



# ANNUAL REPORT | 2023



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A group of people, including a woman in a colorful patterned dress, are sitting on the ground under a large, leafy tree in a rural setting. The scene is outdoors with lush greenery and a dirt ground.

## About Ecological Trends Alliance

Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) is a registered National Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Uganda registered with the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations a requirement in the NGO Act 2016.

### Our vision

The vision is to contribute to sustainable development through knowledge and experience-based options for humanity.

### Our Mission

To secure solutions to biodiversity and development challenges through providing biologically diverse and proven alternatives.

### Our Core Values

**Honesty:** We are committed to a clean and quality job with respect for all humanity through integrity and ethical considerations in all our actions and operations.

**Safety:** We promote a sound Healthy, Safe and Clean Environment culture in our engagements.

**Creativity:** We encourage innovativeness in our work while exploring new heights by setting higher goals for continuous improvement.

**Adaptability:** It is a fact that change is rapid and we therefore embrace dynamism.

<http://www.ecotrendsalliance.org/>



## Facts and figures



4 Publications produced



Ugx 853 Million + amount of grants received



6 Community groups worked with



2 Print Media articles published



4 Districts worked in



12 Full time and part-time staff.



2 projects Implemented successfully



2 Memorandum of Understanding being implemented



5080 Trees planted by IPLC's



1 Documentary under production



2 School Environment Clubs formed



## Message from the Chairman

The Ecological Trends Alliance Board is the governing body for the Organisation tasked with the main responsibility of offering strategic policy guidance for overall growth of the organisation and ensuring that the organisation delivers on its mission and goals. This year presented some of those issues that required proper guidance from the board.

This board had already served for 5 years and therefore 2022 marked the end of that term. However, the constitution stipulates that the board can serve for up to two terms. In their wisdom, they advised to maintain the status quo for another term.

Our strategic plan was developed for 2023 – 2032 and was approved by the board enabling us to work for the next 10 years.

The priority for next year (2024) will be the financial manual reflecting the changes in strategic plan as approved from the board.

Three strategic documents (strategic plan, budgets and financial manual) and other policy documents formed discussion points in 2023. I would like to congratulate the team on work well done and invite you to read our annual report.

I thank you all.

Thomas Mayega Kiwanuka

Chairman, Board



## Message from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to share our progress towards achieving our mission of securing solutions to biodiversity and development challenges. Thanks to the generous support from Tropenbos International, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the European Union, We made significant strides in research, capacity development, community engagement, and conservation programmes.

We successfully implemented two main projects; Wildfire Project and Green Livelihoods Alliance 2 (GLA2) in Bugoma landscape. Notably, we successfully negotiated and signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the districts of Hoima and Kikuube, while engaging six community groups within these districts. It is through these groups that we built capacity, raised awareness and implemented livelihoods projects.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, with special appreciation to our esteemed board for their guidance. Together, we are making meaningful impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Thank you.

**Michael Opige**

Executive Director

## Our Program:



### 1 ] Research

#### Publications:

Ecological Trends Alliance conducts studies aiming to provide new knowledge in targeted subject matter. We conducted studies on Wildfires and their effects on ecosystems. We worked closely with local communities, practicing conservation agriculture which contributes greatly to ecosystem restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation and also safeguarding local livelihoods. These interventions were guided by the various research works of the organisation.

#### Documentary:

Ecological Trends Alliance produce documentaries that inspire change. We believe in the power of storytelling to drive meaningful conversations. Our documentary wildfires with Uganda (Bugoma-Budongo Landscape) is one of such production

#### Print media:

The print media publication usually used to inform the public about the current status of our ongoing activities. We published 2 articles and these informed the ongoing fight against the illegal activities in Bugoma forest and the other raising awareness on wildfires and their effects on biodiversity.

