

ECOLOGICAL CALL

"Sustainability a Must"



ECOLOGICAL TRENDS
ALLIANCE

Newsletter: Issue3: July-September, 2025



Featured Highlights

- Training Youths in Research
- Tackling Human-wildlife Conflict
- GLA Partners Review and Reflections
- Building Inclusive Communities at the Grassroots
- Youth It Lose It Conference

Message from the Director Programs



Greetings!!

As we close the 3rd Quarter of the year, we are excited to share key highlights and milestones from July to September.

We trained youths in research, addressed human–wildlife conflict, and promoted inclusive community building at the grassroots level.

In line with these efforts, GLA 2 partners had a review and reflection meeting in which we celebrated the milestones and achievements reached and reflected on the challenges encountered while we drew lessons from one another.

We are gearing up for the inaugural YouthIt or Loselt Conference happening at Miika Hotel in Hoima between 12-19th October, 2025.

The conference which brings youths from TBI partner states aims at empowering youths to create green innovations and sustainable livelihoods.

Enjoy the Read!!

Richard Ssemmanda
Director Programs

Celebrating Resilient Landscapes through training youths in research.



Three (3) staff from Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) together with four (4) youths from the local CFM groups were trained in the use of Kobo Toolbox Kit, a modern data collection Tool.

Using a Kobo Tool Kit, the trained youths conducted research in four of the communities Kaseeta, Munteme, Kyakatemba, and Kiziranfumbi to explore the impacts of the Green Livelihood Alliance (GLA 2) and working landscapes. The research was between 31st July-2nd August, 2025.

The research successfully documented local perspectives on resilient landscapes, emphasizing the role of community-led conservation and the impact of the ETA in the landscape. The data is still under analysis and key results will be shared in due time. The involvement of local researchers enhanced trust and accuracy in data collection.

The use of digital tools improved efficiency, ensuring real-time data submission and reducing errors common in paper-based methods. The youths will be key in passing on the knowledge learnt to others within their respective communities thus ensuring sustainability.



Tackling Human-wildlife Conflict through Agro-forestry in Munteme Village

Munteme is one of the villages at the edge of Itohya Forest in Kikuube District. The forest is habitat to various species of wildlife and notable among these are the Chimpanzees and baboons which cause a lot of destruction to people's crops on the edge of the forest. As part of overcoming the existing conflict, Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) formulated a Conflict Redress Strategy for Itohya forest and among the mechanisms suggested was to grow non palatable crops such as Irish potatoes, coffee and tea



2,000 coffee and indigenous tree seedlings were given to the Friends of Itohya Community Conservation Association (FICCA). In addition to solving the human-wildlife conflict, this initiative aims to strengthen the community resilience by diversifying and providing alternative livelihoods and in turn restore the degraded forest edges. The initiative fosters coexistence between Itohya Forest's wildlife and adjacent communities.

The seedlings were purchased from Wambabya Forest Conservation and Development Association (WAFOCODA) nursery bed another CFM group supported by ETA and this fosters a relationship across the groups.



GLA Partners Review and Reflections

With the GLA 2 (2021-2025) partnership coming to the end, there is many milestones to be celebrated and yet still many lessons to learn. Here are a few insights from our successful partnership with; Friends of Zoka, Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE)-Gender Partner and African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)-Advocacy.



- ➔ Due to the advocacy, 2 central forest reserves; Zoka Forest and Bugoma Forest have been saved and the laws on degradation tightened.
- ➔ Through research, a Conflict Redress Strategy was developed for Itohya Forest to address the recurrent conflicts between the local communities and owners of the forest, most prominent being the human-wildlife conflicts
- ➔ The continuous engagement of youths and women have seen a transformative shift of community gender perspectives and roles and now seeing more women and youths participating in association leadership, activities such as forest based enterprises and forest patrols

In spite of the milestones made, the journey is still long challenged by the patriarchal nature of most of our communities, population growth, climate change and the political climate. We are grateful for the support extended to us from Tropenbos International.



