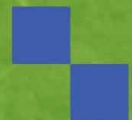


Roots of Sustainability

PIONEER FARMERS

TGB@20

- www.ecotrust.or.ug
- ✉ support@ecotrust.or.ug



1.0 Introduction

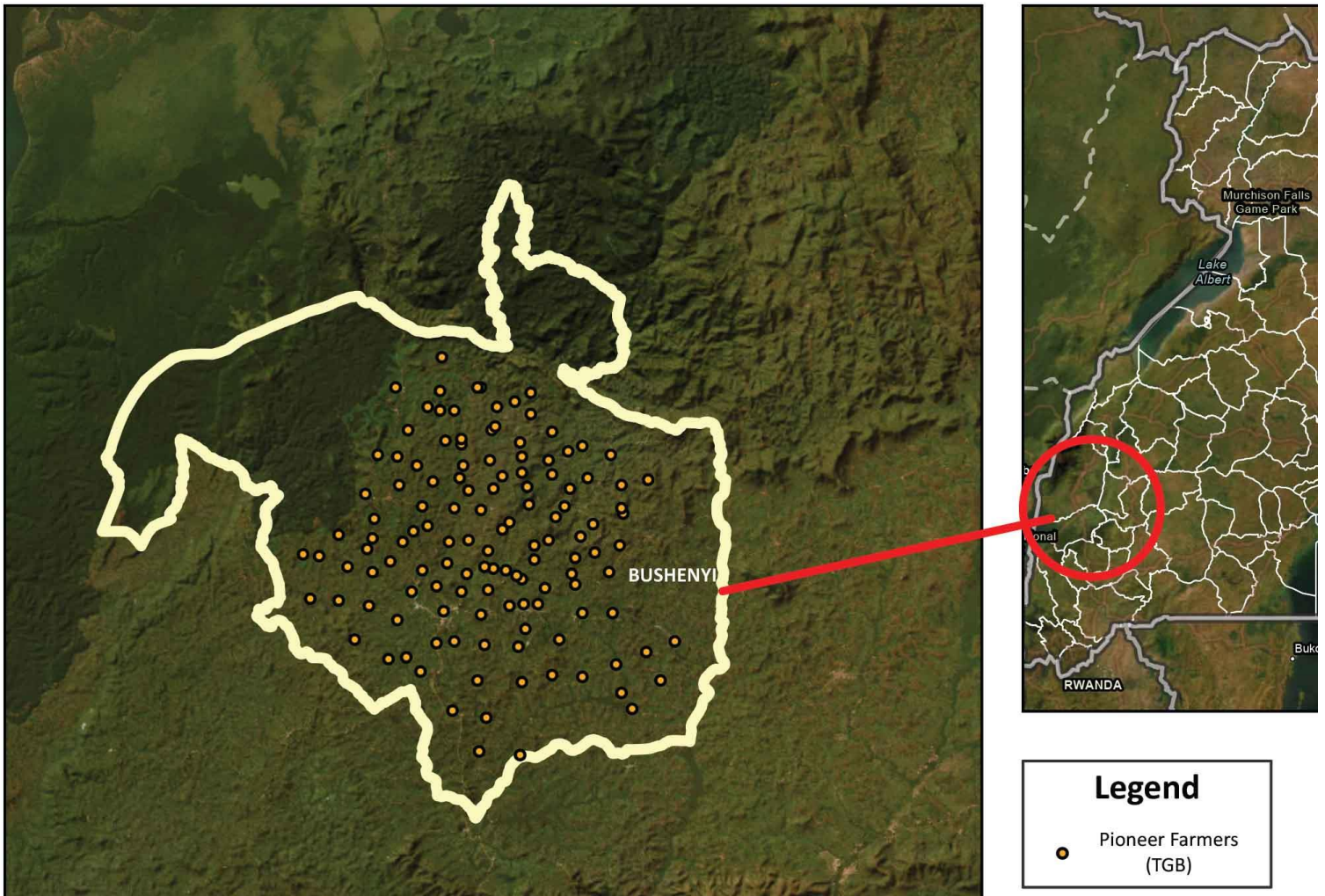
Trees for Global Benefits: *Eradicating Poverty One Ton (of CO₂) at a Time!*

The ECOTRUST [Trees for Global Benefits Programme](#) stands as a cooperative carbon offsetting initiative, connecting rural smallholder farmers in Uganda with the [voluntary PES Market](#). From its humble beginnings with [33 farmers](#) in Bushenyi District in [2003](#), the program has grown to include over [26,000 farmers](#) with PES agreements by December 2022.

As we mark its [20-year anniversary](#) in 2023, the Trees for Global Benefit Project has evolved into the [largest agro-forestry carbon project](#) under the [Plan Vivo standard](#). Demonstrating a mobilization capacity exceeding [a million emission reduction units annually](#), the project spans more than [20 districts](#) in the [Albertine Rift region](#) and [Mount Elgon](#) landscapes in Uganda. The key to this extraordinary success lies not only in the ECOTRUST staff's capacity building initiatives or strategic landscape planning but, above all, in the dedication of the [participating smallholder farmers](#). They have been the [heartbeat and backbone](#) of this project, turning it into a powerful force for [positive change](#).

The Trees for Global Benefit Project adopts a '[Restoration as a Business](#)' (RAAB) approach, effectively transforming the short-term needs of these farmers into [long-term investment horizons](#). In this celebratory publication, we pay tribute to [the pioneer farmers](#) who laid the foundation for this project, recognizing their invaluable contribution to its inception and success.

2.0 Pilot Sites



A total of **138 TGB farmers** actively participated in the pilot phase of the project from **2003 to 2007**, aligning with the requirements of the Plan Vivo Standard to ensure the **project's conformity** to the **standard's specifications**. The study conducted by **the Rainforest Alliance**, which oversaw the audit, **confirmed** the project's compliance with **Plan Vivo Standards and requirements**. This validation encompassed the project design document, as well as the verification of **implementation** and **performance** since its inception in 2003. Covering **258 hectares** of land within the boundaries of Bushenyi District in South Western Uganda, this comprehensive validation and verification audit focused on the sub-counties of **Bitereko, Kiyanga, Ryeru, Kichambwa, and Bunyaruguru** in Bushenyi District.

3.0 Bitereko Women's Group

3.1 Bitereko's Women Mobilisers

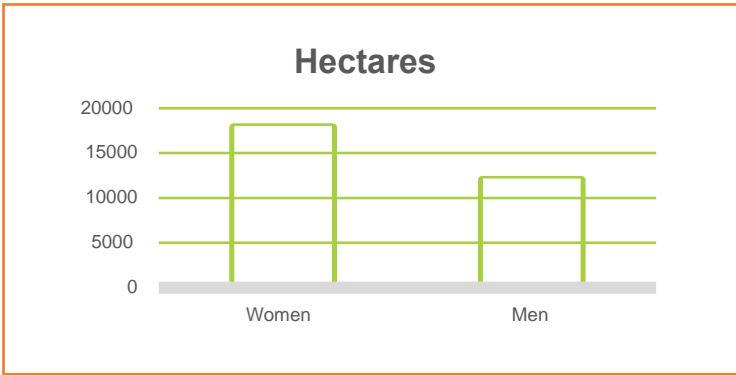
TGB in Bitereko was introduced by a group of **charismatic women** under their organization – Bitereko Womens' group. They were inspired to have men join their otherwise women organization since many of their members were facing a **challenge of their husbands** demanding a share in the **carbon income**. They reasoned that by allowing men to join the program, they are able to help their husbands understand the goals and objectives of the project and either join as **individuals or jointly** manage the land that has been recruited in the names of the wife. By the end of the pilot phase, the Bitereko group accounted for **a third of the participating farmers** with 24 women and 18 men. It is out of the lessons learned from this group that the project took a whole household approach.



Bitereko Women Pioneers

1	Ntabirweki Eva Hectares: 0.8 Trees Planted: 332	7	Rukundo Scolar Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	13	Rwakinene Rose Hectares: 1.4 Trees Planted: 555	19	Mpungirehe Imerida Hectares: 2.5 Trees Planted: 1000
2	Ntsigaireho Betty Hectares: 2.5 Trees Planted: 1000	8	Beth Waide Hectares: 2.2 Trees Planted: 888	14	Ngabirano Paula Hectares: 2.4 Trees Planted: 972	20	Mutabazi Margaret Hectares: 3.5 Trees Planted: 1388
3	Ahimbisibwe Beatrice Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400	9	Rwamuriro Teddy Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	15	Mukiga Bonny Hectares: 3.5 Trees Planted: 1388	21	Musinguzi Harriet Hectares: 1.7 Trees Planted: 694
4	Bandi Lilian Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400	10	Rwabayambire Resty Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	16	Nabaasa Velly Hectares: 1.8 Trees Planted: 700	22	Mugisha Beatrice Hectares: 0.4 Trees Planted: 174
5	Byaruhanga Annet Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400	11	Barindwa Fausta Hectares: 1.4 Trees Planted: 555	17	Muhumuza Jennifer Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	23	Turyatamba Flugyensia Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400
6	Nshekanterirwe Peterenia Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400	12	Kamugisha Lilian Hectares: 1.4 Trees Planted: 555	18	Rutebemberwa Joverin Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	24	Basera Tereza Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400

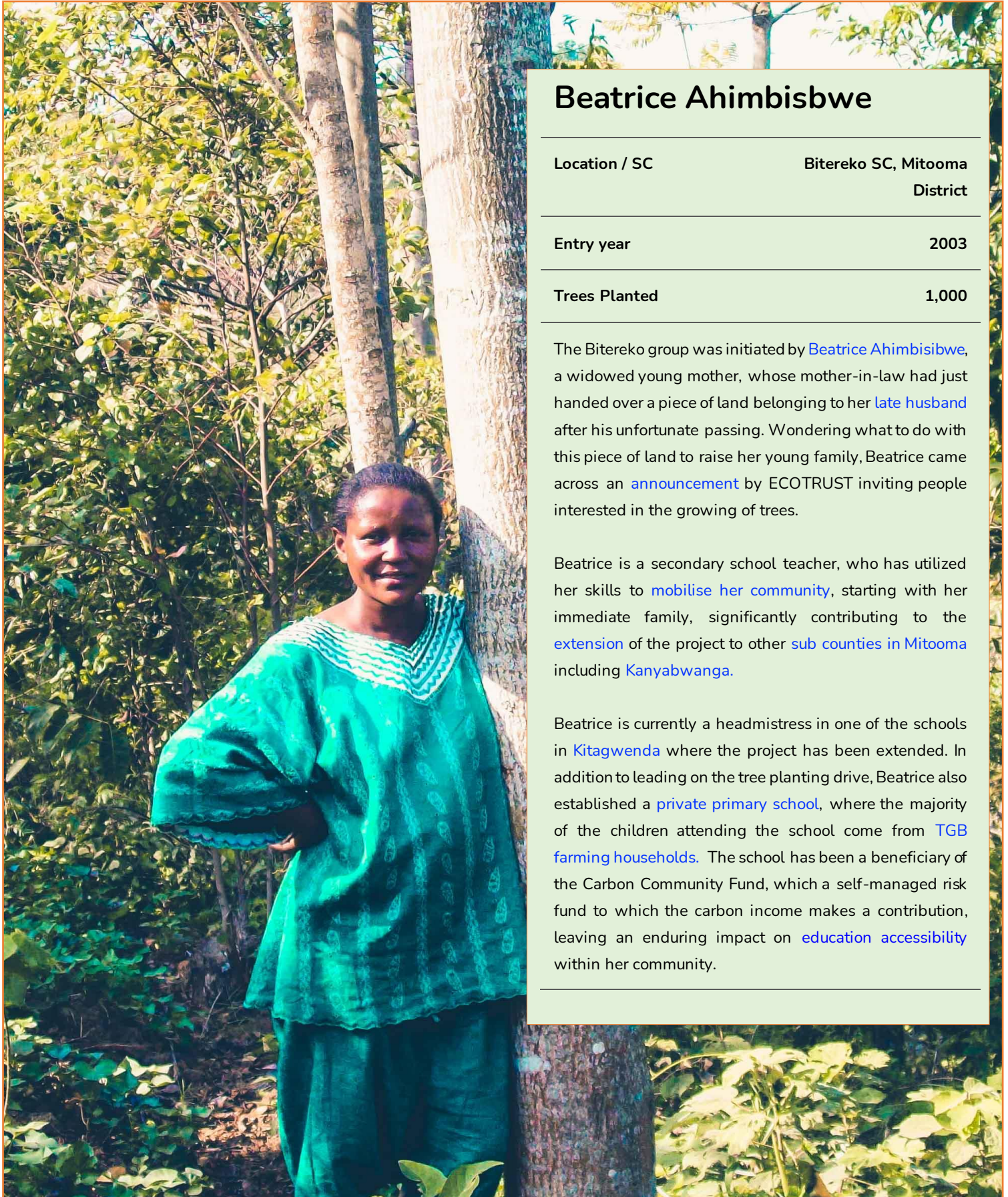




1	Kato Eliasaph Hectares: 3 Trees Planted: 1200	7	Sinta Silver Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400	13	Kajaribu Alfred Hectares: 3 Trees Planted: 1190
2	Barisimaki Charles Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400	8	Kakyanira Fred Hectares: 1.4 Trees Planted: 555	14	Byarugaba Yeremia Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400
3	Kantereine Fabius Hectares: 1.3 Trees Planted: 500	9	Bainomugisha Lawrence Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	15	Twesigye Denis Hectares: 1.5 Trees Planted: 600
4	Kashagama Godfrey, Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400	10	Byashushaki Dezi Hectares: 1.4 Trees Planted: 555	16	Tugumisirize Christopher Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400
5	Kisegyeyi Yovanis Hectares: 1.4 Trees Planted: 555	11	Ampaiire Samuel Hectares: 1.7 Trees Planted: 694	17	Mbanoha Benon Hectares: 1 Trees Planted: 400
6	Tumugabiirwe Donozio Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	12	Batsiga Vereriano Hectares: 2.8 Trees Planted: 1111	18	Tibaijuka Emmanuel Hectares: 1.8 Trees Planted: 700



3.2 Bitereko's Pioneer Leader



Beatrice Ahimbisbwe

Location / SC	Bitereko SC, Mitooma District
---------------	-------------------------------

Entry year	2003
------------	------

Trees Planted	1,000
---------------	-------

The Bitereko group was initiated by [Beatrice Ahimbisibwe](#), a widowed young mother, whose mother-in-law had just handed over a piece of land belonging to her [late husband](#) after his unfortunate passing. Wondering what to do with this piece of land to raise her young family, Beatrice came across an [announcement](#) by ECOTRUST inviting people interested in the growing of trees.

Beatrice is a secondary school teacher, who has utilized her skills to [mobilise her community](#), starting with her immediate family, significantly contributing to the [extension](#) of the project to other [sub counties in Mitooma](#) including [Kanyabwanga](#).