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## Published Papers

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Articles listed below and can be access on our website <http://ecotrendsalliance.org>

1. Byakagaba Patrick &Nangendo Grace, (2023). Wildfire Management Strategy for Budongo-Bugoma Landscape Mid-Western Uganda 2025-2030.
2. Nangendo Grace (2023). Mapping burnt areas and fire risk assessment for Bugoma- Budongo landscape.
3. Masiga Moses, (2023). Feasibility of smallholder conservation Agriculture for IPLC's within the Bugoma landscape.
4. Masaiga Moses, (2023). Ecological footprint of oil and gas industry to the Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) and ecosystems in the Bugoma Landscape.

Byakagaba Patrick &Nangendo Grace, (2023).

Wildfire management strategy for Budongo-Bugoma landscape mid-western Uganda 2025- 2030 focussed on preventing and reducing wildfire to foster biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable livelihoods.

Nangendo Grace (2023).

Mapping burnt areas and fire risk assessment for Bugoma- Budongo landscape, this focussed at generating information that will inform national wildfire strategy development through lessons from the Bugoma – Budongo landscape.

Masiga Moses, (2023).

Feasibility of small holder conservation agriculture for Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) within the Bugoma landscape. This was aimed at exploring the potential of implementing conservation agriculture contributing to improved soil fertility and reduced land and soil degradation, increased food production, income security, social inclusiveness, ecosystem restoration and management within the Albertine Graben. These are all based on community perception and willingness to participate in different techniques of conservation agriculture within Bugoma Landscape.

Masaiga Moses, (2023).

Ecological footprint of oil and gas industry to the Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) and ecosystems in the Bugoma Landscape. The ecological footprint measures the total land and water area necessary to sustain a population indefinitely at its current consumption rate and standard of living. It includes the resources consumed and waste generated by the population. In the case of the Bunyoro area, which covers 839,152 hectares with a bio-capacity of 1.38 million hectares across various land use types like farmlands, inland water, forests, and built-up areas, the projected medium-term economic activities, particularly related to oil and gas production, result in an ecological footprint of 3.3 million hectares. This footprint exceeds the area's bio-capacity by approximately 2.01 million hectares.



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## Print Media

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### Print Media Article 1.

Forest patrols; women take-up the lead to reduce illegalities in Wambabya forest published on Monday, December 4th, 2023 which highlighted the participation of women in various sectors of society and environmental conservation through their membership to Wambabya Forest Conservation and development Association. (Newvision)

### Print Media Article 2.

Supporting effective fire management in Uganda – Informs the climate smart locally owned solutions to reduce the risk of wildfire occurrences in the Bugoma - Budongo Landscape in coordination with NARC-G (North Albertine Rift Coordination Group).

[www.tropenbos.org/file.php/2596/20230425](http://www.tropenbos.org/file.php/2596/20230425)



Documenting wildfire in Bugoma - Budonga landscape area.

## 2] Capacity Development



About 150 members (30% females & 70% males) were engaged in the awareness creation and capacity building on wildfires in the Bugoma – Budongo Landscape.



More than 26 organizations and institutions were engaged in the process of wildfire strategy development within the landscape, these included the private forest owners, Farmers, Sugar companies, Oil & Gas companies NFA, UWA, NEMA and the District Local Government Officials.



6 District level stakeholder meetings were held aimed at developing a fire management strategy for different actors in Bugoma – Budongo Landscape.



One local community Abeteraine Tree Growers and Nature Conservers Association (ATGANCA) group with 30 members was established, registered at sub county and district level and with gender balanced leadership.



30 community members equipped and trained in all plant nursery bed practices and management skills.



Over 1,000 community members in Kaseeta parish trained in proper waste disposal and use of incinerators constructed in 5 villages of Nyairongo, Rwengabi, Hohwa, Kyenjojo and Kaseeta.



Group registration



60 Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) and IPLC members of Bugambe Wambabya Forest Conservation and Development Association (BWAFOCODA), Wambabya Forest Conservation and Development Association (WAFOCODA) and Abeteraine Tree Growers and Nature Conservers Association (ATGANCA) trained in making Fuel Efficient Stoves for sustainable use of wood fuel and improvement of livelihoods.