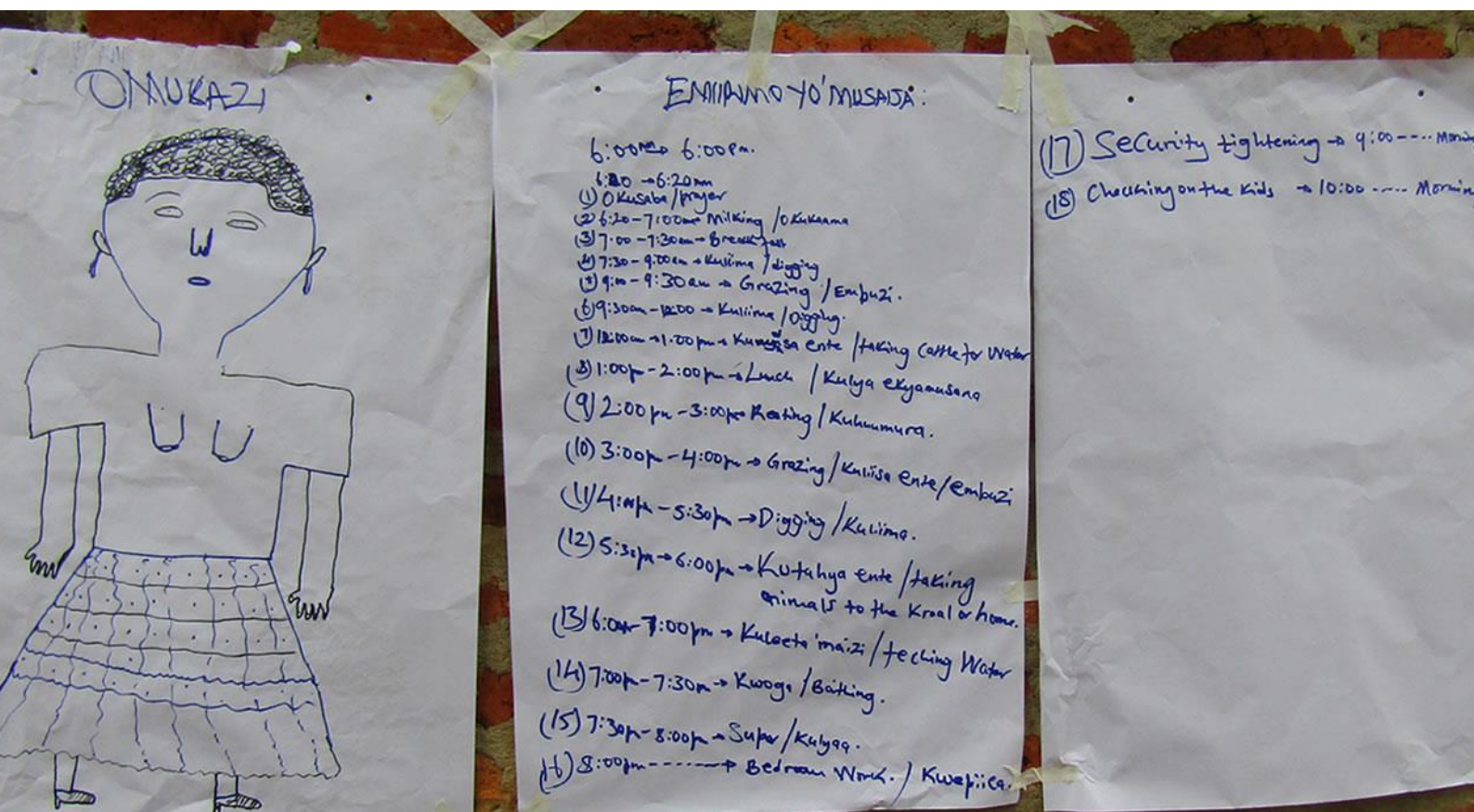
Building Inclusive Communities at the Grassroots

Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE), in a powerful partnership collaboration with the Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA), has successfully concluded a series of intensive gender mainstreaming trainings, marking a significant stride towards equity and inclusion in our partner communities in relation to forest governance.

This transformative initiative was in-house and communal. Firstly, ARUWE facilitated crucial in-house capacity-building sessions for our staff. This internal training focused on deepening our understanding of gender concepts, enabling our teams to effectively integrate gender equity into projects right from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation. A core component of this process was the comprehensive review and updating of our Organization Gender Action Plan (OGAP) and Gender Policy, ensuring they remain robust, relevant, and responsive to the evolving needs of the women and communities that we serve.

Refreshed with this expertise, together with ARUWE, we moved into the communities, conducting widespread community-level trainings. Over 552 community members in Friends of Community Conservation Association (FICCA (100)), Wambabya Forest Conservation and Development Association (WAFOCODA (79)), Bugamba and Wambabya Forest Conservation Development Association (BWAFOCODA (104)), Friends of Itohya Forest Club (FIFC (50)), Abeteirene Tree Growers and Conservation Association (ATGANCA (30)), Kaseeta Tugendemumaiso Tree Growers Association (KATOA (130)), Mpanga Conservation and Development Association (MCODA (59)) groups, including local leaders, farmers, and entrepreneurs, have now benefited from practical sessions on recognizing and challenging gender stereotypes, promoting shared household decision-making, and ensuring equitable access to and control over resources.

The most inspiring outcome is the tangible implementation of these lessons at the absolute lowest levels. We are already witnessing positive changes, more women are participating in forest patrols, FBEs, village council meetings, men are increasingly engaging in domestic responsibilities, and community savings groups are adopting more inclusive strategies. This grassroots adoption is the true measure of success, proving that when equipped with the right knowledge, communities can powerfully drive their own journey toward gender equity and equality to achieve sustainable development.



YOUTH IT OR LOSE IT CONFERENCE

Ecological Trends Alliance, Uganda is hosting the first-ever Youth IT or Lose It Regional conference in Africa.

THEME: Green Innovations and Sustainable Livelihoods.



12th-19th October, 2025



Miika Eco-Resort, Hoima, Uganda

Participants will:

- Connect with youth from across different countries.
- Design and launch the Youth IT or Lose It initiative in their respective countries.
- Share personal stories, experiences, and visions for the future.
- Learn new skills, get inspired, and inspire others.



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Thank you for your support and interest in our work.

Together, we can make a difference for our
planet and its people.

