



<b>PROGRAM TITLE:</b>	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation through Integrated Ecosystem-Based Landscape Restoration and Enhancement for Sustainable Tourism and Livelihoods in the Kigezi Highland Region, Southwestern Uganda	
<b>PROGRAM LOCATION</b>	Kigezi Region in the districts of Kabale, Kanungu, Rukungiri and Kisoro	
<b>PROGRAM DURATION</b>	5 Years	
<b>IMPLEMENTERS</b>	<b>Kabale University</b> <b>P.O. Box 317, Kabale</b> <b>Tel: +256 486 22803</b> 	<b>National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)</b> <b>P.O. Box 22255, Kampala</b> 
<b>IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS</b>	<b>District Local Governments of Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, and Rukungiri</b> <b>Kigezi Private Sector Foundation, FAO-Kagera Project</b>	

## **1.1 BACKGROUND**

The realities of global climate change, hunger, poverty, and burgeoning population on dwindling natural resources are no longer debatable. These challenges have sparked off a global conservation and environmental movement reflected in the collective effort such as Millennium Development Goals (MDGS), various conventions on climate change and biodiversity among others. This implies that these environmental challenges are so pronounced that no country, community or individual should dare be indifferent about their anticipated dangers. Research has shown that the situation for developing countries is worsened by the fact that these countries are not well equipped to mitigate these climate and environmental problems (UNFCCC, 2008). This fact implies that developing countries will be affected most both at national and individual levels because they tend to heavily rely on their environment for survival more over at a subsistence scale. The Kigezi region in South Western Uganda fits well within these general observations and is already facing serious climate change accelerated disasters. For example, erratic extreme weather events coupled with environmental degradation have already been led landslides in many parts of the region such as Kyokyezo, Kabimbiri, Bufundi and Karorwa; decline in crop productivity due to soil exhaustion; and rise in temperature by 0.39°C compared to the 0.3°C global temperature rise (National Environment Information Centre, 1994).

In line with her mission and vision, Kabale University recognizes her role to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Kigezi, Uganda, Eastern Africa, Africa, and the world through accessible training, research and decentralized service delivery, using participatory and inclusive approaches and methodologies. As such, the University found it prudent to respond to the environmental disasters that hit the region claiming over 10 people's lives including our own student. This is the spirit in which the idea of developing collaborative program, jointly implemented by Kabale University, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and the District Local Governments of the Kigezi region was conceived in 2010. The program entitled "*Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation through Integrated Ecosystem-Based Landscape Restoration and Enhancement for Sustainable Tourism and Livelihoods in the Kigezi Highland Region, South Western Uganda*" is at its final stage of preparation while already some components have been implemented.

## **1.2. PROGRAM VISION**

Achieving climate change proof improved and sustainable livelihoods through restored, enhanced and productive ecosystems, and tourism enterprise development

## **1.3. PROGRAM MISSION**

To empower and build capacity of Kigezi communities to sustainably harness ecosystems productivity through the promotion of intrinsic values of ecosystems, climate change resilience and adaptation strategies and practices, and development of tourism enterprises

## **1.4. OBJECTIVES**

1. To undertake research in alternative land use practices and livelihoods interventions including resources availability and use challenges; tourism potential development and; conservation and enhancement of critical ecosystems and; climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaption in the Kigezi region

2. To Mobilize and raise awareness of the people on the potentials and challenges of environment sustainability and development through improved resource use and climate change adaptation
3. Promote development and use of innovative technologies and skills in the use of resources potential including landscape restoration and enhancement, increased agricultural productivity, tourism development and climate change adaption in the Kigezi region
4. To facilitate community-based ecosystem restoration and climate change adaptation including cost-benefit analysis of the interventions
5. Promote partnership and practices in landscape management and efficient resource use for improved livelihoods and development including tourism enterprises; tree growing, water harvesting and; processing, packaging and marketing of produce.

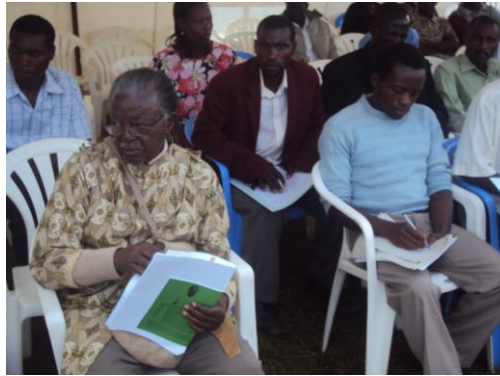
The program is comprised of five key components

**COMPONENT A: Continuous Highland Research and Monitoring**



**The multi-disciplinary team composed of NEMA, Kabale University Staff, District Local Government representatives and Communities continuously carry out research on emerging issues in Kigezi Highlands**

**COMPONENT B: Environmental Education and Outreach**



**The program has facilitated knowledge sharing and exchange of views between people of various disciplines and walks of life.**

**COMPONENT C: Ecosystem Restoration, Enhancement and Conservation**



**The double production campaign almost decimated all wetlands in Kigezi. This program has identified key wetlands and uplands for restoration in the first phase.**

## COMPONENT D: Tourism Development



The Rushebeya-Kanyabaha wetland is an example of a critical ecosystem that was identified for enhancement to support ecotourism development.

## COMPONENT E: Sustainable Integrated Environmental Management through partnership building



MORE PARTNERS  
ARE WELCOME!!!!

KIGEZI PRIVATE  
SECTOR FOUNDATION

KISORO DISTRICT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

KABALE DISTRICT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RUKUNGIRI DISTRICT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

KANUNGU DISTRICT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The program takes into account the reality that generally, conservation is a complex multi-faceted process and thus requires an integrated approach that can only be achieved through partnership with all key stakeholders.