



**Good
Forests
Foundation
Uganda**

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Good Forests Foundation Uganda

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Our Origin

Good Forests Foundation Uganda (GFU) is a locally registered non-governmental organisation (Registration No. INDR175996994NB) dedicated to advancing reforestation, agroforestry and sustainable value chains to build resilient communities and restore degraded landscapes. GFU was established by the former Uganda country team of Fairventures Worldwide (FVW), an international NGO based in Stuttgart, Germany. Fairventures Worldwide remains our principal partner and funder, supporting our ongoing reforestation initiatives.

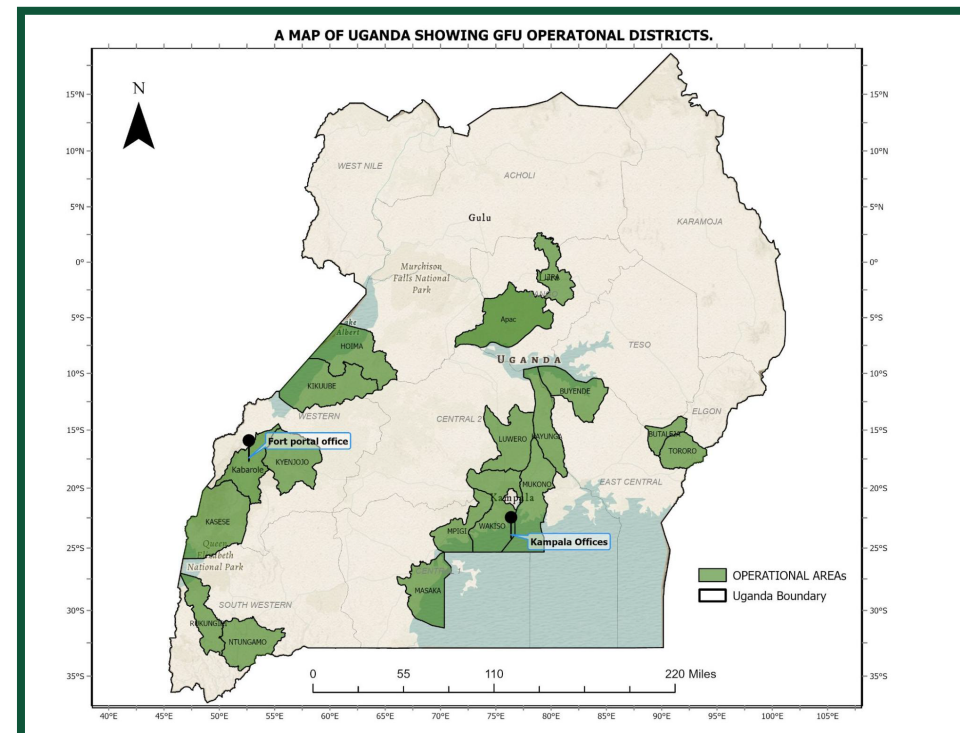
While the organisational structure has changed, the team's core mission of empowering smallholder farmers through reforestation and the vision that "Good Forests are Climate Solutions", remains unchanged. This strategic transition positions GFU for greater national ownership, long-term sustainability, and strengthened compliance within Uganda, while continuing to build on the impactful legacy established by Fairventures Worldwide.



Background

Today, GFU operates across Central, Eastern, and Western Uganda, working closely with local communities to restore degraded landscapes and promote sustainable land use. With operational offices in Kampala and Fort Portal, the organisation is well-positioned to coordinate activities effectively across multiple regions.

The map below highlights the districts where GFU currently works with local communities, as well as the locations of the GFU operational offices. GFU has offices in Kampala and Fort Portal city, which makes the coordination of all activities throughout Uganda effective.



GFU's approach recognises that reforestation goes beyond tree planting. The organisation promotes sustainable agroforestry systems that combine ecological restoration with economic opportunity. By working with smallholder farmers, GFU supports the establishment of resilient forest systems that generate income, enhance biodiversity and contribute to climate change mitigation. These systems are linked to responsible value chains, ensuring long-term benefits for both communities and ecosystems.