Beatrice is currently a headmistress in one of the schools in [Kitagwenda](#) where the project has been extended. In addition to leading on the tree planting drive, Beatrice also established a [private primary school](#), where the majority of the children attending the school come from [TGB farming households](#). The school has been a beneficiary of the Carbon Community Fund, which a self-managed risk fund to which the carbon income makes a contribution, leaving an enduring impact on [education accessibility](#) within her community.

3.3 Other Pioneer Women in Bitereko

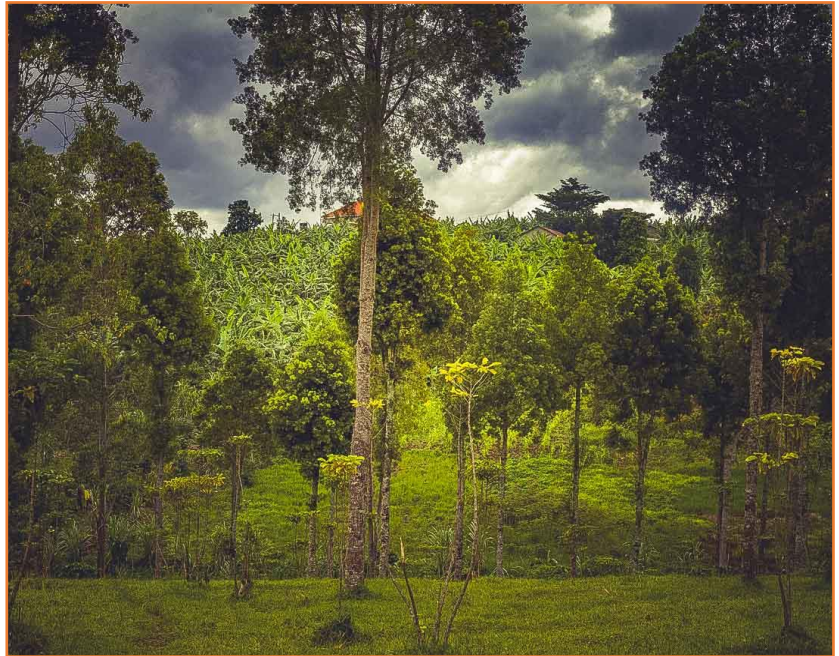
Betty Nsigaireho

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 1000

Betty Nsigaireho stands as one of the pioneering farmers in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) program, embarking on a transformative journey that has not only shaped her life but has also inspired her community.



Early Engagement and Leadership:

Betty's involvement began with active participation in TGB training sessions as part of a women's group in her subcounty. After receiving training in Bushenyi and Rubirizi districts, Betty assumed a leadership role within her group, becoming a trainer. Initially, only a handful of group members showed interest in tree planting, and they collectively financed the purchase of their first seedlings.

Impact on Education and Beyond:

As carbon payments started flowing in, Betty utilized the funds to pay her child's university tuition fees. Her daughter successfully graduated from Makerere University, serving as a powerful testament to the tangible benefits of tree planting. Witnessing Betty's success, more community members became eager to participate in the project.

Diversification and Prosperity:

Encouraged by her initial success, Betty expanded her tree plantation to include coffee and bananas, reaping financial rewards. The income generated allowed her to invest in additional land and a successful cattle-keeping project. Betty also ventured into tea plantation, creating a diversified and sustainable agricultural portfolio.

Gratitude to TGB and ECOTRUST:

Betty expresses no regrets about joining the TGB project, citing its instrumental role in helping her harvest timber. Her gratitude extends to ECOTRUST for introducing her and her group to tree growing and providing support over the past 20 years.

Continued Commitment:

With mature trees ready for harvesting, Betty plans to reinvest in the project by replanting and initiating another cycle. Her commitment to tree planting remains unwavering, and she actively promotes the TGB project within her community.

Appreciation for 20 Years:

On the occasion of the TGB project's 20-year milestone, Betty takes a moment to appreciate ECOTRUST for the enduring support and the invaluable opportunities the project has provided to her and her community.



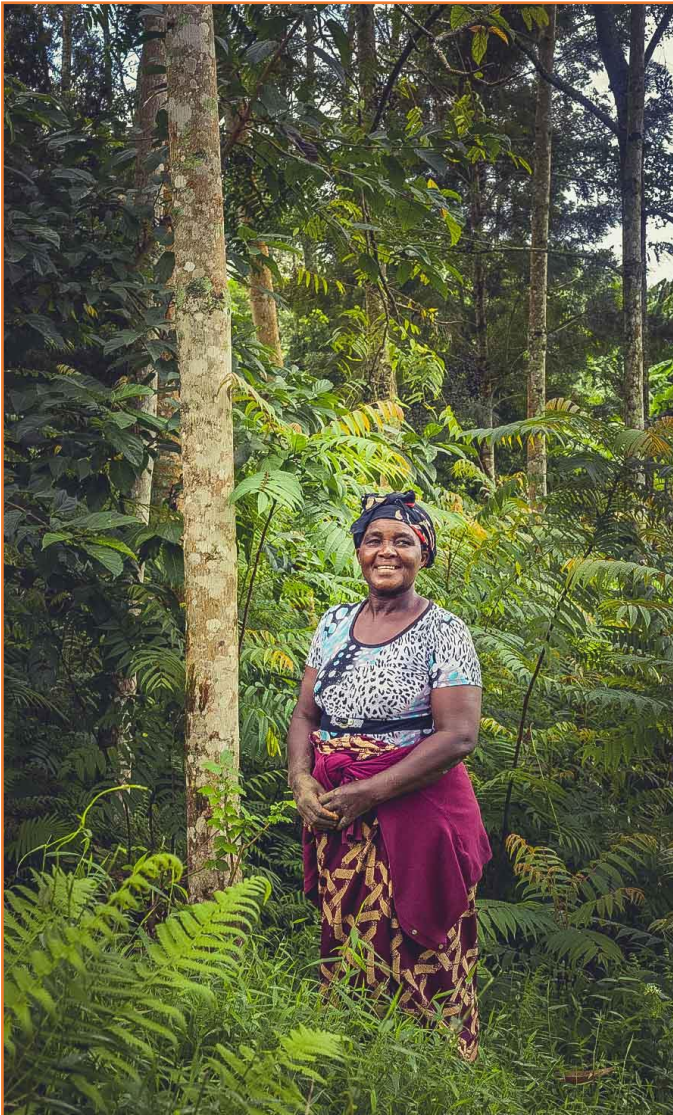
Lilian Bandi

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 400

Lilian Bandi stands as a pioneer in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project, recalling her journey with gratitude and a profound sense of purpose. Her involvement began with a workshop training by ECOTRUST, an experience that laid the foundation for a transformative chapter in her life.



Early Engagement and Tree Planting:

Enthused by the workshop training, Lilian eagerly joined the TGB project, diving into tree planting with enthusiasm. Her commitment paid off as the trees flourished, earning her carbon payments that marked the beginning of a sustainable source of income.

Timber Harvesting for a Greater Cause:

As her trees matured, Lilian faced a financial need. With wisdom and resourcefulness, she decided to harvest some of the matured trees, selling timber and earning over UGX 1 million. This unexpected windfall became a lifeline for Lilian, enabling her to care for orphaned children left behind by her late son.

Beekeeping and Community Engagement:

Beyond tree planting, Lilian expanded her horizons by joining a business group. Here, she became part of a beekeeping project supported by ECOTRUST. The children under her care actively contributed by creating handmade bee hives, fostering the growth of her beekeeping project. Lilian is now reaping the benefits, with a steady supply of honey for sale, becoming a vital income stream for her household.

Gratitude to ECOTRUST:

Lilian expresses heartfelt gratitude to ECOTRUST for the TGB Project, acknowledging its pivotal role in enhancing her household income and ensuring the well-being of the orphans under her care. Her success story underscores the transformative power of sustainable initiatives.



Encouragement and Advocacy:

Eager to share her positive experience, Lilian encourages others to join the TGB project immediately and start planting trees. She emphasizes the tangible impact on both financial stability and community welfare.

Continued Support and Thanks:

Lilian's journey epitomizes the positive ripple effects of the TGB project, from tree planting to timber harvesting and beekeeping. She extends her appreciation to ECOTRUST for fostering initiatives that not only benefit individuals but also contribute to the collective prosperity of communities.

Harriet Musinguzi

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 694

Harriet Musinguzi emerged as a pioneer in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project, joining between 2003 and 2005 through a women's group that was convened for training by ECOTRUST. Her journey is deeply rooted in a commitment to environmental conservation and the pursuit of essential resources.



Motivations for Joining:

Harriet's decision to join the TGB project was fueled by a desire for sustainable access to firewood, timber, and, most importantly, a commitment to environmental conservation. Her vision aligned seamlessly with the goals of the project, setting the stage for a transformative engagement.

Education and Family Prosperity:

Through her participation, Harriet received carbon payments that played a crucial role in financing her children's education. Today, her children have successfully completed school and are gainfully employed, a testament to the long-term impact of the project on family prosperity. The increased household income allowed for diversification, leading to investments in cattle keeping and the acquisition of a household vehicle.

Gratitude to ECOTRUST:

Harriet expresses deep gratitude to ECOTRUST for the transformative impact of the TGB project on her family's life. The project not only supported educational pursuits but also contributed significantly to enhancing the overall economic well-being of her household.

Sustainable Tree Management:

Harriet's commitment to sustainability is evident in her strategic approach to tree management. Recognizing the importance of quality over quantity, she has implemented thinning practices to remove poor-quality trees, allowing the remaining ones to thrive and grow larger. Her foresight extends to maintaining the trees for an extended period, with no immediate plans for harvesting.

Resty Rwabayambire

Location / SC Bitereko SC ,Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 1111

Restetuta Rwabayambire stands as a trailblazing pioneer in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project, a distinction she earned by being the first to raise her hand when ECOTRUST trainers sought those interested in growing trees. Beyond her role as a dedicated farmer, Restetuta is the LC1 Chairperson of her community and a respected church leader.



Initiation into Tree Planting:

In 2003, Restetuta planted her first trees, marking the beginning of a journey that would redefine her life and impact her community. Her proactive approach and leadership within her community set the stage for significant achievements.

Unexpected Windfall and Educational Triumphs:

The pivotal moment in Restetuta's TGB journey occurred when, in need of funds for her children's education, she visited the SACCO to collect her expected carbon payment. Anticipating a modest amount, she was stunned to find UGX 680,000 in her account—a far cry from the expected UGX 50,000. This unexpected windfall enabled her to pay school fees for her children, including one bound for college in another district. The subsequent withdrawals to confirm the reality of the funds were met with joy and disbelief by her family.

Education, Degrees, and Family Achievements:

With the financial support from her tree planting efforts, Restetuta successfully sent her children to school, resulting in degrees in Engineering and other diplomas proudly displayed in her household. She further utilized the proceeds from mature tree harvests to fund the college education of her younger children.

Community Impact and International Recognition:

Restetuta's dedication to tree planting has extended beyond personal gain. She actively encourages her neighbors to embrace tree planting and has become a host to numerous international visitors drawn by the flourishing trees on her land.



Diversification and Entrepreneurship:

With part of her earnings, Restetuta ventured into entrepreneurship by establishing a poultry business. Her forward-thinking approach demonstrates the holistic impact of the TGB project on individual livelihoods and community development.

Continued Commitment and Advocacy:

Grateful for the life-changing impact of the TGB project, Restetuta continues to plant new trees and has established a nursery bed for indigenous trees. Her message to others is clear: "Do the right thing and continue planting trees for a brighter future."

Anne Natukunda

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 1800

Anne Natukunda stands as a pioneering force in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) initiative within her community, where she currently serves as the Local Council Chairperson. Her journey is not just about tree planting but embodies a commitment to environmental stewardship and community leadership.



Motivated by Environmental Resilience:

Anne's decision to join the TGB project was deeply influenced by memories of a challenging period marked by unfavorable environmental conditions, particularly drought, in her community. This experience served as a powerful motivator to contribute to sustainable solutions that would benefit both the environment and the people.

Gratitude for ECOTRUST's Training Initiatives:

Expressing her gratitude to ECOTRUST, Anne acknowledges the impact of the organization's training programs on her community. These initiatives have elevated environmental awareness, fostering a sense of responsibility among community members to protect and preserve their environment.

Call for Diversified Investments:

Recognizing the interconnectedness of sustainable practices, Anne advocates for additional support in investing in small businesses such as animal husbandry and other green projects. She envisions the integration of these ventures with tree planting, ensuring not only the survival of the trees but also the sustainable growth of the community.

Long-Term Vision for Future Generations:

Anne aspires to create a legacy through the TGB project that future generations can look up to as a shining beacon of environmental responsibility and community prosperity. Her dedication to sustainability extends beyond immediate gains, aiming for enduring positive impacts.

Congratulations to ECOTRUST on 20 Years:

As the TGB project reaches its 20-year milestone, Anne extends her heartfelt congratulations to ECOTRUST for its enduring commitment and impactful journey. The organization's role in positively shaping the lives of individuals and communities is acknowledged and celebrated.

A Call for Collective Action:

Anne calls upon fellow smallholder farmers to join hands in the TGB project, emphasizing the strength that unity brings. Together, she envisions a collective effort that shines as a unified team, contributing to a sustainable and prosperous future.

Bonny Mukiga

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 1388

Hailing from Bitereko subcounty in Mitooma district, Bonny Mukiga's journey as a pioneer Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) farmer began on the wise counsel of ECOTRUST Project Coordinators. Drawn by the promise of tree cultivation and the enticing carbon benefits, Bonny's decision to join the initiative was also influenced by witnessing the positive experiences of others who had taken part.



The Seed of Transformation: 800 Trees

Bonny's initial commitment to the project manifested in the planting of 800 trees. To her delight, the first year bore fruit in the form of carbon payments, a financial windfall that she promptly directed towards her children's education. The subsequent carbon payments consistently contributed to the noble cause of funding her children's school fees.

Beyond Carbon: A Bounty of Benefits

The beauty of Bonny's thriving trees is not only a visual spectacle but a source of multifaceted benefits. Beyond the financial rewards from carbon payments, her trees yield valuable resources such as firewood, banana stakes, and poles. The maturity of her trees signals an upcoming harvest, which Bonny intends to capitalize on before embarking on a new cycle of tree planting.

A Pledge for the Future

Expressing deep gratitude for the tangible benefits bestowed by ECOTRUST, Bonny envisions a continuous commitment to tree planting. With a forward-looking perspective, she plans to extend her contribution to the project for the next 20 years, perpetuating the cycle of growth and prosperity.

Jubilant Wishes as ECOTRUST Celebrates 20 Years

As ECOTRUST commemorates two decades of the transformative TGB project, Bonny extends heartfelt wishes for jubilant celebrations. Her story encapsulates the essence of the project's positive impact on individual lives and the collective prosperity of the community.

