



ACTION STORY



KADLACC, Sundet

Restoring the Sundet Watershed

Background

Since 2003, Kapchorwa District Landcare Chapter (KADLACC) has supported farming communities in Uganda's Sebei region. The Sundet watershed, on the slopes of Mt Elgon, suffers severe land degradation and is a known landslide hotspot. Steep, bare gardens lose soil with every heavy rain, affecting harvests and the health of the Sundet River.

Solutions

With a Global Landcare small grant of AUD \$1,000, KADLACC worked alongside local farmers to restore the watershed. The project supplied tree seedlings, trained farmers in agroforestry and soil and water conservation, and held field days on farmers' own land to dig trenches along contour bunds and plant trees.

Training 250 Farmers

120 women, 80 men and 50 young people learned how to plant and care for trees, from site selection and hole preparation to mulching, weeding and protecting seedlings from grazing stock.



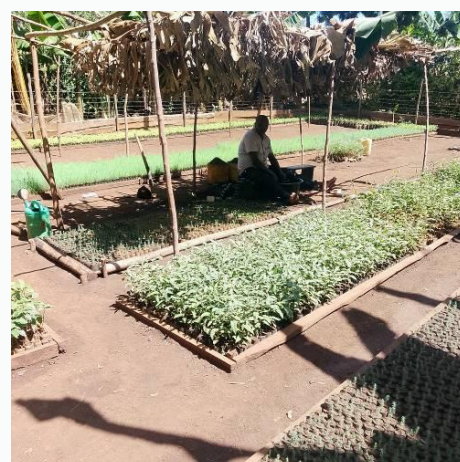
Working the Slopes Together

On steep gardens, farmers worked side by side to dig trenches along contour bunds, slowing run-off and holding soil in place. Seedlings were then planted along the bunds to strengthen them.



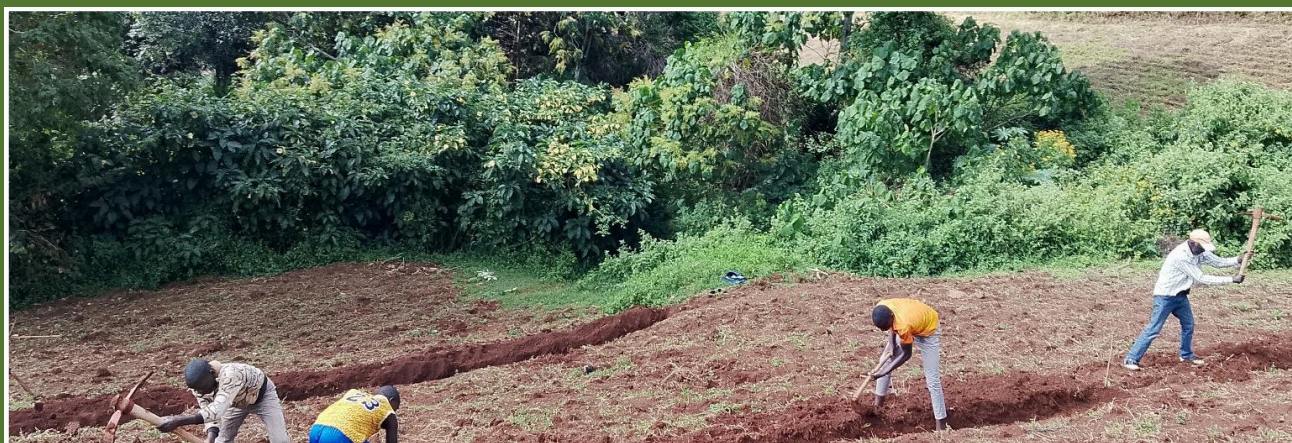
4,830 Trees Planted

Eight species, including *Prunus africana*, *croton*, *markhamia* and *grevillea*, were planted on contour bunds, farm boundaries, home compounds and woodlots.



Moving Forward

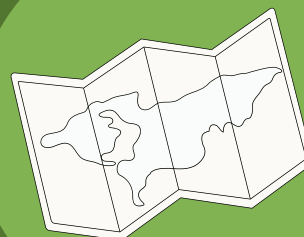
KADLACC reports more tree cover across the watershed, less run-off, better soil fertility and improved water quality in the Sundet River. Heavy rains delayed seedling delivery and training, but once conditions settled they helped the young trees establish. With 250 farmers now skilled in tree growing and soil conservation, the next step is to scale this work out across the wider Mt Elgon landscape.



250 Farmers



4,830 Trees



1 Watershed