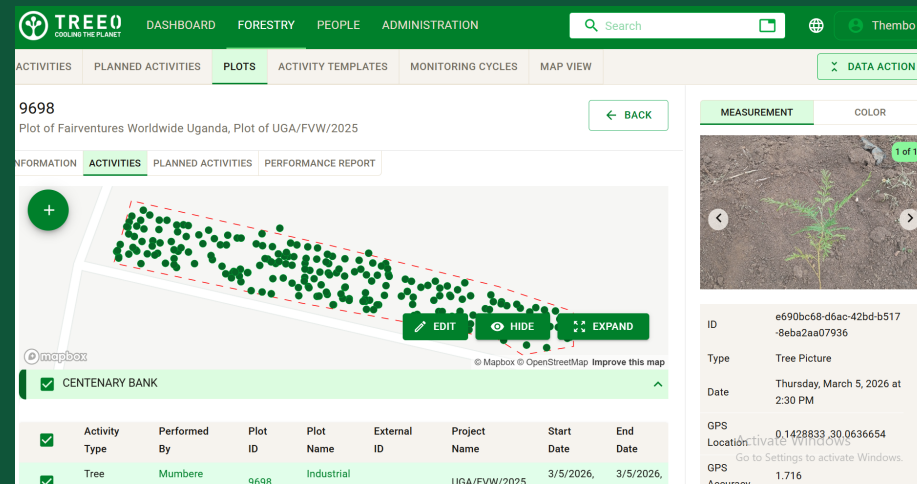
Uniqueness in our approach

To ensure transparency and measurable impact, GFU uses the TREEO App to annually monitor and document every tree planted. This includes tracking tree growth, species, survival rates and carbon sequestration. The data generated enables continuous improvement of interventions, accountability to partners and tailored technical support to farmers.

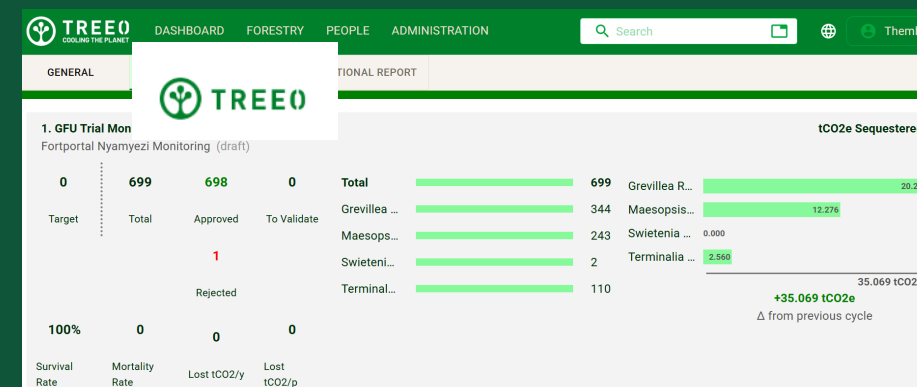


Single tree monitoring in the field using TREEO App

Icon of the TREEO App



Back-end view of the TREEO App of a little tree monitoring



Impact dashboard showing plot performance

As a non-profit organisation, GFU finances its work through a combination of grants, donations, corporate partnerships and consulting services. The organisation operates through a decentralised structure, guided by a Board of Directors and a General Assembly, with day-to-day leadership provided by the Director overseeing a team of 53 staff.

Field Implementation is supported by three (3) Regional Forestry Coordinators (FFCs), each responsible for specific regions, and fourteen (14) Farmer Training Facilitators (FTFs), who work directly with smallholder farmers to deliver training, support the adoption of agroforestry practices, and facilitate Farmer Field Schools.

Through this arrangement, GFU has:

- Worked with over 6,518 smallholder farmers
- Restored 2,942 hectares of degraded landscapes
- Raised and distributed more than 2,140,000 tree seedlings across Eastern, Western, and Central Uganda
- Achieved 79.7% tree survival rate in its tree planting operations, as found out during the May 2025 monitoring exercise.