30 IPLC and CFM members trained in how to tap from tourism using locally available opportunities 2 CFM groups were trained, in forest monitoring equipped with protective gears to aid forest monitoring activities



30 ATGANCA IPLC group members trained in (Village Savings and Loans Association) VSLA for sustainable use of the resources (money) attained from the sale of seedlings from community group's plant nursery.



Together with ARUWE over 40 women, men and youths from CFM and IPLC groups of Kyakatamba and Karama were trained in gender and sex roles to stimulate inclusive gender participation in forest governance.



Capacity of the Ecological Trends Alliance staff on Civic space security, Theory of Change using practical country experiences and the use of Miro board application.

### 3 | Community engagement / Livelihoods



We initiated a goat rearing project to improve community livelihoods with Bugambe - Wambabya forest and development association (CFM).



Village Saving and Loans Association initiated with ATGANCA to improve on the house hold productivity and income.



A plant nursery bed with over 13000 indigenous tree species was established by ATGANCA to increase group's income.



Beekeeping project initiated with MCODA CFM to increase sustainable livelihood base in the community.

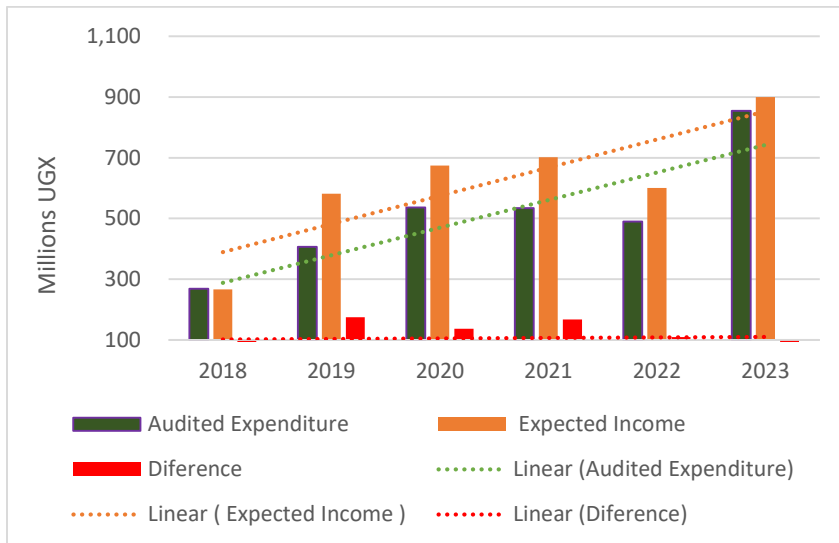


## 4] Conservation

1. 2 primary School Environment Clubs established to mentor youths in conservation with a total number of 135 members. Named after GLA2 theme ‘Forests for a Just Future’ at Kaseeta primary School and Shine Africa primary school Kigaga- Kyakatemba.
2. 5080 trees planted by local community group members on their land as woodlots and agroforestry trees.
3. 1 acre of trees as a woodlot planted to reduce over dependence on the existing natural forests by ‘Forests for a Just Future’ Shine Africa school Environment Club.
4. Illegalities Intercepted in Wambabya forest trough weekly patrols done members from the CFMs of Bugambe and Kyakatemba.
5. Proper waste management of non-biodegradable materials improved with 5 incinerators constructed in five different villages in Kaseeta Parish.
6. Engaged NFA, UWA, NEMA, TEPU, CNOOC, Sugar companies, CSO’s and Private tree plantation owners in drafting a wildfire management strategy and action plan for the districts of Hoima, Kikuube, Masindi and Buliisa (Budongo – Bugoma Landscape).
7. Stakeholders were informed about the current status of wildfire spread in their region with the aid of completely processed burnt wildfire maps. Stakeholders realized the urgency for wildfire reduction and prevention in this landscape in line with conserving their region for future generations to come. (6 District stakeholder meetings were held in the Landscape about wildfires)

# Our Organisation

## 1. Growth of the organisation



- a) Functional board: The board started their second term in 2023 and two meeting were held in the same year.
- b) Annual audits: Quarterly financial reports documented and financial status reports of the board provided.
- c) Strategic plan and financial management manual: Our strategic plan for 10 years was developed and approved for 2023 - 2032.  
  
