



ACTION STORY



GROWING A GREENER FUTURE

The Nyabikoni Primary School Junior Landcare Project

This report details the activities and impact of the Nyabikoni Primary School Junior Landcare Project, made possible by a Global LandCare grant of AUD \$1000 (approximately USD \$633.90 or UGX 2,050,000). The project successfully combined capacity building, resource provision, and community engagement to promote sustainable land management practices.

Project Activities and Expenditure:

The grant funds were strategically allocated to several key project components. Resources were used to establish a thriving nursery, encompassing fencing the area, clearing the land, preparing nursery beds, planting seedlings, and implementing pest and disease control measures. This foundational activity provided the basis for the wider project. A diverse range of seedlings were purchased, including agroforestry species (*Calliandra* and *Grevillea*), as well as vegetable crops (cabbages, green peppers, spinach), and fruit trees (guava, mango, avocado). This mix of species aimed to provide both immediate food production and long-term environmental benefits. Essential training was provided by Kabale Agroforestry Network staff, led by Mr Jimmy Musiime, to Junior Landcare facilitators, club members, school staff, and pupils on sustainable land management principles and practices. This training was crucial for ensuring the long-term success of the project. The project officially launched on 15 November 2024, with pupils presenting their vision map for the Junior Landcare Club (2023-2034). This event served to raise awareness within the school and community and build enthusiasm for the project. Eight pupils (four boys and four girls) and one teacher from the Nyabikoni Junior Landcare Club participated in the Uganda Landcare National Symposium in Masaka. This provided valuable exposure and networking opportunities.

Project Beneficiaries and Outcomes:

The project directly impacted a significant number of people. 110 students (65 girls and 45 boys) from Nyabikoni Primary School actively participated in the project, gaining valuable knowledge and skills in sustainable land management. Three teachers also received training. The project's reach extended beyond the students to encompass 329 individuals (193 males and 136 females) who benefited from training, access to seedlings, and improved environmental conditions. This included neighbouring farmers (five males and three females), school staff (11 teachers, a headteacher, and a Junior Landcare facilitator), and local leaders. Participants gained valuable knowledge and skills in nursery bed management, sustainable land management practices, and the importance of environmental stewardship. The project contributed to improved food security through the planting and harvesting of vegetables and the establishment of fruit trees. While some crops were affected by drought or pests, the project still yielded a significant harvest. Strong partnerships were fostered with various stakeholders, including the Uganda Landcare Network, the Kabale Agroforestry Network, local leaders, the school management committee, and the PTA. These partnerships are essential for the long-term sustainability of the project. The development of a ten-year vision map (2024-2034) provides a clear roadmap for future Junior Landcare activities at Nyabikoni Primary School.



Challenges and Next Steps:

Despite the project's success, some challenges were encountered. Water scarcity during the dry season significantly impacted plant growth. Inadequate garden equipment hindered efficient operation. Pests and diseases (cat worms, aphids, loopers, maggots) affected some crops. To address these challenges and build on the project's success, the following steps are planned: expanding the Junior Landcare programme and developing vision maps for other schools; seeking ongoing support for Junior Landcare activities and the implementation of the vision map; providing training on Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM); securing additional equipment (water tanks, spray pumps, hoes, watering cans); facilitating exposure visits and participation in grant opportunities; and building partnerships with alumni and other potential supporters.

Summary:

In summary, the Nyabikoni Primary School Junior Landcare Project has made significant strides in promoting sustainable land management and environmental stewardship among students and the wider community. Through targeted activities, the project not only enhanced the capacity of participants but also fostered important partnerships that will support ongoing efforts. While challenges remain, the project has laid a strong foundation for future growth and resilience, ensuring that the benefits of improved agricultural practices and environmental awareness continue to resonate within the community for years to come.



110 students



329 trained



AUD\$1000