2.0 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Nursery activities

Since 2018, the team has established 19 nurseries (12 active currently) across 8 districts (Kasese, Hoima, Kyenjojo, Fort Portal, Kayunga, Tororo, Rukungiri, and Ntugamo). These nurseries produce indigenous and agroforestry species such as:

Timber spp (*Maesopsis eminii*, *Terminalia superba*, *Cordia africana*, *Prunus africana*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Spathodea campanulata*, *Melia volkensii*, *Neem tree*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Bathedavia*, *Albizia coriaria*, & *Markhamia lutea*, *Mvule* and *Mahogany*)

Fruit trees (*mango*, *avocado*, *jackfruit*, *guava*, *coffee*, *cocoa*)

These nurseries also provide employment opportunities, skills development, and improved access to quality seedlings within the communities.



Kasese Nursery



Hoima Nursery

2.2 Forest Restoration and NFA Collaboration

In 2022, an MOU was signed with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) to reforest 1,000 hectares in the Jubiya Central Forest Reserve (CFR) in Masaka district.

After a successful pilot with the NFA in 2023, which resulted in 18,450 trees planted, GFU is now implementing a road map to support the NFA in sustainably restoring the entire 1,000 HA. A community steering committee, led and managed by residents, has been established to ensure participatory forest management. At the same time, Good Forest Foundation Uganda (GFU) developed a sustainable restoration model to create local livelihoods while protecting forest health. GFU has been able to plant 43,750 trees to date in efforts to restore Jubiya CFR. The steering committee together with 5 Good Forest rangers conduct routine forest patrols to curb any illegalities within the CFR.

GFU is currently supporting a Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration project in Jubiya CFR, Masaka. This project enables farmers and the NFA to restore the forest and promote sustainable land use practices cost-effectively. By identifying and protecting naturally occurring tree stumps and roots, farmers can regenerate trees and shrubs, improving soil health and enhancing the ecosystem. This approach not only sequesters carbon but also improves their crop yields, increases the availability of fuel wood, and enhances resilience to climate change.



Jubiya CFR before restoration efforts



Jubiya CFR after the start of restoration and forest protection

2.3 Development of Sustainable Timber Value Chain

In 2023, FVW/GFU launched the Timber Innovation Centre (TIC), a structure entirely built of wood, in the heart of Kampala. The TIC is a go-to place where stakeholders from the forestry and construction sectors meet in discussions to promote and advance sustainable timber construction in Uganda.



Rooftop of Crown House building before setting up TIC



After the setup of TIC

2.4 Landscape Restoration Success

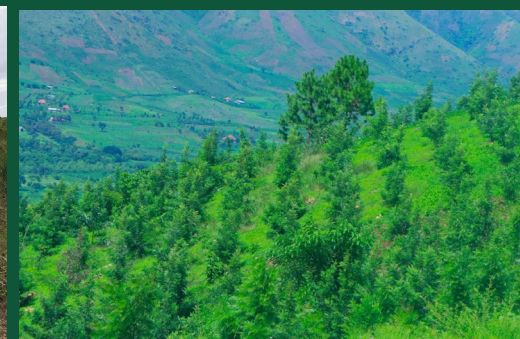
Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu Hill (Kasese)

In 2019, the team started its work on greening the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu (OBR) Royal Hill in Kasese with a launch, signing MoUs with People and Nature Rwenzori (PANR) and OBR.

The project faced major challenges like land conflict from neighbours who kept uprooting the seedlings, poor soils due to the rocky nature of the soils, but with commitment to the afforestation, the team saw success in the form of a green hill. Intensive tree planting started in 2022, where 12 ha were planted and an additional 9 ha in 2023. To date, a total of 48,600 trees have been planted at the OBR hill, and 25,521 survived as of the May 2025 monitoring exercise.



OBR hill before afforestation



OBR hill current state after afforestation

2.5 Collaborative Forest Management with communities

GFU is actively involved in restoring degraded Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) in Uganda through formal Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) arrangements with local, forest-adjacent communities and the National Forestry Authority. Under these agreements, communities co-manage portions of the reserve and are allocated specific areas for reforestation and agroforestry, enabling sustainable livelihoods while restoring forest cover.

