1
Very Positive/adequate	+2

- viii. What are the reasons for your response above? *Please list.*

ix. What lessons do we pick from your inclusion (non-inclusion) in groups governance? *Please list.*

C) Enterprise development

- x. Have you been involved in any (forest) conservation enterprises? (YES) – *which ones?* or (NO) If NO – *why not?*
- xi. For how long have you been engaged in the (different) enterprises above? - *estimate in years*
- xii. How much does this translate to (*in monetary terms*) per year?
- xiii. What additional benefits do you derive from engaging in the (different) enterprises mentioned above (*may be non-monetary*)
- xiv. How do you rank women involvement in such investments (*whether as group of women or as individuals*) in-forest or forest neighborhood enterprises. – *please rank*

Very negative/inadequate	-2
Negative/inadequate	-1
Neutral/negligible	0
Positive/ adequate	+1
Very Positive/adequate	+2

- xv. What are the reasons for your response above?
- xvi. How do you rank the performance of investments by women (*whether as group or as individuals*) to those that are managed by men? *Please rank*

Negative/worse	-1
Neutral/No difference	0
Positive/ Better	+1

- xvii. What lessons do we pick from your response above? *Please list.*

D) Stopping forest degradation

- xviii. Have you been involved in any (forest) activity to stop (forest) degradation? (YES) – *which ones?* or (NO) If NO – *why not?*
- xix. For how long have you been involved in the above activities? - *estimate in years*

- xx. What (*direct or indirect*) impact do you see as a result of your action above?
- xxi. How do you rank the performance / impact when women (*whether as group or as individuals*) are involved as opposed to when they are not? *Please rank*

Negative/worse	-1
Neutral/No difference	0
Positive/ Better	+1

- xxii. What additional benefits does the group(s) get by involving women specifically in the activities mentioned above (*please mention them*)
- xxiii. What lessons do we pick from your response above? *Please list.*

7.2 Appendix II GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FGD

A. Participation

- i. What are the things you do in the group to make you appreciate that you are part of the group?
- ii. What makes you feel (less) confident and secure as a member?
- iii. What things need to be improved to advance your participation in the groups work?
- iv. What external help would you need to improve participation?

A. Women inclusion

- i. What are the things you do in the group to make you appreciate that you are included in the governance of the group?
- ii. What makes you feel happy / (unhappy) for women's participation in governance of the group?
- iii. What things need to be improved to advance your inclusion in the group's governance?
- iv. What external help would you need to improve inclusion?

B. Enterprises benefits

- i. What are the kinds of (forest) enterprises that the women are engaged in?
- ii. What are the benefits that the women are getting from engagement in such enterprises?
- iii. What things need to be improved to advance your benefits from such enterprises?
- iv. What external help would you need to improve access to such benefits?

C. Direct conservation

- i. What are the conservation related activities that the women of the groups are engaged in?
- ii. What motivation is there for women to participate in conservation?
- iii. What things need to be improved to advance women participation in conservation work?
- iv. What external help is needed to improve women participation in conservation?

7.3 Appendix III EVALUATING ENTERPRISES

	Enterprises	COST AND BENEFIT ESTIMATES	
A	GOAT REARING (REVOLVING)	Estimated total investment cost	Estimated total annual revenue
	Initial purchase value		
	Tethering costs		
	Medicine costs		
	Pasture costs		
	TOTAL		
B	APIARY (BEE KEEPING)	Estimated total investment cost	Estimated total annual revenue
	Initial purchase value (Hives)		
	Installation costs		
	Cleaning costs / maintenance		
	Harvesting equipment costs		
	Processing costs		
	Packaging costs		
	TOTAL		
C	EFFICIENT ENERGY COOK STOVES AS A BUSINESS	Estimated total investment cost	Estimated total annual revenue
	Raw material costs		
	Labour costs		
	Maintenance costs		
	TOTAL		
D	PLANT NURSERY AND SEEDLINGS	Estimated total investment cost	Estimated total annual revenue
	Installation costs		
	Potting costs		
	Seed costs		
	Maintenance costs		
	Transport costs		
	Packaging costs		
	TOTAL		
E	AGRO – FORESTRY (INCLUDES VEGETABLES)	Estimated total investment cost	Estimated total annual revenue
	Land preparation costs		

	Seedling costs		
	Transport costs		
	Labour costs		
	TOTAL		
F	GATHERING (HERBS, FOODS, FUEL)	Estimated total investment cost	Estimated total annual revenue
	Labour costs		
	Curing / preparation costs		
	Packaging costs		
	TOTAL		
G	VILLAGE SAVING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION (VSLA)	Estimated total investment cost	Estimated total annual revenue
	Amount of loan		
	Registration fee		
	Annual subscription		
	Interest payment		
	TOTAL		



About Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA)

Ecological Trends Alliance is a registered nongovernmental organization in Uganda, starting operation in 2011 as a limited guarantee company, and registered with the National bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations in 2016. Our mission is to secure global solutions to biodiversity, development and tourism challenges through providing biologically diverse and proven alternatives Ecological Trends Alliance implements programmes, projects and studies in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, in partnership with national, multinational and international companies and organizations. This has included environmental, social and economic research, impact assessments, inclusivity studies, forest governance and community engagement, conservation (camera trapping, wildlife telemetry, etc.), human-wildlife conflict management, tourism potential site assessments, restoration of degraded landscapes, enrichment planting and agroforestry, land-use planning, offset valuation and impacts of agro-commodity production. Now in its tenth year, Ecological Trends Alliance continues to grow and expand its partnerships to meet our strategic objectives.

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Action for Rural Women Empowerment

Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of women and girls. ARUWE is gender sensitive and responsive, committed to fostering gender equality and empowering women to overcome poverty, patriarchy and social inequities.

We do this through advocating for women's economic justice, sexual and reproductive health, promoting education and lifelong learning, empowering women to claim their environmental rights, participate in conversations and decision-making processes on climate change.

Currently, ARUWE operates in Central and West Nile regions.

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