Potential for small holder planted forests and trees to restore degraded mosaic landscapes in Uganda

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Presentation plan

- Background/ Country situation
- Forest Cover trends/Land Cover Map in Uganda
- What are small holder planted forests & Why small holder planted forests and trees?
- Policy and legal enabling environment for planted forests
- Small holder planted trees and the gender perspective
- A case of private sector involvement in tree growing: The Sawlog Production Grant Scheme-SPGS
- Enabling environment for small holder planted forests and trees, beyond the policies
- Constraints to further growth in small holder planted forestry
- What the future should have?
Background/ Country Situation

- Total 241,038 Km²
- Landlocked country
- Popn of approx. 48,582,334 (2.82% growth rate)
## Country situation: Forest cover trends in Uganda

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadleaved plantations</td>
<td>18,682</td>
<td>9,844</td>
<td>14,786</td>
<td>20,995</td>
<td>43,733</td>
<td>84,137</td>
<td>228,118</td>
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<td>Coniferous plantations</td>
<td>16,384</td>
<td>11,498</td>
<td>18,741</td>
<td>43,743</td>
<td>63,546</td>
<td>75,801</td>
<td>86,236</td>
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<td>THF high stocked</td>
<td>651,106</td>
<td>703,926</td>
<td>600,955</td>
<td>564,948</td>
<td>525,134</td>
<td>524,189</td>
<td>518,073</td>
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<tr>
<td>THF low stocked</td>
<td>273,060</td>
<td>226,549</td>
<td>191,693</td>
<td>120,756</td>
<td>104,592</td>
<td>102,150</td>
<td>156,774</td>
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<td>Woodlands</td>
<td>3,974,498</td>
<td>2,834,730</td>
<td>2,778,044</td>
<td>1,448,869</td>
<td>1,201,985</td>
<td>1,239,176</td>
<td>1,739,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bushland</td>
<td>1,422,254</td>
<td>4,007,891</td>
<td>2,968,685</td>
<td>2,371,776</td>
<td>1,970,692</td>
<td>1,664,429</td>
<td>273,405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td>5,115,446</td>
<td>2,793,950</td>
<td>4,063,594</td>
<td>5,068,269</td>
<td>5,103,796</td>
<td>5,121,004</td>
<td>5,531,494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetland</td>
<td>484,028</td>
<td>838,537</td>
<td>753,038</td>
<td>810,445</td>
<td>716,721</td>
<td>785,703</td>
<td>877,337</td>
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<td>Subsistence farmland</td>
<td>8,401,550</td>
<td>8,916,053</td>
<td>8,847,640</td>
<td>9,772,224</td>
<td>10,275,557</td>
<td>10,483,258</td>
<td>10,607,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial farmland</td>
<td>68,446</td>
<td>103,327</td>
<td>106,629</td>
<td>134,915</td>
<td>255,934</td>
<td>182,396</td>
<td>165,003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Built up</td>
<td>36,571</td>
<td>26,315</td>
<td>97,270</td>
<td>98,449</td>
<td>135,593</td>
<td>138,722</td>
<td>259,502</td>
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<td>Water bodies</td>
<td>3,689,580</td>
<td>3,680,870</td>
<td>3,706,467</td>
<td>3,689,346</td>
<td>3,750,237</td>
<td>3,746,221</td>
<td>3,701,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impediment</td>
<td>3,741</td>
<td>1,857</td>
<td>7,804</td>
<td>10,614</td>
<td>7,828</td>
<td>8,162</td>
<td>10,235</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area of Uganda</strong></td>
<td>24,155,346.98</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Forest Cover                | 4,933,730| 3,786,547| 3,604,219| 2,199,309| 1,938,990| 2,025,453| 2,729,159|
| Land Area                   | 20,465,766.99| 20,474,477.3| 20,448,880.0| 20,466,001.2| 20,405,110.0| 20,409,126.4| 20,454,009.4|
| Forest % of land area       | 24%      | 18%      | 18%      | 11%      | 10%      | 10%      | 13%      |
Country Situation: Land cover map for Uganda, 1990 & 2019
Country Situation: Status of Forest Cover in Uganda