Since 2022, GFU has partnered with 3 CFM groups, namely:

1. Nyamwezi CFM.

The group was allocated 50 HA of Kagora CFR (Kyenjojo district) to start managing in a Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) arrangement in 2021. GFU started tree-growing activities with the CFM group in September 2022 after consultations with the local NFA supervisor as of 2022. They have been attending GFU training and planting seedlings from the Kyenjojo nursery since 2022, a total of 46,456 trees planted and 28,360 surviving as of

2. Kajuma Itwara Farmers Environment Conservation Association (KIFECA): This group was assigned 450 HA of Itwara CFR (Kyenjojo District) to start managing in a CFM arrangement. GFU started tree growing activities with the CFM group in September 2023 after consultations with the local NFA sector office in Fort Portal, and to-date, a total of 58,915 trees have been planted, and 44,308 trees are surviving as of May 2025 monitoring exercise.



Before



After



Restored areas of Itwara CFR in Kyenjojo District

3. Kabende Sustainable Forest Users (KASFU CFM)

was allocated 50 HA of Itwara CFR (Kyenjojo District) to start managing in a CFM arrangement. GFU started its tree planting activities with the CFM group during the September 2025 planting season as a form of partnership in restoring the degraded part of a forest reserve. So far, GFU has planted 11.1 Ha with a total of 6,937 tree seedlings.

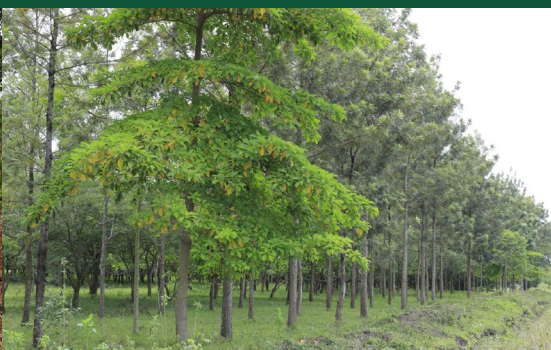
2.6 Test Fields

Good Forests Foundation has several test fields set up in Kasese and Hoima. These were set up as practical sites to show how different species grow when mixed with each other, taking into consideration the climate and soil conditions of the area.

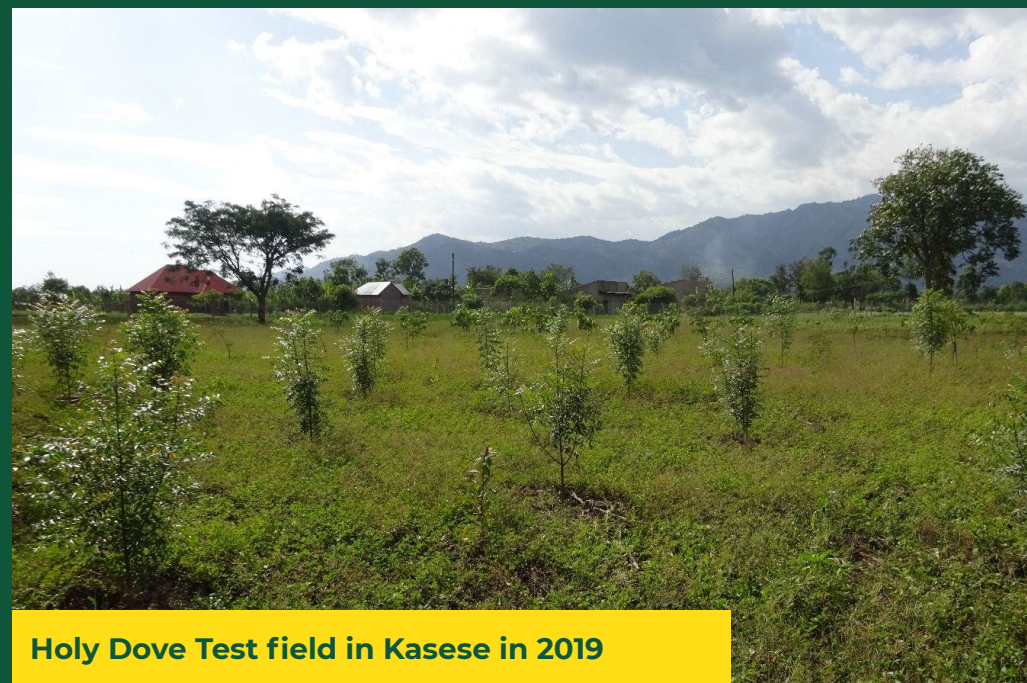
In Hoima, GFU established test fields with FVW at Miika Estates in 2019 and St. Simon Peter in 2019. In Kasese, test fields were established at Holydove in 2018 and at Kasese Youth Polytechnic (KYP) in 2019. Together, these four test fields cover 3 Ha and feature species such as *Melia volkensii*, *Terminalia superba*, *Cordia* spp., *Grevillea robusta*, *Croton megalocarpus*, and *Albizia* spp., serving as demonstration farms to showcase how mono species perform under the different silvicultural practices. These test fields have been regularly monitored and pruned.



