



Uganda Landcare Network *for Nyabikoni Primary School - 2024*

A success story

The Junior Landcare program in Uganda progressed through several key stages: establishing a nursery bed and procuring seedlings; land clearing and bed preparation for planting; implementing pest control measures through spraying; training junior facilitators, staff, and pupils in landcare management; and culminating in the program's launch on November 15, 2024. Eight pupils and a teacher participated in the Uganda Landcare National Symposium in November 2024, showcasing their project's vision map. Fencing was also implemented as part of the land management strategy.

Creating Connections:

The project successfully increased Landcare participation among pupils and the community. This was achieved through a targeted programme of collaborative learning activities, including workshops on sustainable land management, and organised site visits to showcase successful Landcare school models. The programme resulted in a measurable increase in the number of pupils and community members actively involved in Landcare projects, as well as a significant improvement in the ecological health of several local areas. Data collected before and after the programme demonstrated a substantial positive impact.





Benefits

The project yielded significant benefits beyond its core goals. Participants gained valuable knowledge and skills in nursery bed management and secured access to seedlings. A ten-year vision roadmap (2024-2034) was developed for Nyabikoni Primary School, guiding future Junior Landcare (JLC) activities. Strong partnerships were forged with JLC, Global Landcare, the private sector, the Ugandan government, the National Research Organization (NARO), and the Uganda Landcare Network. Fencing and community involvement reduced land-use conflicts, and the acquired knowledge and skills were shared with neighbors, extending the project's impact beyond the school. Furthermore, eight pupils and a JLC facilitator gained valuable experience through an exposure visit to the Masaka Symposium.



Challenges:

The dry season's persistent drought created a severe water shortage, significantly impacting the school garden. This lack of water, coupled with inadequate garden equipment – insufficient watering cans, hoes, and a small water tank – hindered the pupils' ability to effectively cultivate the crops. Further compounding the problem were infestations of pests and diseases. Specifically, the garden suffered from cut worms, aphids, loopers, and maggots, all of which damaged the plants and reduced the yield. The combined effects of drought, insufficient resources, and pest infestations severely hampered the school garden's productivity.

Looking to the Future:

The expansion of the Junior Landcare program beyond Nyabikoni Primary School necessitates a multifaceted strategy. This involves the creation and implementation of comprehensive ten-year vision plans (2024-2034) to ensure the sustained provision of resources and support for Junior Landcare activities. Key components of this strategy include the delivery of training in Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM), the provision of essential resources such as water tanks, spray pumps, hoes, and watering cans, and the ongoing facilitation and support of the Junior Landcare club, including educational field trips.

Financial sustainability will be secured through applications for Small Grants provided by Global Landcare International. Furthermore, the cultivation of robust partnerships with potential collaborators, including alumni and former students, is crucial for the long-term success of the program. These partnerships will provide ongoing support, resources, and expertise, thereby ensuring the continued growth and effectiveness of Junior Landcare.