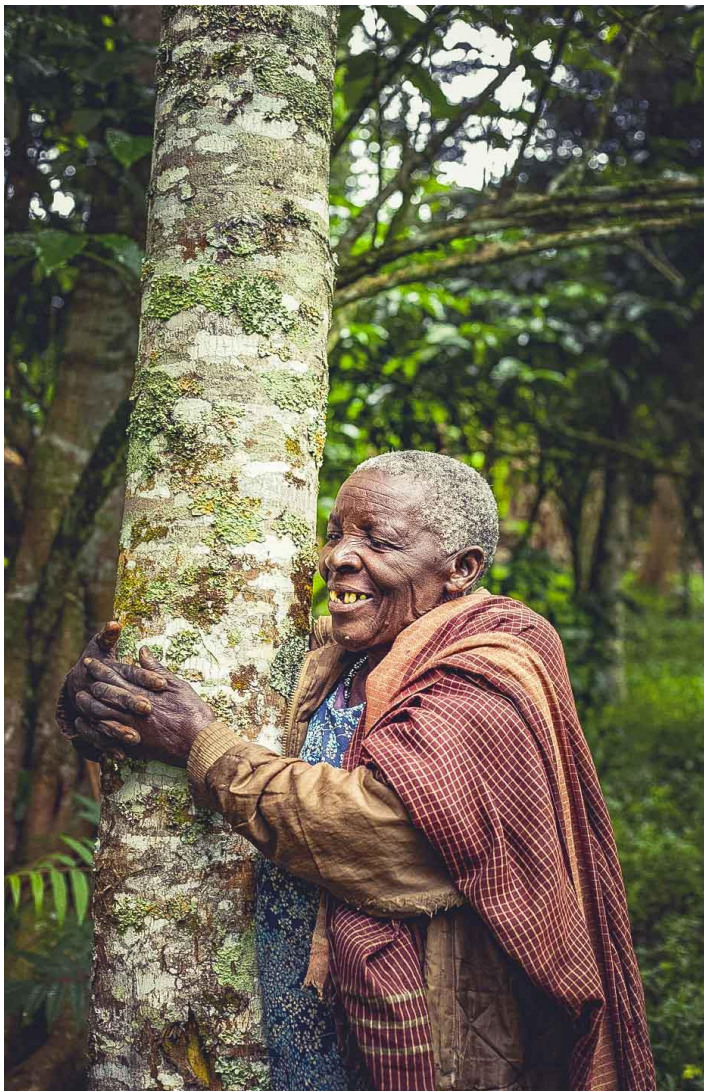
Tereza Basera

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 400

Originating from Biteereko subcounty, Tereza embarked on her journey as a Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) farmer in 2006. Reflecting on her early financial struggles, Tereza reveals that prior to joining the project, she had never experienced holding UGX 100,000 in her hands. However, the introduction of carbon payments marked a turning point in her life.



Constructing Dreams with Carbon Payments

Tereza's joy is palpable as she shares the impact of the carbon payments on her life. The first installment enabled her to construct her initial house, a milestone that seemed out of reach before. Undeterred by challenges, the second payment became the foundation for a more permanent residence, built with the assistance of her children. Over time, with additional endeavors, she proudly erected an even larger house, attributing her success to being a TGB farmer.

A Sentimental Connection to Trees

Despite offers from others willing to purchase her trees for a considerable sum, Tereza staunchly refuses to part with them. Her trees hold a deep sentimental value, serving as a memorial to the journey that lifted her from adversity to her present state. Tereza emphasizes that the trees are not just a source of income but a narrative of her survival and progression.

Proud TGB Farmer and Wishes for Long-Term Success

Expressing immense pride in being a TGB farmer, Tereza's gratitude resonates in her wish for the project's enduring success. Her story stands as a testament to the transformative power of the Trees for Global Benefits initiative, showcasing how it has not only changed her circumstances but also become an integral part of her life's narrative.



3.4 Bitereko's Pioneering Male Farmers



Tugumisirize Christopher & Barisimaki Charles, are brothers that form part of the men who joined the project regardless of this being a women's group. These two brothers proved that for as long as a project is able to demonstrate Value Proposition, the gender of the mobiliser did not matter. These men were able to overlook the social norms in pursuit of what seemed to be a good proposition.

Bitereko 2002

Christopher Tugumisirize

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 400

Christopher Tugumisirize extends his heartfelt gratitude for being welcomed into the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) family. Since he joined as a farmer in 2003, Christopher's journey reflects a profound commitment to tree planting, sustainability, and the transformative impact of the TGB project.



Challenges and Growth:

In the initial stages, Christopher faced challenges in acquiring seedlings for his trees. However, with determination, he overcame these hurdles and received his first payment of UGX 300,000. This initial boost allowed him to expand his tree plantation, with subsequent payments reinforcing his commitment to maintaining and nurturing his growing forest.

Sustainable Practices:

Christopher's love for his trees is evident in his commitment to their maintenance. Harvesting has not only provided him with a source of income but also allowed the natural propagation of wildlings and seedlings. This self-sustaining cycle eliminates the need to purchase additional seedlings for expansion.

Diversification and Beekeeping:

Recent additions to Christopher's farm include bee hives, a venture expected to contribute significantly to his income. While he is currently harvesting honey for personal use, he anticipates substantial financial gains as the bee enterprise matures.

Projects and Income Streams:

Grateful for the TGB Project, Christopher utilized his carbon payments to kickstart a successful goat rearing project, offering him an additional source of income. His forest not only provides timber but also serves as a medicinal resource for herbal remedies, benefitting both his household and neighbors.

Sustainable Living:

Christopher's forest goes beyond economic benefits; it has alleviated his fuelwood concerns by providing a consistent supply of firewood, enhancing the overall quality of life for his household.

Legacy and Gratitude:

As the TGB Project celebrates two decades, Christopher expresses profound gratitude to ECOTRUST for introducing this life-changing initiative. His ultimate goal is to ensure that his forest remains a sustainable legacy for future generations, providing timber, herbal products, and maintaining ecological balance..



3.5 Bitereko's People SACCO



The Bitereko People's Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) played a pivotal role in channeling TGB (Trees for Global Benefits) carbon payments to the pioneering group of farmers in Bitereko Subcounty, located within the Mitooma district. The SACCO demonstrated a commitment to financial inclusivity and community development by acting as a conduit for the distribution of carbon payments accrued through the TGB initiative. The cooperative not only facilitated the direct transfer of financial benefits from carbon sequestration to the hands of farmers who had been at the forefront of sustainable tree planting practices but also provided much-needed loans to these farmers. This allowed them to leverage their carbon agreements as collateral for securing loans, empowering local farmers economically. This innovative approach not only enhanced the financial well-being of the community but also fostered a profound sense of ownership and responsibility towards environmental conservation initiatives.

4.0 Bunyaruguru Tree Farmers

4.1 Kichambwa & Ryeru Pioneers

The Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) initiative marked its expansion into the Bunyaruguru region, specifically encompassing the sub-counties of **Kichwamba** and **Ryeru**, both integral parts of the current Rubirizi District. This significant undertaking involved the participation of pioneer farmers from these sub-counties, each contributing to the initiative's success. Noteworthy individuals such as **Bagambe Francis**, **Turyahikayo Wilson**, **Bikanshobera Patrick**, **Batecereza Salongo**, **Byarufu Francis**, **Tibanyendera Jolly**, **Matuga Joseph**, **Kateeba Eric**, **Basekya Hillary**, **Birungi Evaristo**, **Mugisha Akleo**, **Turyomugendo Medard**, **Muhoozi Zabron**, **COU Ndekye Parish**, **Bahigana Violet**, **Byabagambi David**, and **Kalema Masamba Betty** played crucial roles in championing the cause of sustainable tree planting and environmental conservation in the region.



Bunyaruguru Pioneers

Betty Masamba Kalema

Location / SC Bunyaruguru subcounty,
Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 400

Betty Kalema Masamba, a native of Kichamba village in Rubirizi district, has a profound connection with the land of her birth. Growing up amidst the lush greenery, her parents instilled in her a deep love for trees. This early affinity with nature laid the groundwork for her future involvement in environmental stewardship.



Seeds of Change: Embracing the Carbon Project

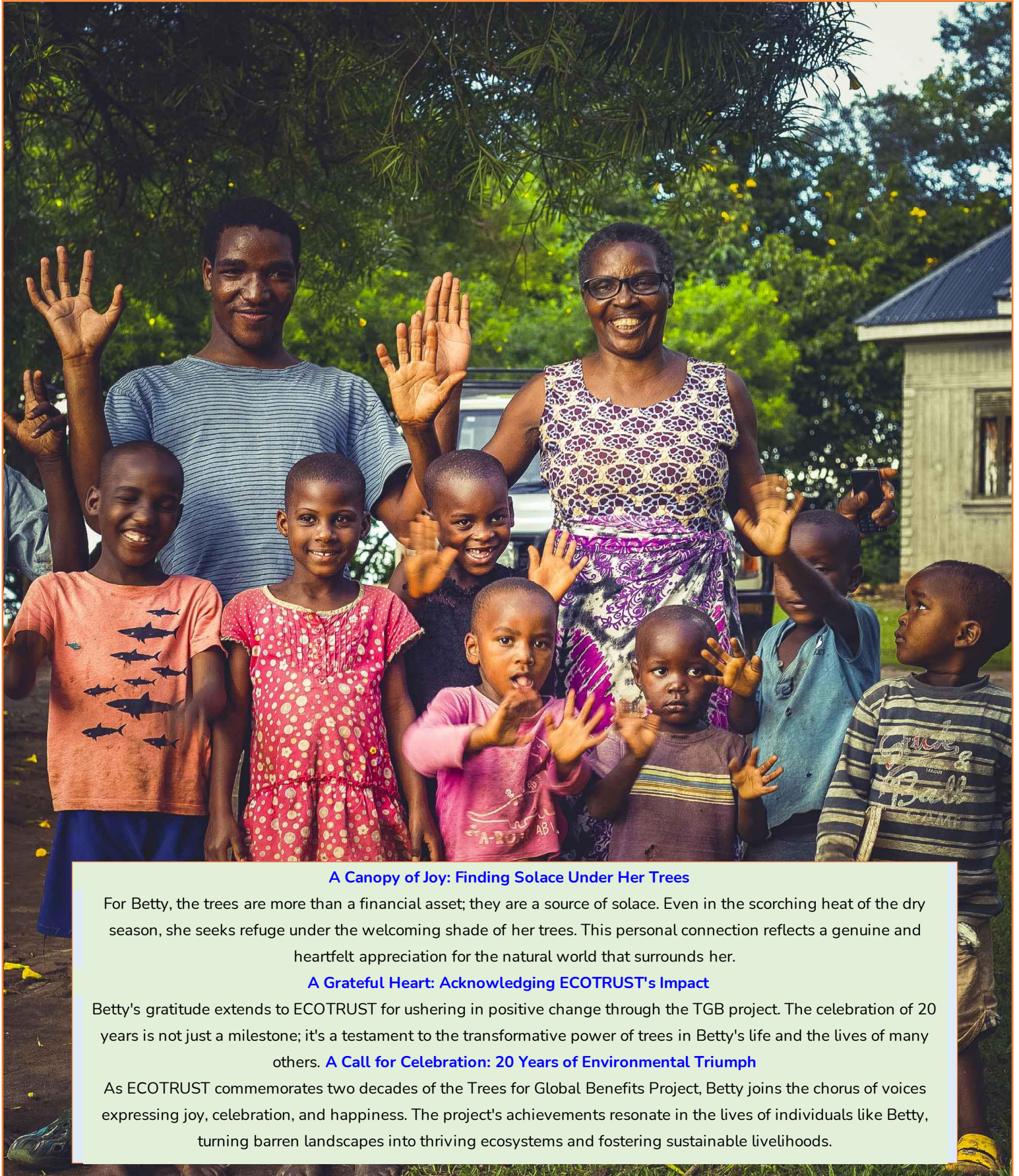
In the year 2003, Betty's journey with the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project began. Wilson Turyahikayo, a passionate advocate for the project, approached her and explained the myriad of benefits of the carbon initiative. Intrigued and inspired, Betty embraced the cause, receiving seedlings that found a home within the verdant embrace of her coffee plantation.

Harvesting Hope: Transformative Impact of Carbon Payments

The carbon payments, a tangible result of Betty's commitment to the project, became a lifeline for her family. With these funds, she navigated the financial landscape, ensuring access to education for her children and addressing various household needs. Beyond her immediate family, Betty extended her benevolence to orphans in her community, embodying the spirit of charity and care.

Sustenance and Shelter: Trees as Providers

Betty's trees are not just a source of income; they are benevolent providers. In the dry season, the branches yield firewood, meeting essential domestic needs. Surplus branches find a purpose beyond her household, contributing to the income from nearby community members. The trees also played a vital role in the construction of her home, with three mature trees providing the timber necessary to complete the building.



A Canopy of Joy: Finding Solace Under Her Trees

For Betty, the trees are more than a financial asset; they are a source of solace. Even in the scorching heat of the dry season, she seeks refuge under the welcoming shade of her trees. This personal connection reflects a genuine and heartfelt appreciation for the natural world that surrounds her.

A Grateful Heart: Acknowledging ECOTRUST's Impact

Betty's gratitude extends to ECOTRUST for ushering in positive change through the TGB project. The celebration of 20 years is not just a milestone; it's a testament to the transformative power of trees in Betty's life and the lives of many others. **A Call for Celebration: 20 Years of Environmental Triumph**

As ECOTRUST commemorates two decades of the Trees for Global Benefits Project, Betty joins the chorus of voices expressing joy, celebration, and happiness. The project's achievements resonate in the lives of individuals like Betty, turning barren landscapes into thriving ecosystems and fostering sustainable livelihoods.

4.2 Bunyaruguru's International Ambassador

Wilson Turyahikayo

Location / SC Bunyaruguru subcounty, Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 2000

Meet Wilson Turyahikayo, a true pioneer in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) Project since its inception in 2003. Long before the concept of carbon payments, Wilson had a passion for growing trees, initially introduced to the idea by John Tagawa, a staff member of the District Forestry Services. Eager to expand his tree-growing endeavors, Wilson enthusiastically joined the TGB project when ECOTRUST entered the scene.



Strategic Planning and Tree Cultivation

Wilson's journey has been meticulously planned, beginning with the planting of 100 trees on one plot and later adding 800 more to another. He nurtured these trees to maturity, and through a combination of carbon payments and strategic harvests, he has earned over UGX 60 million. The tree branches have served multiple purposes, providing firewood and material for charcoal baking.

Local and International Recognition

Beyond financial gains, Wilson has gained exposure and recognition locally and internationally. He actively participated in monitoring and exchange visits with fellow farmers and project coordinators. Notably, he represented TGB in Mexico, where he became the first international speaker, highlighting the integration of various livelihood activities into tree growing.