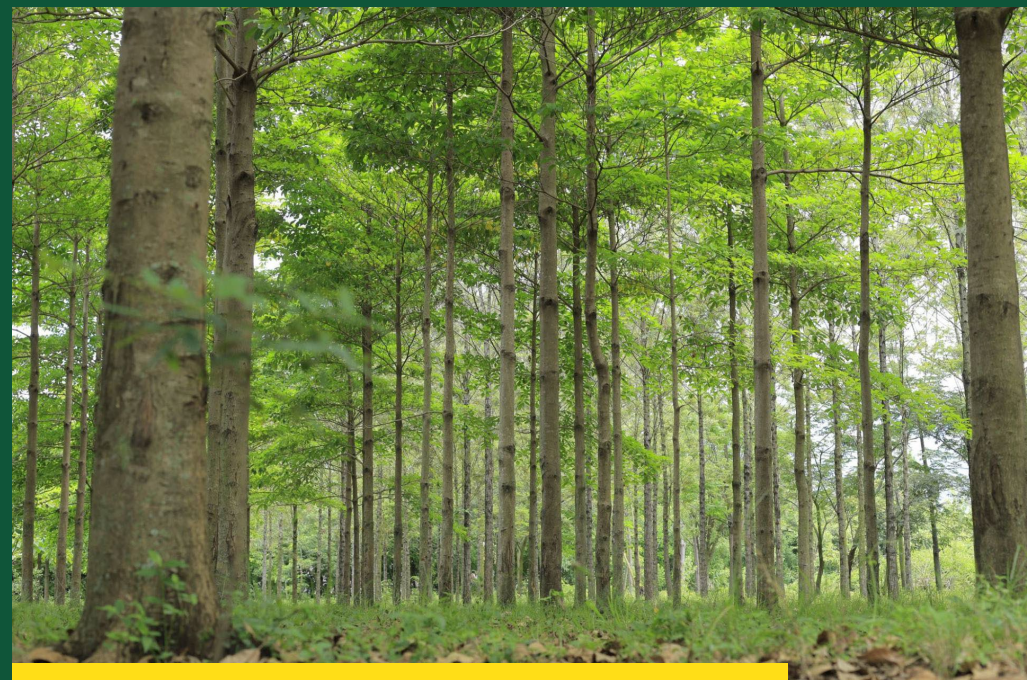
Hoima test field before set up in 2019



The state of the Hoima test field in 2025



Holy Dove Test field in Kasese in 2019



The state of the Holy Dove test field as of 2024

2.7 Cocoa farmers empowerment

GFU is implementing a cocoa pilot project in Kyondo subcounty Kasese district with 100 farmers.

A farmer Field School approach is the methodology used for farmer capacity Building. The 100 farmers have been trained in Farm planning, cocoa planting techniques, cocoa pests and disease control.



session on farm planning by farmers



Cocoa growing by farmers



Cocoa trees in farmer fields



Cocoa trees in farmer fields

Conclusion

Our work focuses on restoring degraded landscapes in communities and creating climate solutions with a fully monitored system that tracks all our efforts to restoration. Good Forests Foundation Uganda continues to work with local communities through empowering small holder farmers by creating climate solutions and sustainable value chains. Smallholder farmers are central to Uganda's agricultural system, contributing significantly to national food security, rural livelihoods, and socio-economic stability. Despite the challenges faced by small holder farmers like uncertainties associated with climate change we remain committed to creating climate resilient communities that are adopting to these changes and promoting sustainable livelihoods. We provide a number of fruit trees, timber trees and indigenous tree species.



OUR VISION

Good Forests are Climate Solutions.



OUR MISSION

Empowering smallholder farmers through reforestation and responsible value chains.



Thank You!

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