The financial manual; the financial manual was reviewed and will be presented to the board for approval.
- e) Building working relations with local governments is a continuous process and on going.
- f) Collaborations with Authorities: Our organisation maintained good working relationships with National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and National Forestry Authority (NFA) who have constantly aided us with technical backup and their resources are the bases of our work. This is in addition to various Local governments and the natural resources under their jurisdiction.

g) Networks and coalitions: We have been working in partnership with other like-minded Organisations and Networks: Northern Albertine Rift Coordination – Group (NARC-G), Uganda Conservation Foundation, African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), Bulindi Community Chimpanzee Project, Uganda Conservation Foundation and Civil Society Organisation Environment and Natural Resources Network (CSO-ENR Network) and other pressure groups such as The Save Bugoma Campaign.

We also worked with ARUWE in providing equal opportunities for both men and women in leadership in the landscape.

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## 2. Mentorship / human resource

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- Worked with Action for Women's Rural Empowerment (ARUWE) in mainstreaming gender and local community governance.
- Two School Environment clubs were founded. With total member of 135 pupils.
- ETA staff trained in project fund raising.
- One ETA staff engaged in workshops with integrity working group aimed at developing integrity policy for the organisation.

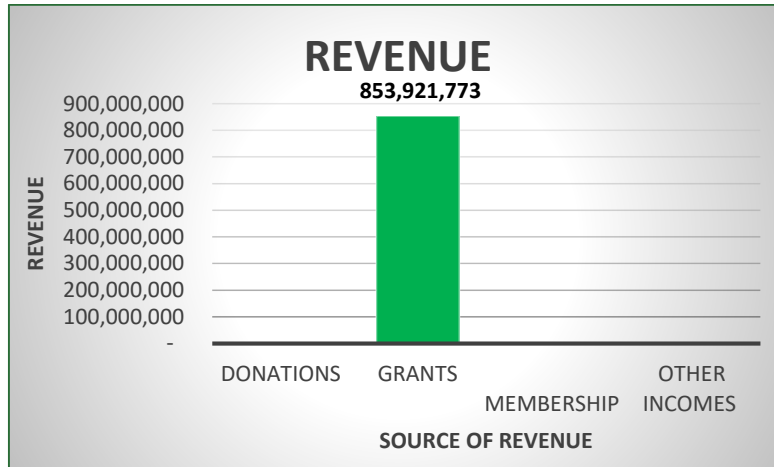


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## 3. Funding

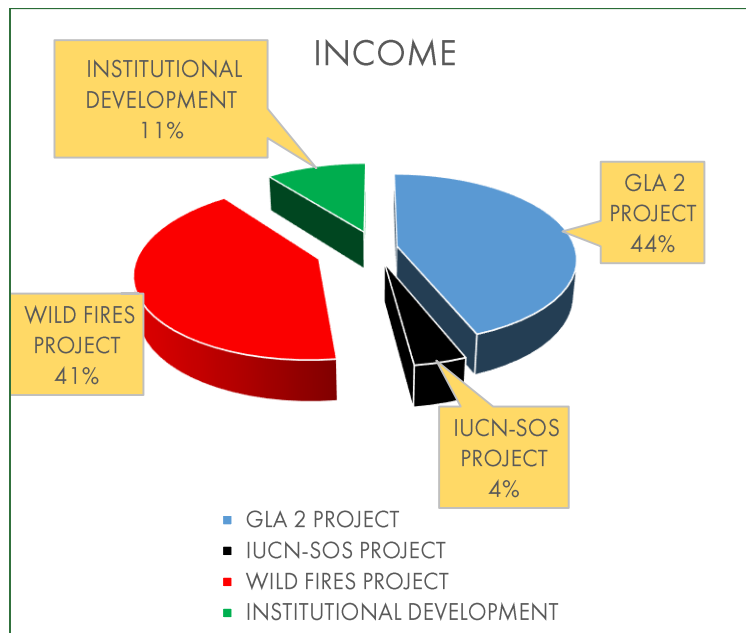
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### 3.1 Income Sources