Advocacy for Diversified Income Sources

Recognizing the need for diversified income sources, Wilson advocated for activities like beekeeping and livestock farming alongside tree growing. His mobilization skills were evident as he enlisted farmers from other subcounties and played a crucial role in establishing the Collaborative Forest Management Group (NNTG) for the conservation of Kalinzu Forest Reserve in collaboration with the National Forestry Authority (NFA).

Advocacy for Diversified Income Sources

Recognizing the need for diversified income sources, Wilson advocated for activities like beekeeping and livestock farming alongside tree growing. His mobilization skills were evident as he enlisted farmers from other subcounties and played a crucial role in establishing the Collaborative Forest Management Group (NNTG) for the conservation of Kalinzu Forest Reserve in collaboration with the National Forestry Authority (NFA).

Gratitude to ECOTRUST and a Vision for the Future

Reflecting on his achievements, Wilson expresses gratitude to ECOTRUST for introducing him to the project. As the Trees for Global Benefits Project marks its 20th anniversary, Wilson extends hearty congratulations and suggests an international celebration to showcase the project's global impact.



4.3 Bunyaruguru's Pioneer Churches

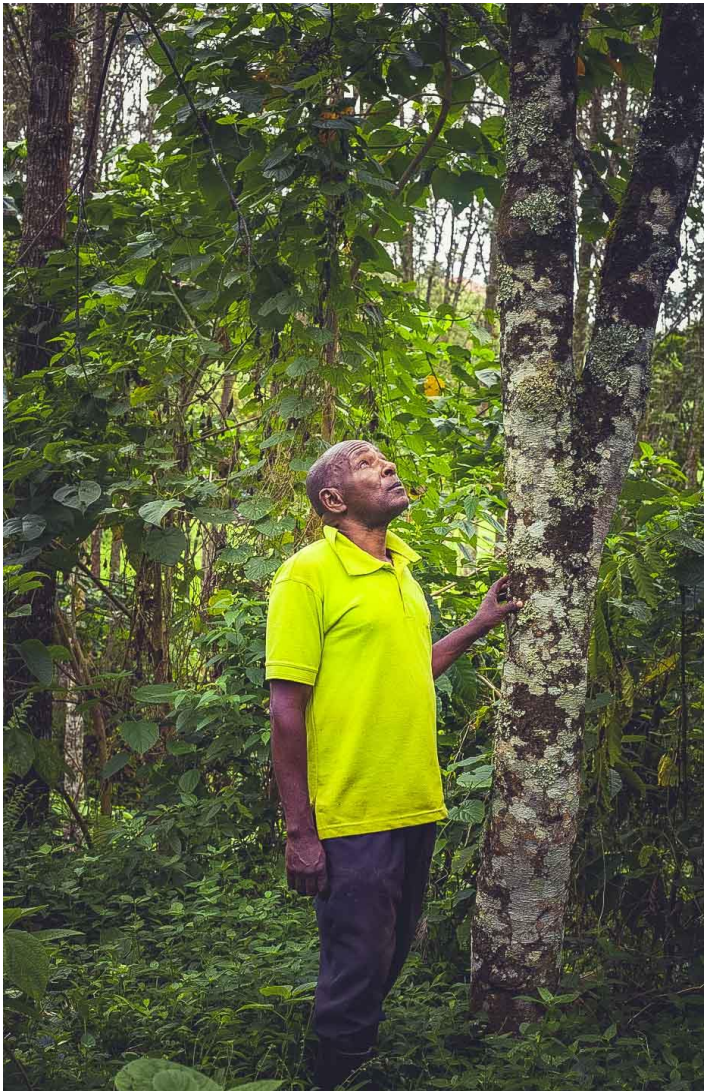
Rev. Elkad Mujizi

Location / SC Bunyaruguru subcounty,
Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 3000

Reverend Elkad Mujizi serves as the Assistant to the Archdeacon of the Western Ankole Diocese. His journey with the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project is deeply intertwined with the prosperity of the Church and the community it serves. Grateful for ECOTRUST's initiative, Reverend Elkad acknowledges the pivotal role of tree growing in transforming the Church's landscape.



Church Land Transformed: A Testament to TGB

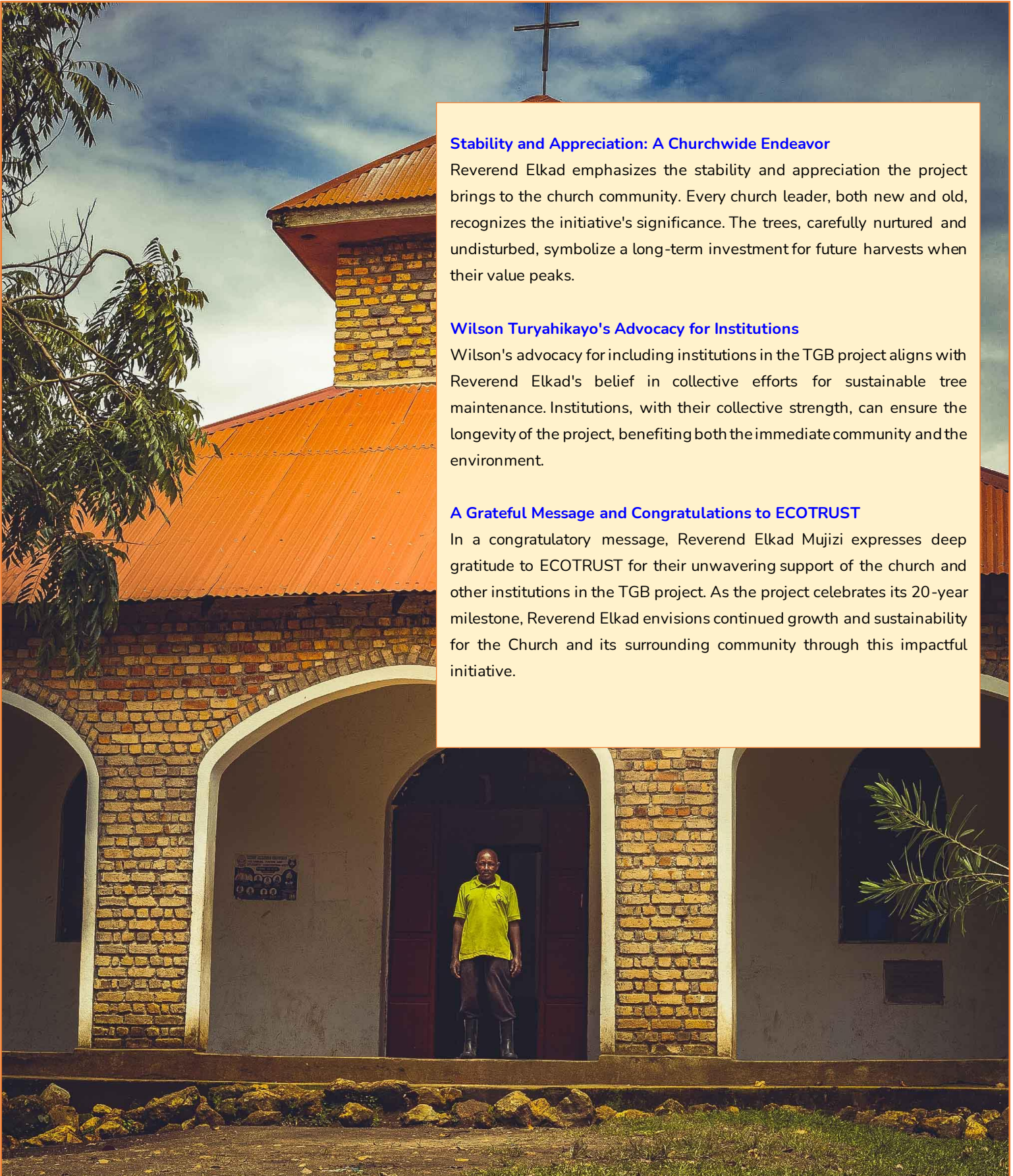
Initially, Reverend Elkad wasn't directly involved in the planting process, but he has witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of the trees on the Church's land. The visionary Wilson Turyahikayo played a crucial role in introducing the Church to the TGB project. Recognizing the vulnerability of the Church's land to potential grabbers, the project was embraced not only for financial benefits but also as a safeguarding measure.

Strategic Species Selection for Long-Term Impact

In 2006, the Church, guided by Wilson, chose to plant two distinct species: Grevillia and Prunus Africana. Grevillia, known for its rapid growth, serves as a quick money earner and a source of quality timber. On the other hand, Prunus Africana, with its longevity and carbon storage capabilities, contributes to sustainability. Additionally, Prunus has multiple herbal medicinal uses, benefiting the local communities.

Financial Support for Church Projects

The carbon payments received since the inception of the project have become integral in funding various church initiatives. Reverend Elkad actively participates in church council meetings, ensuring that new members are acquainted with the ongoing tree growing efforts, fostering a sense of continuity and commitment to the project.



Stability and Appreciation: A Churchwide Endeavor

Reverend Elkad emphasizes the stability and appreciation the project brings to the church community. Every church leader, both new and old, recognizes the initiative's significance. The trees, carefully nurtured and undisturbed, symbolize a long-term investment for future harvests when their value peaks.

Wilson Turyahikayo's Advocacy for Institutions

Wilson's advocacy for including institutions in the TGB project aligns with Reverend Elkad's belief in collective efforts for sustainable tree maintenance. Institutions, with their collective strength, can ensure the longevity of the project, benefiting both the immediate community and the environment.

A Grateful Message and Congratulations to ECOTRUST

In a congratulatory message, Reverend Elkad Mujizi expresses deep gratitude to ECOTRUST for their unwavering support of the church and other institutions in the TGB project. As the project celebrates its 20-year milestone, Reverend Elkad envisions continued growth and sustainability for the Church and its surrounding community through this impactful initiative.

John Baptist Tinkamanyire

Location / SC Bunyaruguru subcounty,
Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 3000

As the Chief Catechist for Rugazi Catholic Parish, John Baptist Tinkamanyire is not only a spiritual leader but also a steward of the environment. The roots of the Rugazi Catholic Parish run deep, with its establishment dating back to 1909. In 2003, John played a pivotal role in ushering in a new tradition - the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project - a venture that has since become integral to the parish's identity.



Carbon Payments Powering Progress

The TGB project brought more than just trees; it brought sustainable progress. Through the receipt of carbon payments, Rugazi Catholic Parish has been able to fund a myriad of projects, fostering growth and development within the church community. The financial support has not only aided existing initiatives but has also laid the foundation for new endeavors.

Timber for Construction: Building a Foundation for the Future

The timber harvested from the cultivated trees has been a valuable resource for the church's construction projects. Whether expanding existing structures or creating new ones, the parish has utilized its timber harvest to build a foundation for the future.

Expanding the Vision: A Ripple Effect to Other Churches

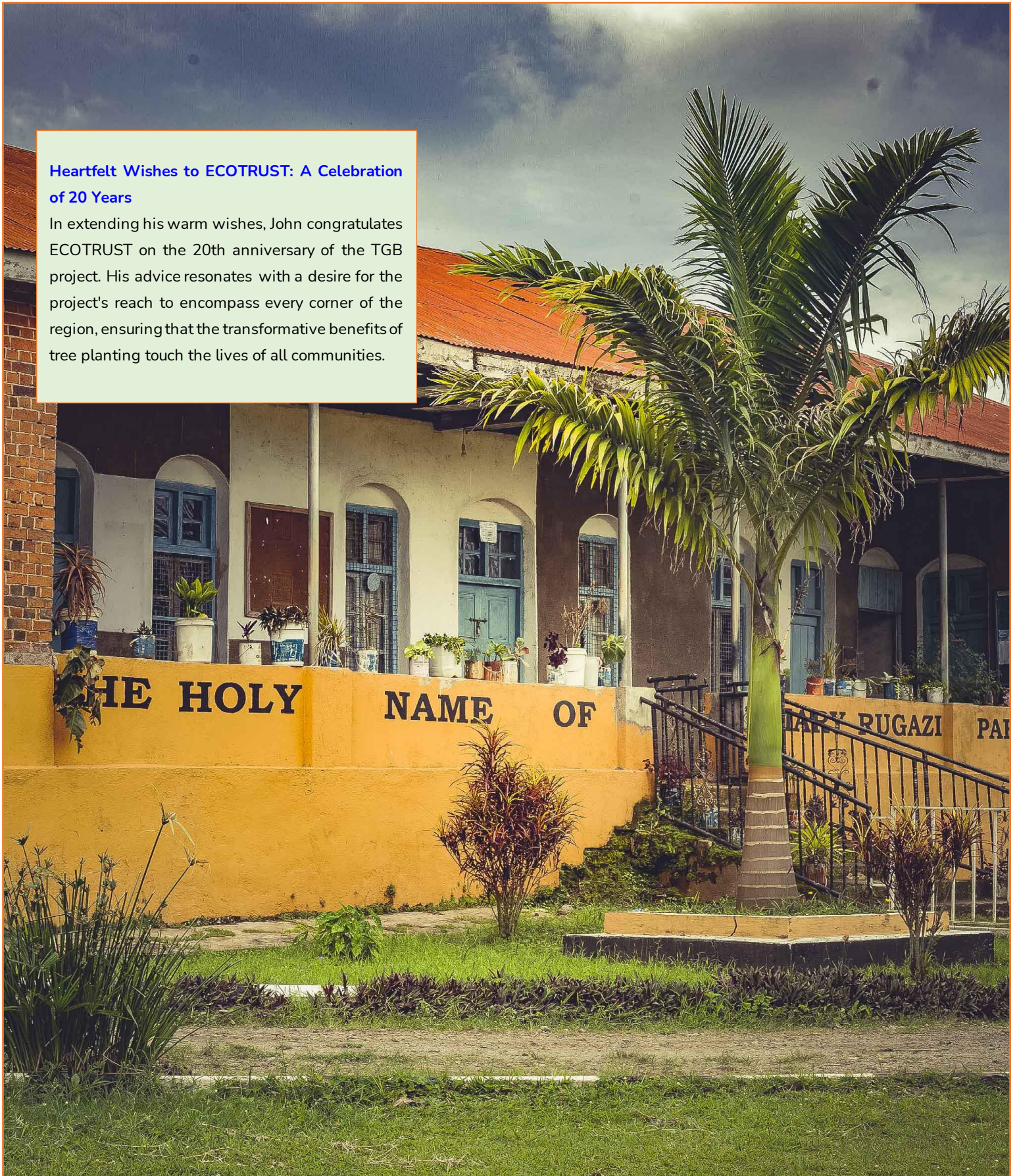
John's leadership extends beyond Rugazi Catholic Parish. Inspired by the success of the TGB project, he has actively introduced the initiative to other churches within the parishes, creating a ripple effect of positive change. The thriving progress of these additional churches echoes the scalability and adaptability of the TGB model.

Abundant Land, Endless Possibilities

With the church institution boasting ample land resources, John envisions boundless possibilities for expanding the TGB project. The capacity for growth and sustainability is inherent in the vast expanse of church-owned land, presenting an opportunity to further impact the local environment and community.

