



# Trees for Global Benefits

## A Cooperative Rural Community Carbon Offsetting Scheme

### Based on the Plan Vivo System

Implemented by ECOTRUST

In partnership with rural communities in Uganda

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## How It Started

- ◆ Introduced in 2003 through community groups
- ◆ Objectives of Environmental Conservation & Improved Livelihoods
- ◆ Identified Tree Planting as a livelihood & Environmental Need
- ◆ Ecotrust Introduced the Community Groups to Carbon as a Financing Mechanism

# How it Started

- ◆ 33 farmers- 5 from Bitereko
- ◆ Other people initially not convinced to join
- ◆ Due to some misconceptions
- ◆ Currently the programme has more than 700 households with 316 from Bitereko
- ◆ Expanded to several districts e.g Hoima, Masindi, Elgon landscape, Rubirizi & Kasese



# General Benefits

## Carbon income

- ◆ Supports diversification of income sources
  - Livestock
  - Apiary
  - Fruit production
  - Coffee
- ◆ Medicinal Extracts
- ◆ School fees
- ◆ Improved Housing
- ◆ Add value to land
- ◆ Timber (in future)
- ◆ Pension

# Other Socio-economic Benefits



- ◆ Social Capital
  - ◆ Building Capacity for the CBO from a simple social group to a legally registered organisation
  - ◆ Strengthened the leadership of the CBO (Bitereko Carbon Community Group)
  - ◆ Build capacity of members in agro-forestry practices
- ◆ Constructed a school
- ◆ Set an example for other community members
- ◆ Supporting the village banks
  - ◆ All carbon farmers buy shares
  - ◆ Payments provide a continued flow of funds
  - ◆ Access to credit



# Environmental Benefits

- ◆ Reduced illegal activities in protected areas
- ◆ Soil conservation
  - Mulching
  - Soil stabilisation
  - Moisture retention
- ◆ Growing of threatened native tree species contributing to their conservation
- ◆ Improved watershed management

# Measures of Ensuring that Carbon is Delivered

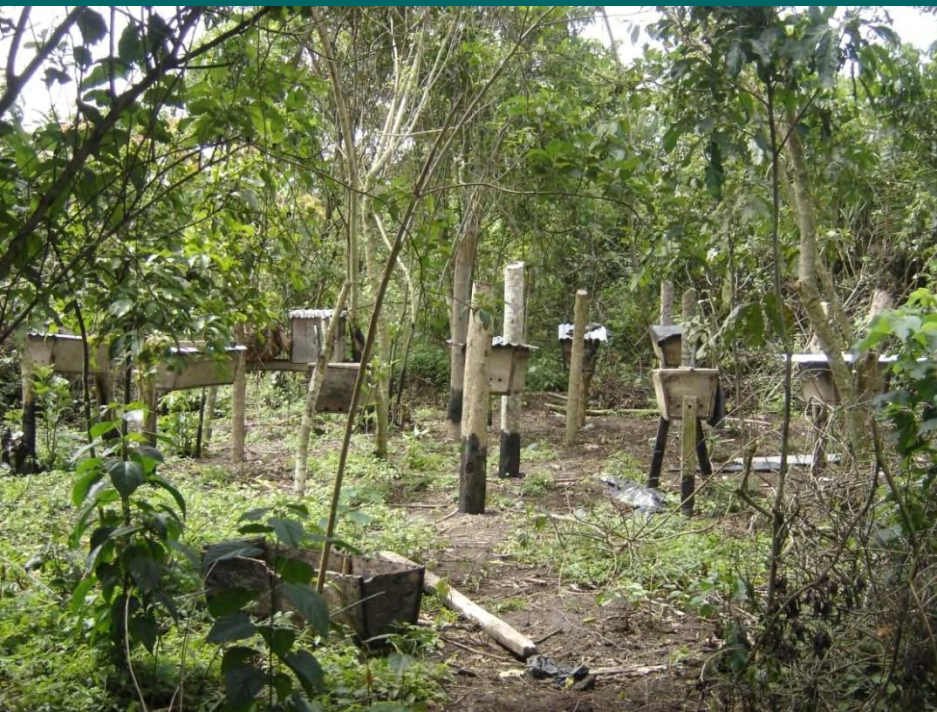
-Every farmer must have their own objective for planting trees e.g. timber, fruits, medicine etc.

- All family members must be involved in the project

-Proportional Payments based on performance

-Training all carbon farmers in the management of trees

-Risk Buffer of 10% deposited to Ecotrust account



# My Story





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Thank you!

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