We implemented programmes to the tune of UGX 853,4,000,000 with largely donor funding in form of grants.

### 3.2 Contribution from different projects



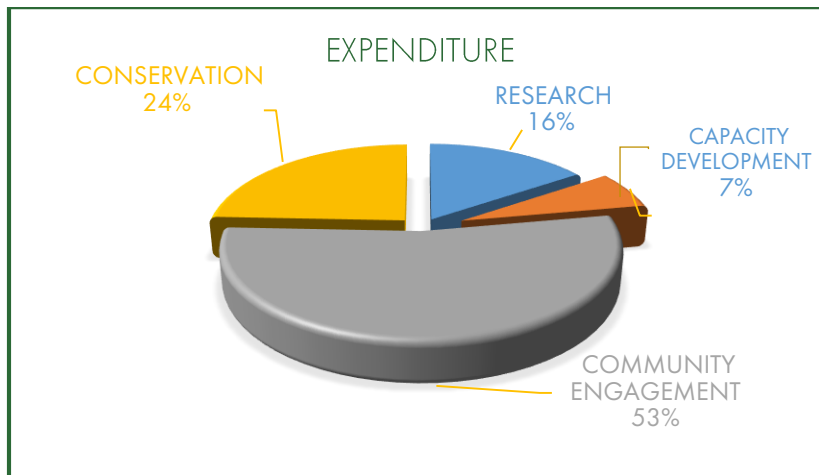
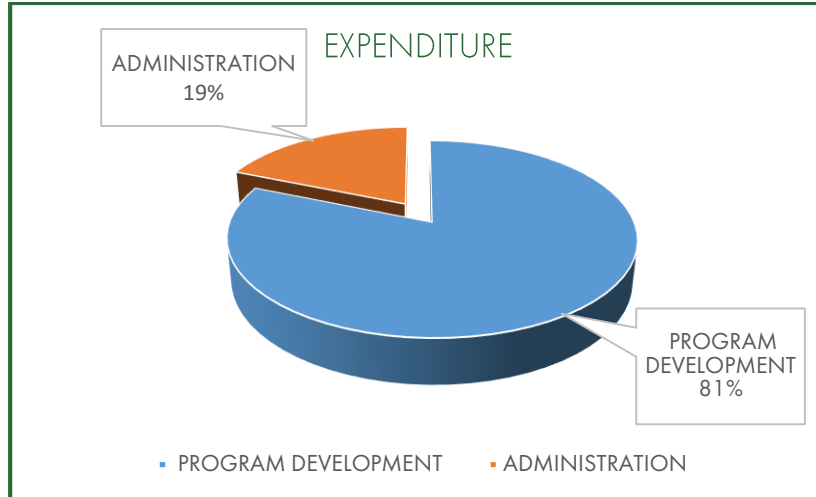
The funds came from three projects, IUCN-Save Our Species, Wildfires & Green Livelihoods Alliance to support the smooth running of these projects and to aid institutional development of Ecological Trends Alliance.



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## 4. Expenditure

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## 5. Partner Appreciation

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Here are the partners with whom we have worked in 2023. We are grateful for the trust you have put in us and we acknowledge that without your financial and technical support, we could not have achieved the goal we set for ourselves.



Government of the Netherlands





...“enhancing environmental conservation and knowledge for the benefit of the people and sustainable national development” ...

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