Heartfelt Wishes to ECOTRUST: A Celebration of 20 Years

In extending his warm wishes, John congratulates ECOTRUST on the 20th anniversary of the TGB project. His advice resonates with a desire for the project's reach to encompass every corner of the region, ensuring that the transformative benefits of tree planting touch the lives of all communities.



Nazarius Akambikiira

Location / SC Bunyaruguru subcounty,
Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 600

Nazarius, a venerable 70-year-old resident of Bunyaruguru subcounty in Rubirizi district, recounts his journey as a pioneer Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) farmer. Initially tending to a plantation of pine trees on part of his land, he encountered a team from ECOTRUST searching for individuals interested in planting indigenous trees under the carbon project. Intrigued, Nazarius, along with a group of friends, decided to join this transformative initiative.



Guided by Expert Counsel

Guided by ECOTRUST trainers, Nazarius and his companions planted a variety of indigenous tree species, following expert advice on optimal conditions. As the project unfolded, Nazarius began to receive carbon payments, which he predominantly allocated to the maintenance of his growing forest. Concurrently, he continued cultivating pine trees for more immediate income, recognizing the longer maturity period of the indigenous species. Over time, he allowed the forest to develop its undergrowth, transforming the landscape into a semblance of a natural forest.

Anticipation of Harvest

Now, Nazarius eagerly awaits the full maturity of his trees, envisioning a harvest that will yield income through timber sales. Post-harvest, his plan is to replant more trees on the same land, perpetuating the cycle of sustainable forestry. Having witnessed the success and benefits derived by many from tree growing, Nazarius advocates for individuals with available land to embrace tree cultivation as a long-term investment, not only for personal gain but for the prosperity of future generations.

Gratitude and Well Wishes

In expressing his gratitude, Nazarius extends his thanks to ECOTRUST for enrolling him in this impactful project, and he wishes the company many more years of prosperity in their noble endeavors.

4.4 CFM groups in Bunyaruguru

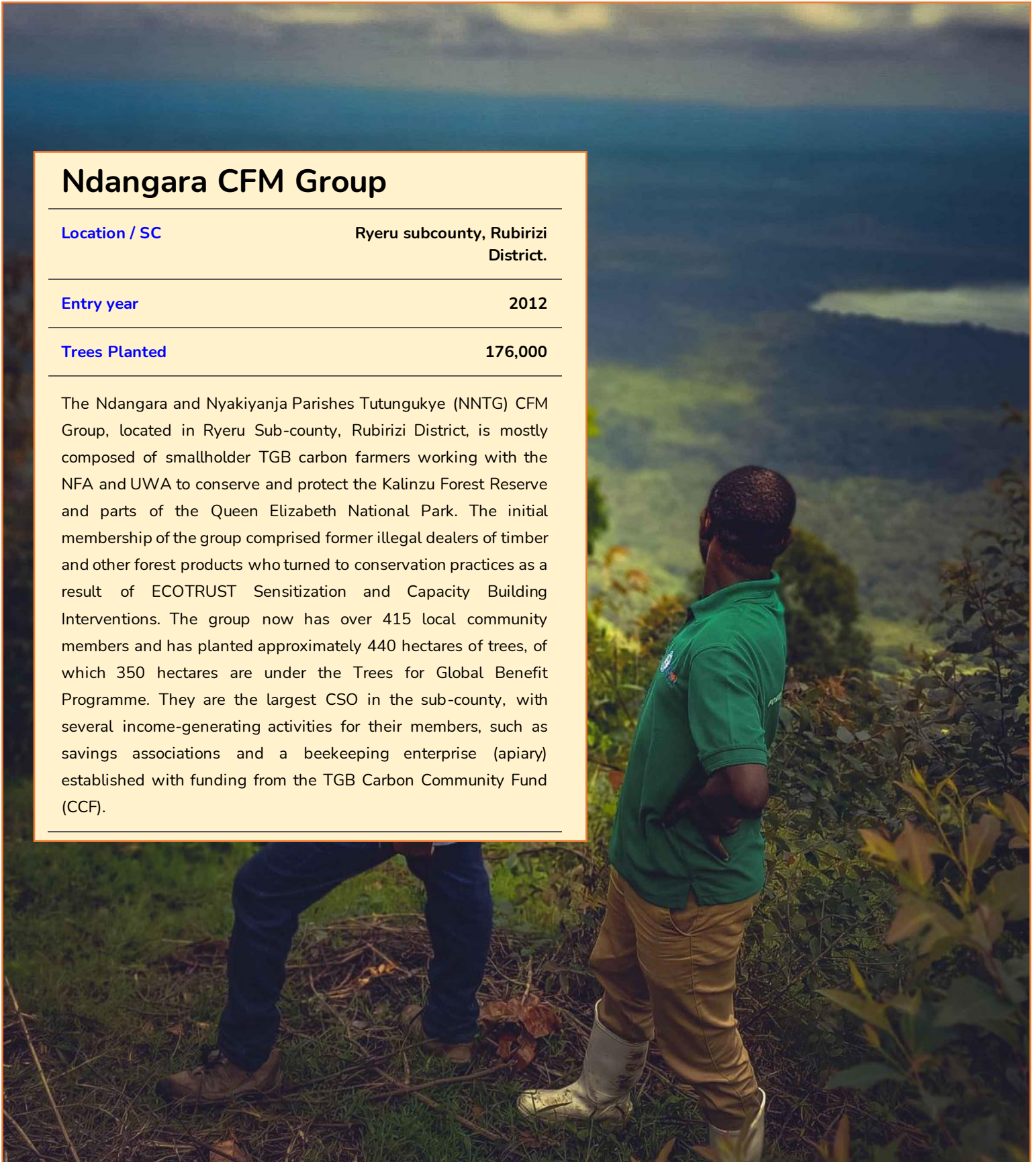
Ndangara CFM Group

Location / SC Ryeru subcounty, Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2012

Trees Planted 176,000

The Ndangara and Nyakiyanja Parishes Tutungukye (NNTG) CFM Group, located in Ryeru Sub-county, Rubirizi District, is mostly composed of smallholder TGB carbon farmers working with the NFA and UWA to conserve and protect the Kalinzu Forest Reserve and parts of the Queen Elizabeth National Park. The initial membership of the group comprised former illegal dealers of timber and other forest products who turned to conservation practices as a result of ECOTRUST Sensitization and Capacity Building Interventions. The group now has over 415 local community members and has planted approximately 440 hectares of trees, of which 350 hectares are under the Trees for Global Benefit Programme. They are the largest CSO in the sub-county, with several income-generating activities for their members, such as savings associations and a beekeeping enterprise (apiary) established with funding from the TGB Carbon Community Fund (CCF).



Challenges in Kalinzu Forest Reserve (2000-2012)

In the early 2000s, the Kalinzu forest reserve faced severe deforestation, driven by unsustainable practices, particularly by the The Ndangara and Nyakiyanja Parishes Tutungukye (NNTG) group. Comprising individuals who relied on tree felling and wildlife poaching for their livelihoods, this group often found themselves in confrontations with the National Forestry Authority (NFA), playfully referring to the NFA rangers as 'Baboons.' Innocent Byamukama, a member of the NNTG, humorously reminisced about those challenging times, sharing stories of pooling funds to secure the release of members apprehended by the NFA.

Transformation Through Trees for Global Benefits (2012-2013)

The turning point for the NNTG arrived in 2012 with the introduction of the Trees for Global Benefit (TGB) Programme to Rubirizi District by ECOTRUST. Collaborative negotiations with the NFA led to a comprehensive agreement in 2013, marking the beginning of a transformative journey. ECOTRUST designed a forward-thinking forest management plan that involved planting eucalyptus trees in outer forest regions to meet the needs of the neighboring Ndangara community for firewood. Simultaneously, inner forest sections underwent reforestation with indigenous tree species, providing the community with payments for environmental services (PES) earned from carbon sequestration.

Community Collaboration and Reforestation Efforts (2012-2019)

Facing significant poverty and limited infrastructure, the Ndangara community embraced the collaboration between NNTG, ECOTRUST, and the NFA. Between 2012 and 2019, the NNTG reforested approximately 380 hectares with indigenous trees under the TGB Programme. Each member received a designated land parcel within the forest for tree planting. The introduction of eucalyptus buffers around the forest provided a crucial source of firewood, reducing the need to venture deeper into the forest reserve.

Success in Firewood Supply and Economic Impact (2017-2023)

The NNTG's success story continued as they planted 300 hectares of eucalyptus trees, securing a contract with Kyamuhunga tea company in 2017 to supply firewood for tea leaf seasoning. Today, the group annually provides approximately 4,000 metric tons of firewood, generating earnings exceeding 200 million shillings. These funds have significantly improved household incomes and overall living standards.

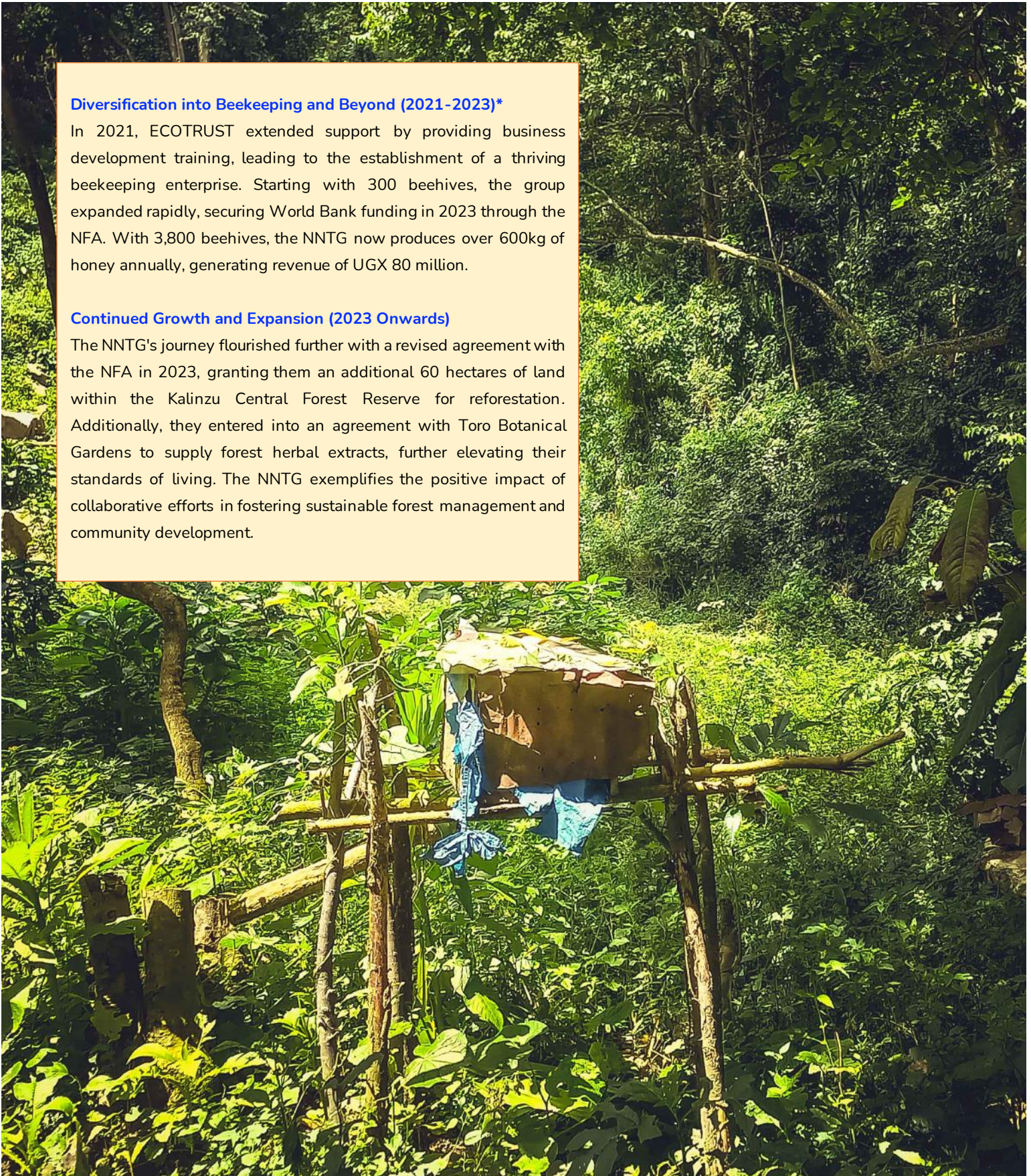


Diversification into Beekeeping and Beyond (2021-2023)*

In 2021, ECOTRUST extended support by providing business development training, leading to the establishment of a thriving beekeeping enterprise. Starting with 300 beehives, the group expanded rapidly, securing World Bank funding in 2023 through the NFA. With 3,800 beehives, the NNTG now produces over 600kg of honey annually, generating revenue of UGX 80 million.

Continued Growth and Expansion (2023 Onwards)

The NNTG's journey flourished further with a revised agreement with the NFA in 2023, granting them an additional 60 hectares of land within the Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve for reforestation. Additionally, they entered into an agreement with Toro Botanical Gardens to supply forest herbal extracts, further elevating their standards of living. The NNTG exemplifies the positive impact of collaborative efforts in fostering sustainable forest management and community development.



Buzenga CFM Group

Location / SC Ryeru subcounty, Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2013

Trees Planted 16,000

The Buzenga CFM group is located in Ryeru sub-county, Rubirizi, and is working with the NFA to conserve the [Kashyoha-Kitomi \(KK\) Forest Reserve](#). The group has a membership of just over [280 community members](#), some of whom are also TGB farmers. In addition to their CFM activities, the group boasts a [robust savings](#) and credit scheme, an apiary enterprise, and vegetable farming.

With support from ECOTRUST, the group is currently reviewing their [CFM agreement](#) with NFA to include carbon rights for the indigenous trees planted within the forest reserve.

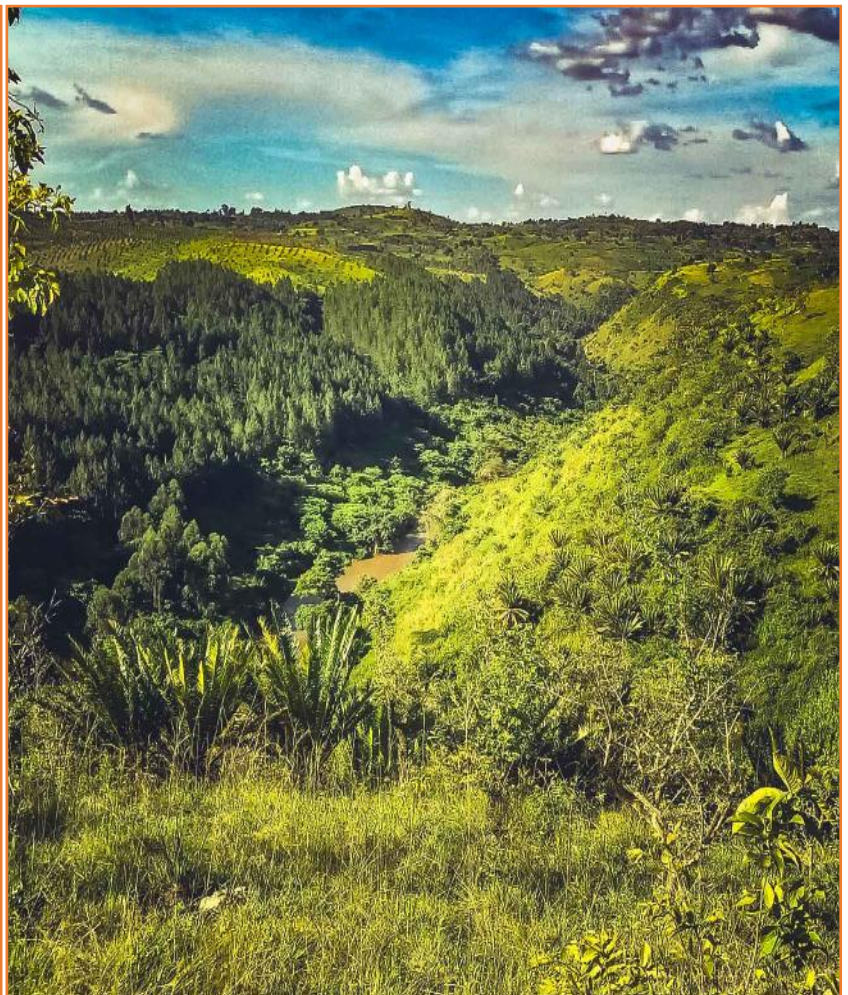


NECA VSLA Group

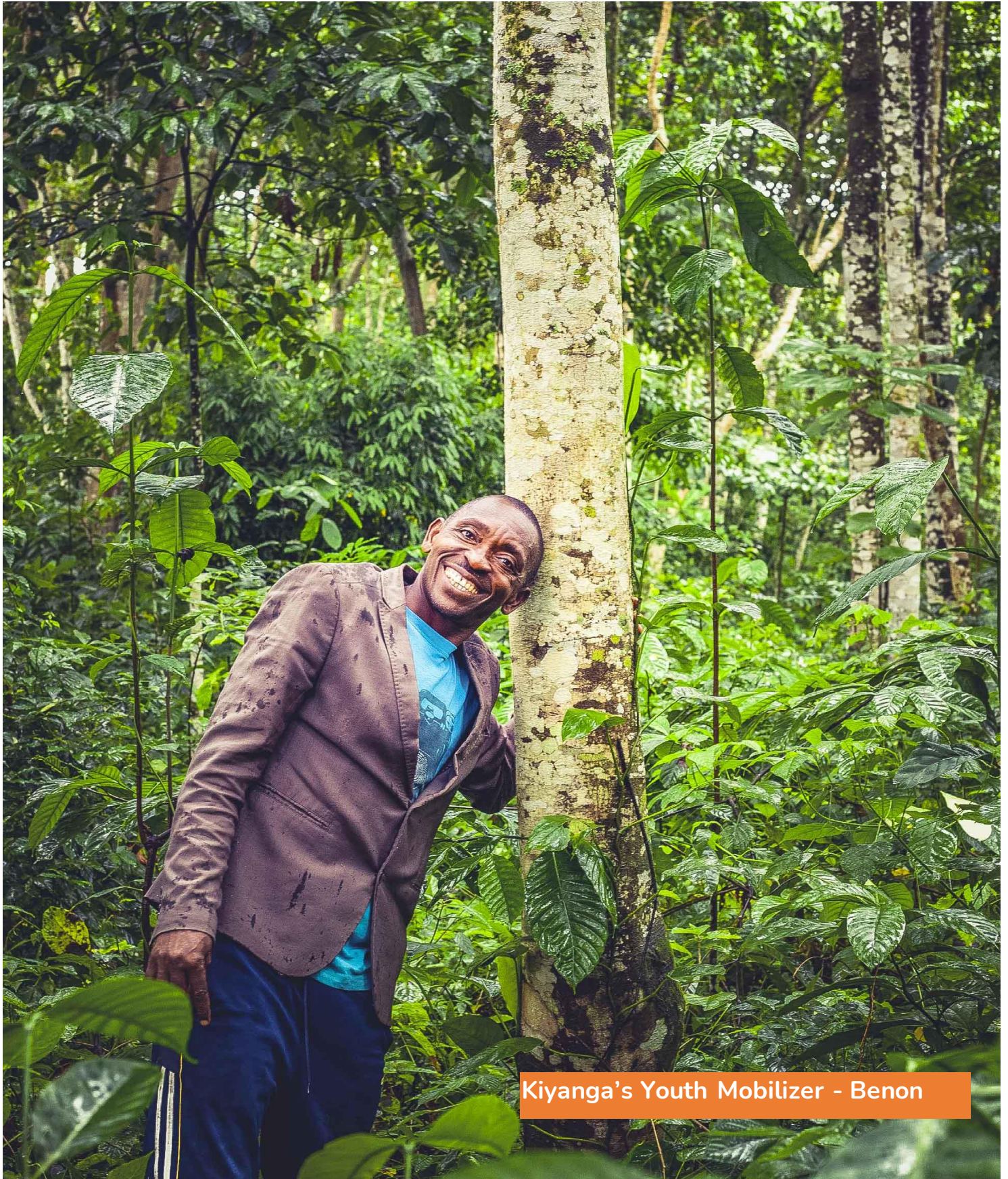
Location / SC Rutoto subcounty, Rubirizi District.

Entry year 2016

The newly established [Ndangaro Environmental Conservation Association \(NECA\)](#) CFM Group is situated in Rutoto sub-county, Rubirizi district. Comprising dedicated TGB carbon farmers collaborating with the National Forestry Authority (NFA), their primary focus is the conservation of the [Kashyoha-Kitomi \(KK\) Forest Reserve](#). Beyond environmental efforts, the group operates a robust savings and credit scheme, and certain members are engaged in additional ventures such as [vegetable cultivation and beekeeping](#). Among the group's notable pioneers are farmers like Nazarius, Eric Katemba, and Kamusiime. Their collective efforts have successfully restored over [200 hectares](#), encompassing both eucalyptus and indigenous tree species.



5.0 Kiyanga Pioneer Farmers



Kiyanga's Youth Mobilizer - Benon

Benon Bushoborozi

Location / SC Kiyanga subcounty, Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 1300

Meet Bushoborozi Benon, a leader in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project since 2003. Originally from Kirama Village in Kiyanja subcounty, Mitooma District, Benon's story is a testament to the positive impact of tree planting and sustainable living. He started by cutting timber illegally but shifted to championing environmental conservation and community development through the TGB project.



Benon's Story:

Benon and four fellow farmers initially engaged in illegal timber cutting within the national park. The daily pursuit by park rangers led them to shift their focus to cultivating trees using seeds from the forest. ECOTRUST recognized their efforts and began supporting them through carbon payments, marking the beginning of their journey towards sustainable livelihoods.

Community Engagement:

Inspired by ECOTRUST's support, Benon rallied his community for tree planting training sessions, ensuring the involvement of future generations. The impact of these initiatives extended beyond environmental conservation, fostering friendships and community development.

Educational Empowerment:

Using carbon payments, Benon supported his wife's education, enabling her to rise from Senior 3 to a District Sub-county Officer (DSO) for Kiyanga Subcounty. The ripple effect continued as their children pursued various educational paths, breaking the cycle of limited opportunities.

Diversification and Entrepreneurship:

ECOTRUST's business development trainings opened doors to new opportunities. Benon diversified his ventures by learning to make banana wine and establishing beekeeping with 30 hives, yielding 90 liters of honey per harvest. These ventures not only increased his income but also contributed to the ecological balance.

Future Aspirations:

Having successfully cultivated trees for two decades, Benon dreams of investing in an eco-hotel within his forest, aiming to attract eco-tourism and further contribute to sustainable business practices.

Gratitude to ECOTRUST:

On the occasion of ECOTRUST's 20th anniversary of the TGB project, Benon expresses heartfelt gratitude for the diverse support received. He acknowledges the impact of training, including the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), in shaping his vision and achievements. Benon requests continued opportunities for individuals driven by similar passion, emphasizing the importance of ECOTRUST's collaboration with government entities to preserve nature through sustainable tree farming.



Milton Buherero

Location / SC Kirama Village, Kiyanga subcounty, Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 800

Milton Buherero embarked on the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) journey as one of the five pioneer farmers in Kiyanga Subcounty back in 2003. Since then, his experience reflects a remarkable transformation both personally and within his community.



ECOTRUST's Impact:

ECOTRUST played a pivotal role in Milton's journey, providing valuable assistance and knowledge. The initial workshop in Ishaka educated them on proper procedures and enlightened rural community members about the vital functions of trees, emphasizing the initiation of carbon trade. The long-term vision presented the promise of financial benefits through timber sales.

Environmental Stewardship:

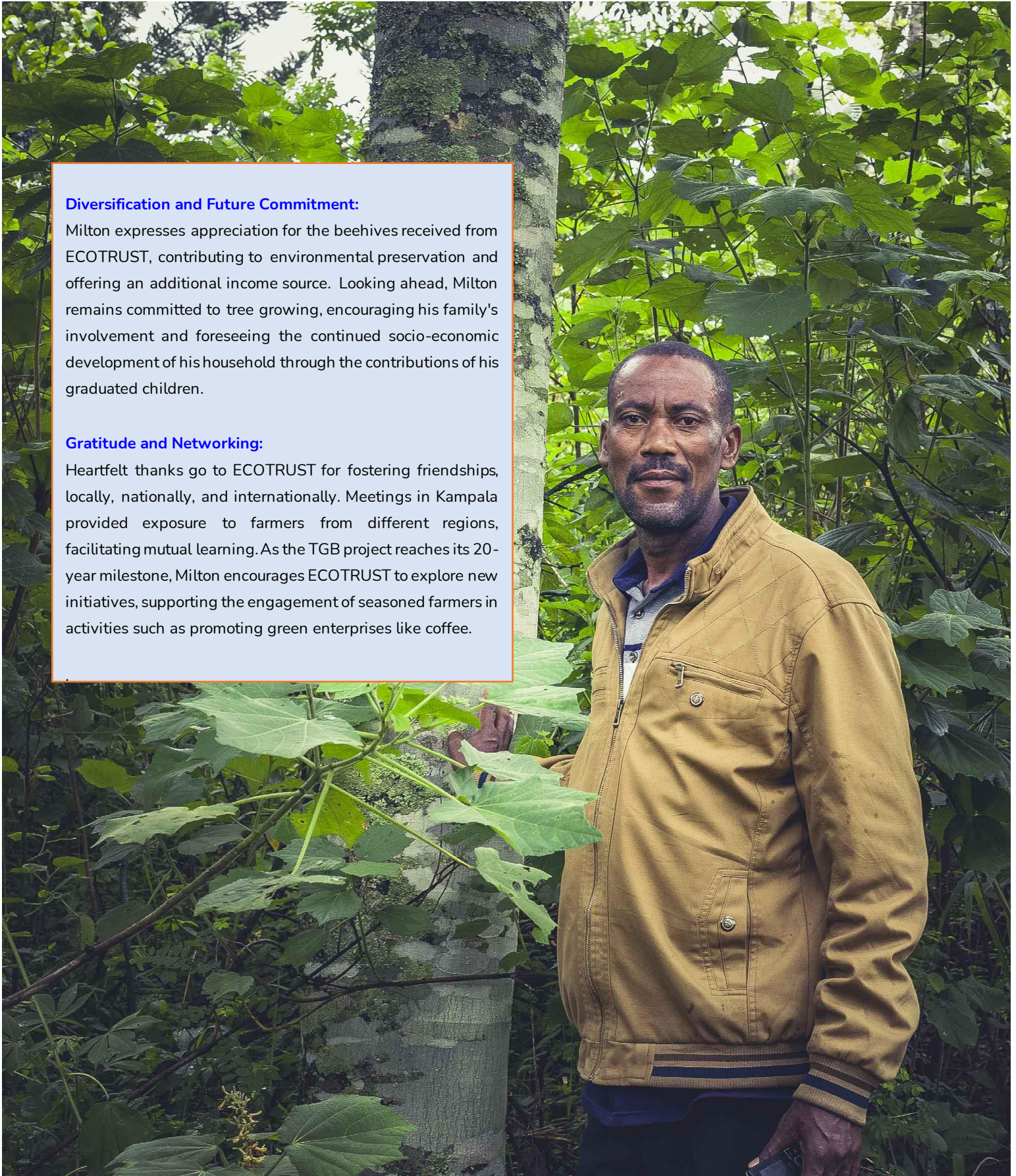
Milton's commitment to the project has significantly impacted the local environment. Instead of depleting the national park for firewood, he now sustains his needs by harvesting from his own trees. This shift not only conserves the forest but also serves as a sustainable source of income.

Educational and Community Progress:

Income generated from tree growing supported Milton's children through various educational milestones. Currently boasting two graduates, two who completed Senior Six, and another finishing Senior Four, Milton's success inspired a growing number of farmers in the subcounty, reaching a total of 470 participants.

Celebrating Achievements:

In 2015, ECOTRUST took Milton and fellow farmers to Kampala for a memorable celebration of the project's 15-year milestone. The experience, including a stay at the beautiful Golf Course hotel, was both exciting and enriching. Gratitude extends to Coordinator Innocent Byamukama for continuous monitoring and fostering connections with visitors.



Diversification and Future Commitment:

Milton expresses appreciation for the beehives received from ECOTRUST, contributing to environmental preservation and offering an additional income source. Looking ahead, Milton remains committed to tree growing, encouraging his family's involvement and foreseeing the continued socio-economic development of his household through the contributions of his graduated children.

Gratitude and Networking:

Heartfelt thanks go to ECOTRUST for fostering friendships, locally, nationally, and internationally. Meetings in Kampala provided exposure to farmers from different regions, facilitating mutual learning. As the TGB project reaches its 20-year milestone, Milton encourages ECOTRUST to explore new initiatives, supporting the engagement of seasoned farmers in activities such as promoting green enterprises like coffee.

George Banturaki

Location / SC Kiyanga subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 400

Meet George Banturaki, a visionary pioneer farmer in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project, whose life has been transformed by the wonders of trees. His journey began with a single plot, and today, he stands as a testament to the positive impact of sustainable tree farming.



Financial Transformation:

Initially, George received carbon payments for one plot. One day, upon returning to another plot, he discovered a significant sum from carbon payments. In response, he replaced his makeshift house with a permanent one for his family. This event became a turning point, instilling in him a deep love for trees and a strong determination to protect them.

Sustainable Timber Harvesting:

With a strategic plan for sustainable growth, George aims to let his trees mature and eventually harvest timber responsibly. He emphasizes the importance of gradual harvesting, ensuring a steady supply for his needs while replanting to maintain the ecological balance.

Protecting His Forest:

George's commitment to his trees is unwavering. A valuable lesson came when a third party offered him UGX 150,000 for a large tree. Instead, George chose to cut the tree himself, producing timber, firewood, and offcuts, ultimately earning over UGX 500,000. He now restricts access to his forest, safeguarding its potential for future gains.

Household Benefits:

Beyond personal gains, George highlights the broader impact on his household. The carbon money significantly contributed to his children's education and various projects around his home. He envisions larger trees translating into more significant financial gains, ensuring continued growth and prosperity for his family.

Legacy for Future Generations:

George's foresight extends beyond his own lifetime. He envisions his growing trees benefiting his children and future generations. By harvesting timber instead of selling land, he intends to provide a lasting source of income for his descendants, creating a legacy that goes beyond himself.

Gratitude to ECOTRUST:

George expresses profound gratitude to ECOTRUST for contributing to his success. His message resonates with a call for all tree growers to maintain and conserve their trees for similar prosperity.



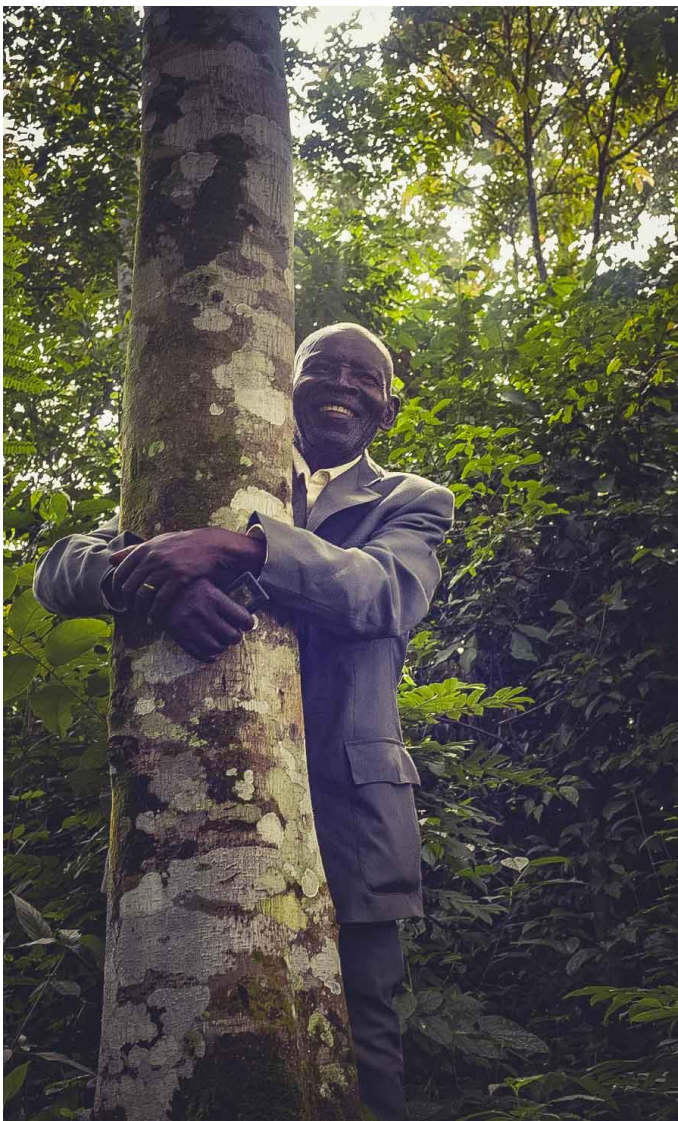
Paturi Tukamuhabwa

Location / SC Kiyanga subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 610

Meet Paturi Tukamuhabwa, a farmer in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project. His story shows how growing trees has transformed his life, highlighting the power of sustainable farming and caring for the environment.



Impact of Trees:

Since Paturi planted these trees, they have become instrumental in transforming his life. The carbon payments derived from these trees played a pivotal role in financing his children's education, ensuring a brighter future for his family. Moreover, the fallen dry branches provide a consistent source of firewood.

Home Construction and Thinning:

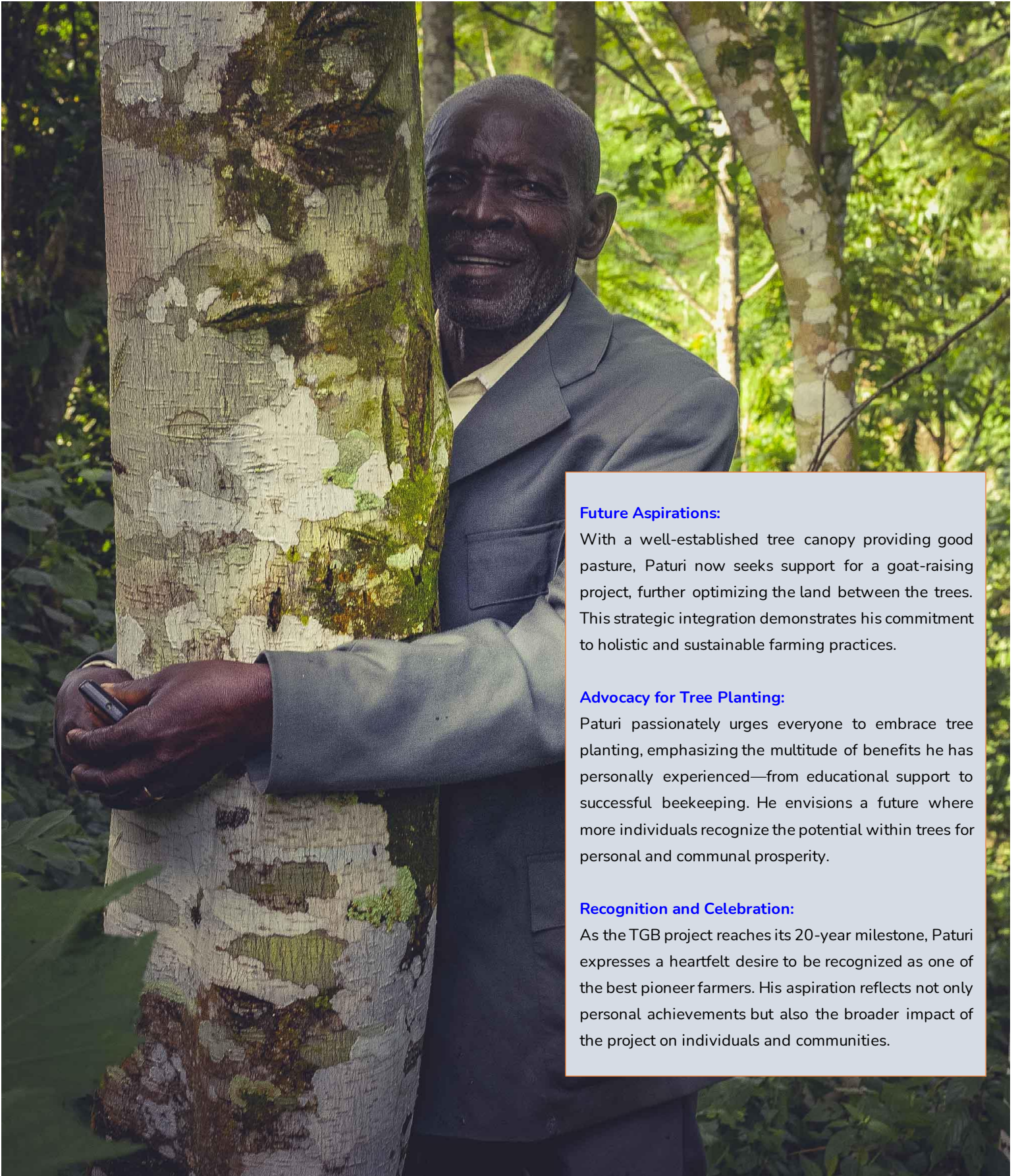
When Paturi initiated the thinning process of his trees, he garnered sufficient funds to construct a new house—a tangible manifestation of the financial benefits reaped through tree cultivation. Despite tempting offers to sell his trees for timber, Paturi remains steadfast, believing in allowing them to reach their full maturity.

Family Support and Future Vision:

Paturi's family stands united in supporting his decision to preserve the trees, recognizing the long-term benefits they hold. Looking ahead, he envisions harvesting timber in the next 20 years, confident that ECOTRUST will facilitate finding the right market for his yield, bringing prosperity to his household.

Diversified Agricultural Ventures:

In addition to tree cultivation, Paturi engages in diverse agricultural projects, cultivating millet, groundnuts, and cassava. Supported by ECOTRUST, he successfully ventures into beekeeping and coffee farming, adding layers of sustainability to his livelihood.



Future Aspirations:

With a well-established tree canopy providing good pasture, Paturi now seeks support for a goat-raising project, further optimizing the land between the trees. This strategic integration demonstrates his commitment to holistic and sustainable farming practices.

Advocacy for Tree Planting:

Paturi passionately urges everyone to embrace tree planting, emphasizing the multitude of benefits he has personally experienced—from educational support to successful beekeeping. He envisions a future where more individuals recognize the potential within trees for personal and communal prosperity.

Recognition and Celebration:

As the TGB project reaches its 20-year milestone, Paturi expresses a heartfelt desire to be recognized as one of the best pioneer farmers. His aspiration reflects not only personal achievements but also the broader impact of the project on individuals and communities.

5.1 Bangirana’s Family Legacy

Daudi Bangirana

Location / SC Bitereko subcounty, Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 800

Daudi Bangirana, during the project's nascent stage, held the positions of District Health Inspector and Councillor of Biteereko Subcounty in Bushenyi district. Introduced to the upcoming carbon project, he learned that group participation was encouraged, particularly with an emphasis on women's involvement. Collaborating with Beatrice Ahimbisibwe, then Chairperson of the Bitereko Subcounty women's group, they drafted a proposal outlining the group's engagement in the project.



Planting Seeds of Transformation

Facing initial hesitancy, as Eucalyptus trees were prevalent in the community, Daudi, leading by example, established two plots of indigenous trees alongside his wife. The project coordinators supplied tree seedlings to kick-start this transformative initiative. Within a year, the visible success of other participants receiving substantial carbon payments sparked widespread interest, causing a surge in project group memberships.

Ripple Effect and Unexpected Rewards

Daudi vividly remembers the ripple effect originating in Bitereko Subcounty, spreading throughout the district. Carbon payments, unexpected yet welcome, reached him, amounting to approximately UGX 400,000. His dedication to the project persisted, and he celebrated Beatrice's international recognition, attending conferences in Europe on carbon projects. Despite some early setbacks due to misinformation, Daudi observed the majority benefiting over the years.

Harvesting Success and Building a Legacy

Having harvested mature trees, Daudi derived income from timber and building poles, retaining a few in his plot. His wife, too, maintains all her trees, allowing them to flourish. Daudi firmly believes in the project's transformative impact on the community, lifting many out of poverty.

Proud Pioneer as TGB Turns 20

As the Trees for Global Benefits project commemorates its 20-year milestone, Daudi takes pride in his pivotal role during its inception. Expressing gratitude to ECOTRUST, he acknowledges the project's instrumental role in the area's development. Daudi remains a testament to the enduring impact of the Trees for Global Benefits initiative.

George Bangirana

Location / SC Kiyanja subcounty,
Mitooma District.

Entry year 2003

Trees Planted 800

George Bangirana's journey with the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project began as a legacy passed down from his father, an active TGB farmer with a substantial forest of diverse tree species. George's connection to the project deepened after his father's passing, as he took over a portion of the family forest.



Carbon Payments and Educational Support:

Reflecting on his father's active involvement, George acknowledges the pivotal role of carbon payments in sustaining their household. Even during his father's lifetime, carbon payments played a crucial role in funding George's education. Following his father's demise, George and his mother continued the TGB project, planting more trees and utilizing the mature ones for timber and firewood to meet educational expenses and other household needs.

University Journey and Harvested Trees:

While pursuing his university education, George and his family faced financial challenges. However, the project proved to be a lifeline. They strategically harvested ten mature trees, generating the funds necessary to support George through university. This significant contribution allowed him to successfully graduate and secure employment.

Community Impact and SACCO Management:

Currently serving as the manager of Bitereko People's Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO), George plays a key role in channeling TGB carbon payments to farmers in his community. His active involvement in the SACCO positions him as a living testament to the positive impact of the TGB project on individuals and communities.

Celebrating 20 Years of TGB:

George expresses admiration for the Trees for Global Benefits project, celebrating its 20-year milestone. Witnessing the positive transformations within his community, George considers the project a source of hope and resilience, particularly during challenging times.

A Call for Community Participation:

Encouraged by his personal journey, George extends a heartfelt invitation to neighboring communities to participate in the TGB project. He emphasizes the potential for positive impacts on individuals, especially during difficult times.

Belief in Environmental Benefits:

George strongly believes in the broader environmental benefits of tree growing, including improved air circulation and a deeper connection to nature.

6.0 Conclusion: A Grateful Salute to Our Pioneers

In the pages of this profile booklet, we've had the privilege of sharing [the inspiring stories](#) of a select few pioneers in the Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) project. Yet, we are acutely aware that behind these highlighted narratives [stand 138 remarkable individuals](#) who, during the pilot phase, planted the seeds of what has become a [thriving and transformative initiative](#).

As we celebrate the [20-year milestone](#) of the TGB project, we extend [our sincere gratitude](#) to each farmer who contributed to its inception and growth. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment to sustainable tree planting have been the bedrock on which this project has flourished.

While we've [captured glimpses](#) of the journeys of Bonny, Basera, Daudi, Tereza, and others, we want to emphasize that their stories echo the collective spirit of [all 138 farmers](#). Each one of you has played a pivotal role in bringing the TGB project to its current standing, contributing not only to personal growth but also to the broader prosperity of our [communities and the environment](#).

In expressing our gratitude, [we acknowledge](#) the challenges faced, the [triumphs celebrated](#), and the [enduring legacy](#) created by this cohort of pioneers. Your unwavering commitment has set the stage for [future generations](#) to continue reaping the benefits of sustainable tree planting.

As we reflect on the [past two decades](#), we are filled with admiration for [the resilience and foresight](#) demonstrated by our pioneering farmers. Your stories inspire us to forge ahead, ensuring that the next chapters of the TGB project are marked [by even greater achievements](#).

To all 138 pioneers, whether your story is shared here or not, [we thank you](#) for your [invaluable contributions](#) to the TGB project. Your legacy is etched in the growth of forests, the sustainability of livelihoods, and the profound impact on the environment. [Here's to 20 years of success](#), and to the countless chapters yet to be written!

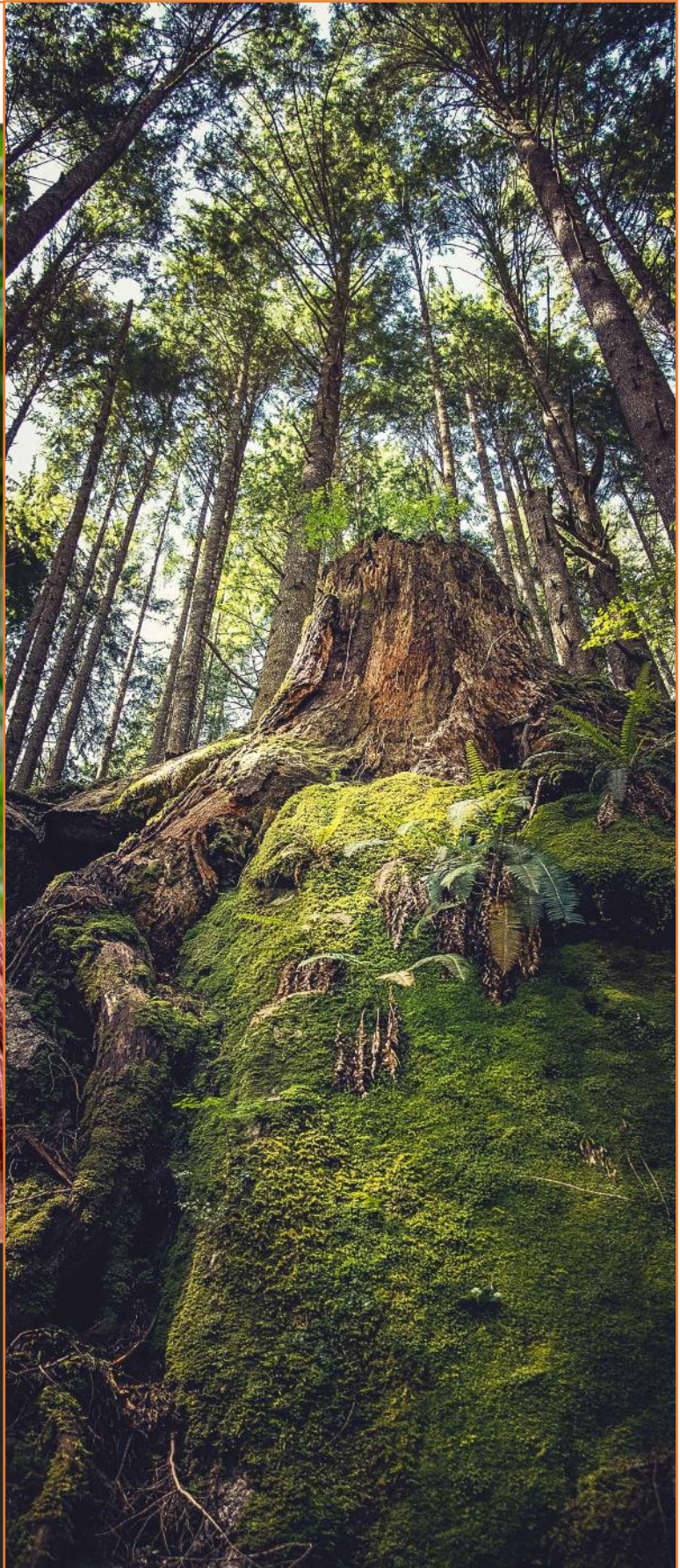
3.1 Appendix: TGB Pioneer Farmer List

No	Name	Subcounty	Trees	Area-Ha	Planting system	Planting season
1	Ntabirweki Eva	Bitereko	322	0.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
2	Ntsigaireho Betty	Bitereko	1000	2.5	Woodlot	2003-2004
3	Kato Eliasaph	Bitereko	1200	3	Woodlot	2009-2010
4	Ahimbisibwe Beatrice	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2003-2004
5	Kantereine Fabius	Bitereko	500	1.3	Woodlot	2003-2004
6	Tusasirwe Martia (Matiya)	Kiyanga	240	0.6		
7	Bushoborozi Benon	Kiyanga	1300	3.3	Woodlot	2003-2004
8	Buherero Milton	Kiyanga	800	2	Woodlot	2003-2004
9	Kapaasi Garvase	Kiyanga	175	0.4	Woodlot	2003-2004
10	Turyasingura medard	Kiyanga	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
11	Bagambe Francis	Kichwamba	400	1	Woodlot	2003-2004
12	Bikanshobera Patrick	Kichwamba	300	0.8	Woodlot	2003-2004
13	Byarufu Francis	Kichwamba	110	0.3	Woodlot	2003-2004
14	Matuga Joseph	Kichwamba	100	0.3	Woodlot	2004-2005
15	Basekya Hillary	Kichwamba	1700	4.3	Woodlot	2004-2005
16	Mugisha Akleo	Kichwamba	113	0.3	Woodlot	2004-2005
17	Muhoozi Zabron	Kichwamba	150	0.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
18	Bahigana Violet	Kichwamba	200	0.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
19	Byabagambi David	Kichwamba	150	0.4	Woodlot	2003-2004
20	Turyahikayo Wilson	Ryeru	1600	4	Woodlot	2004-2005
21	Batecereza Salongo	Ryeru	200	0.5	Woodlot	2003-2004
22	Tibanyendera Jolly	Ryeru	300	0.8	Woodlot	2003-2004
23	Kateeba Eric	Ryeru	400	1	Woodlot	2003-2004
24	Birungi Evaristo	Ryeru	100	0.3	Woodlot	2003-2004
25	Turyomugendo medard	Ryeru	300	0.8	Woodlot	2003-2004
26	Twetaise charles	Kiyanga	1600	4	Woodlot	2004-2005
27	Tukamuhabwa Paturi	Kiyanga	610	1.5	Woodlot	2006-2007
28	Besigayo Molly	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
29	Bandi Lilian	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2005-2006
30	Byaruhanga Annet	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
31	Barisimaki Charles	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2005-2006

32	Nshekanterirwe Peterenia	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
33	Bushoborozi benon	Bitereko	2100	5.3	Woodlot	2003-2004
34	Kashagama Godfrey	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2005-2006
35			19169	47.9		
36	COU Ndekye Parish	Bunyarguru	2000	5	Woodlot	2004-2005
37	Apporonali Bakanyih	Bunyarguru	500	1.3	Woodlot	2004-2005
38	Tumwesigye Anatoli	Bunyarguru	500	1.3	Woodlot	2004-2005
39	Byamugisha Florence	Bunyarguru	600	1.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
40	Rugazi Parish Priest	Bunyarguru	3000	7.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
41	Kabiite Siragi	Bunyarguru	4000	10	Woodlot	2004-2005
42	Tibenderana Gilazio	Bunyarguru	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
43	Baryeha Harriet	Kiyanga	2777	6.9	Woodlot	2004-2005
44	Bigumire Urbano	Kiyanga	666	1.7	Woodlot	2004-2005
45	Ndyanabo Justus	Kiyanga	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
46	Turyahikayo Stanley	Kiyanga	444	1.1	Woodlot	2010-2011
47	Mugerwa Paul	Bunyarguru	1078	2.7	Woodlot	2003-2004
48	Tibatunga Horistus	Bunyarguru	100	0.3	Woodlot	2004-2005
49	Bangirana George	Kiyanga	800	2	Woodlot	2004-2005
50	Tumwebaze Geresiimu	Kiyanga	600	1.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
51	Nshemereirwe Simple	Kiyanga	600	1.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
52	Kyabera Christine	Kiyanga	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
53	Bandwaniza Jackson	Kiyanga	600	1.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
54	Bagira Steven	Kiyanga	400	1	Woodlot	2005-2006
55	Kisegyese Yovanis	Bitereko	555	1.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
56	Rukundo scolar	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
57	Tumugabiirwe Donozio	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
58	Beth Waide	Bitereko	888	2.2	Woodlot	2004-2005
59	Rwamuriro Teddy	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
60	Rwabayambire Resty	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
61	Sinta Silver	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2005-2006
62	Kakyanira Fred	Bitereko	555	1.4	Woodlot	2005-2006
63	Barindwa Fausta	Bitereko	555	1.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
64	Bainomugisha Lawrence	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
65	Byashushaki Dezi	Bitereko	555	1.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
66	Kamugisha Lilian	Bitereko	555	1.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
67	Rwakinene Rose	Bitereko	555	1.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
68	Ampaiire Samuel	Bitereko	694	1.7	Woodlot	2005-2006

69	Ngabirano Paula	Bitereko	972	2.4	Woodlot	2005-2006
70	Mukiga Bonny	Bitereko	1388	3.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
71	Nabaasa Velly	Bitereko	700	1.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
72	Bagira Milcah	Kiyanga	401	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
73	Karisa Yoana	Bunyarguru	540	1.4		
74	Begumisa Moses	Bunyarguru	1027	2.6	Woodlot	2004-2005
75	Tukamuhabwa Marion	Kiyanga	400	1	Woodlot	2008-2009
76	Mugaba Amos	Kiyanga	400	1	Woodlot	2006-2007
77	Kanyarufu Christopher	Kiyanga	460	1.2	Woodlot	2006-2007
78	Kahadiki Juliet	Kiyanga	660	1.7	Woodlot	2005-2006
79	Mihanda Potiano	Kiyanga	530	1.3	Woodlot	
80	Muhereza Topista	Kiyanga	600	1.5	Woodlot	2006-2007
81	Saba Mujuni	Kiyanga	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
82	Baryeha Geoffrey	Kiyanga	530	1.3	Woodlot	2005-2006
83	Bwida Group	Kiyanga	600	1.5	Woodlot	
84	Byarugaba Francis	Kiyanga	330	0.8	Woodlot	2005-2006
85	Muhumuza Jennifer	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
86	Rutebemberwa Joverin (Jorulina)	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
87	Mpungirehe Imerida	Bitereko	1000	2.5	Woodlot	2006-2007
88	Batsiga Vereriano	Bitereko	1111	2.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
89	Mutabazi Margaret	Bitereko	1388	3.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
90	Musinguzi Harriet	Bitereko	694	1.7	Woodlot	2004-2005
91	Mugisha Beatrice	Bitereko	174	0.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
92	Natukunda Ann	Bitereko	1800	4.5	Woodlot	2004-2005
93	Kajaribu Alfred	Bitereko	1190	3	Woodlot	2004-2005
94	Turyasingura Polikalipo	Bunyarguru	1205	3		
95	Byarugaba Yerima	Bitereko	400	1	woodlot	2004-2005
96	Turyatamba Flugyensia	Bitereko	400	1	woodlot	2004-2005
97	Twesigye Denis	Bitereko	600	1.5	woodlot	2006-2007
98	Mirenzo Charles	Bitereko	600	1.5		
99	Basera Tereza	Bitereko	400	1	woodlot	2006-2007
100	Tugumisirize Christopher	Bitereko	400	1	woodlot	2004-2005
101	Mbanoha Benon	Bitereko	400	1	woodlot	2004-2005
102	Tibaijuka Emmanuel	Bitereko	700	1.8	woodlot	2004-2005
103	Ruth Musisa	Bitereko	400	1	woodlot	2006-2007
104	Tikwendera Appolinari	Kyamhunga	400	1		

105	Torimpena Fulugensia	Kiyanga	500	1.3	Woodlot	2007-2008
106	Akambikiira Nazarius	Bunyarguru	600	1.5	Woodlot	
107	Bagyenzire Cyril	Bitereko	555	1.4	Woodlot	2004-2005
108	Sande Augustance	Bitereko	700	1.8	Woodlot	2004-2005
109	Turwakunda Franco	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
110	Turyahikoayo Wilson	Bunyarguru	2000	5		
111	Ayinake Didas	Bunyarguru	372	0.9	Woodlot	2009-2010
112	Bushoborozi Benon	Kiyanga	2200	5.5	Woodlot	2003-2004
113	Alleluya Winfred	Bitereko	600	1.5	Woodlot	2006-2007
114	Karikuratako zabron	Bitereko	500	1.3	Woodlot	2006-2007
115	Natukunda Annah	Kiyanga	776	1.9	Woodlot	2004-2005
116	Kyomukama Mary	Kiyanga	1700	4.3	Woodlot	2006-2007
117	Agaba Annah	Kiyanga	1220	3.1	Woodlot	2010-2011
118	Bananura elisam	Kiyanga	1322	3.3	Woodlot	2008-2009
119	Byamugisha Deogracious	Bitereko	1000	2.5	Woodlot	2005-2006
120	Rwampororo Fortunate	Bitereko	1000	2.5	Woodlot	2008-2009
121	Ahimbisibwe Beatrice	Bitereko	1000	2.5	Woodlot	2008-2009
122	Twesigye Emmanuel	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2006-2007
123	Kwehuma K. Silyvia	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2008-2009
124	Banturaki George	Kiyanga	400	1	Woodlot	2008-2009
125	Tukwasibwe Deo	Kiyanga	600	1.5	Woodlot	
126	Mbeta africana	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2006-2007
127	Tumuhimbise Justine	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2006-2007
128	Karwemera Africano	Bitereko	600	1.5	Woodlot	2008-2009
129	Byamugisha Leo	Bitereko	600	1.5	Woodlot	2008-2009
130	Baine Simon	Bitereko	1500	3.8	Woodlot	2008-2009
131	Kihirita Prutazia	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2005-2006
132	Tweshengereze Mary	Bitereko	400	1	Woodlot	2004-2005
133	Buhweire Leonalda	Bitereko	1000	2.5	Woodlot	2006-2007
134	Mahungye Sec. School	Bitereko	1000	2.5	Woodlot	2008-2009
135	Bikangiso James	Kiyanga	1100	2.8	Woodlot	2008-2009
136	Atusimirwe Kakoko Phoebe	Bunyaruguru	800	2		
137	Mpora ludovick	Bunyaruguru	400	1	Woodlot	2008-2009
138	Kalema Masamba Betty	Bunyaruguru	400	1	Woodlot	2007-2008



**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
TREES FOR GLOBAL BENEFITS**

Eradicating Poverty One Ton (of Carbon)
At a Time!



www.ecotrust.or.ug



SCAN ME

About Us

The Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST) is an indigenous legal not-for-profit organization established in 1999 to champion and promote environmental conservation. Our Vision is "Climate Resilient Communities and Sustainable Landscapes" and Our mission is to "conserve biological diversity and enhance social welfare by promoting innovative and sustainable environment management."

ECOTRUST works with different communities and stakeholders to conserve natural resources and biodiversity i.e. natural capital while at the same time contributing to poverty alleviation, wealth creation, inclusive growth, and resilience of communities against the risks associated with climate change.

Contact Us

+256 414 4322 573
support@ecotrust.or.ug
www.ecotrust.or.ug

Facebook : [ECOTRUSTUg](https://www.facebook.com/ECOTRUSTUg)

Our Office

Plot 1034, House Number 85,
Lubowa Housing Estate,
Kampala, Uganda.

Twitter : [ECOTRUST_Ug](https://twitter.com/ECOTRUST_Ug)