• Forest cover reduced from 24% in the 1990 to 13% in 2019
• Subsistence agriculture is main cause of this decline in forest cover
• Subsistence agriculture land increased from 8 million ha in 1990 to 10.6 million ha in 2019.
• Other drivers include excessive extraction of wood as a source of fuelwood, wildfires, commercial agriculture and settlements
• The relative composition of the land cover types is indicative of the potential livelihood strategies of Uganda’s population.
DEFINITION OF SMALL HOLDER PLANTED FORESTS

There is no universally accepted definition, different countries and communities define Small-Scale forests differently,

- In the USA, United States of America, The term usually adopted for small-scale forests in the USA is non-industrial private forests (NIPF). These are usually thought of as forestlands owned by farmers, other individuals and corporations that do not operate wood-processing plants
- In Europe, some of the traditional private forestry are regarded as small, and they adopt the term ‘non-industrial’ forestry.
- In Austria, small scale farm forestry are a private forest holding of between 1 and 200 hectares where the proprietor is a normal (and not juristic) person
Why Small holder planted forests/trees?

• The natural forest cover is decreasing globally and particularly in tropical regions.

• With population expansion, urbanization and economic growth, the demand for industrial wood will increase but availability of land to produce wood is not secured.

• The high population growth also calls for increased demand for woodfuel for cooking, and this the immediate supply is the farmlands.

• The urgent need therefore to balance both food production and energy supply, and so the need to integrate trees on farm (Agroforestry)

• Planted forests are expanding at an average of 5 million ha per year, most of which are small holder planted forests and trees.

• Global CC and restoration strategies call for increased tree planting
Policy and legal enabling environment for planted forests

**Global perspective:**

- Central American Forest Convention emphasises forest mgt for subsistence purposes
- EU Forest Policy & Strategy, 2020-2030, part of the European Green Deal to plant 3bn trees by 2030
Policy and legal enabling environment for planted forests

**Africa regional perspective:**

- Sustainable Forest Mgt framework for Africa 2020-2030, part of the Agenda 2063 (The Africa we want)
- Southern Africa Development Cooperation - SADC Forestry Protocol
- IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy
- ECOWAS and COMIFAC Convergence Plan
- EAC Forest Policy and Strategy
Policy and legal enabling environment for planted forests

Uganda Perspective:

Uganda National Forestry Policy, 2001, Policy Statement 3 on Commercial Forest Plantations aims at promoting profitable and productive forest plantation businesses

• The private sector will play the major role in developing and managing commercial forest plantations. This may either be through large-scale industrial plantations on government or private land, or through small-scale plantations on farms.

• The role of government will be to support and regulate this development.

The Strategy to be employed will include encouraging small to medium-scale commercial plantation development, to foster local economic benefits, especially for the poor, women and the youth.
Policy and legal enabling environment for planted forests

Uganda Perspective:

1. National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003, Part II, Section 22 on Private Forest plantations

(1) A person may register with the District Land Board, a plantation forest situated on land owned in accordance with the Land Act 1998, or a forest or land in respect of which a license is granted in accordance with this Act.

(2) All forest produce in a plantation forest registered under subsection (1) belongs to the owner of the plantation and may be used in any manner that the owner may determine, except that forest produce shall be harvested in accordance with the management plan and regulations made under this Act.
Other national motivations to promote small holder planted forests and trees

- 122,000ha lost each year on average (private lands most affected)
- Bonn challenge commitment, 2.5M ha
- ROAM assessment providing options for restoration as well as restoration sites
- Vision 2040 aspirations, revert back to 24% of forestry cover as of 1990, by 2040.
- 40 million tree campaign/Running Out Of Trees-ROOTs
Small holder planted trees: A gender perspective

- Gender is a vital determinant of participation in the value chains of timber and non-timber products.
- Women and youth make up a large percentage of the agriculture and forestry plantation labor force but are disadvantaged in productive asset ownership i.e. land and control of productive inputs including access to credit.
- Forestry tends to be perceived as male dominated although women are heavily involved in forest work such as gathering fuelwood, medicinal plants and other non-timber forests products, collecting food for family consumption as well as for income, and in processing secondary wood products.
Small holder planted trees: A gender perspective

• Though varying among communities, women's use of forest resources tend to center on low-return products and activities, while men control the production and commercialization of more profitable forest resources.

• Forests provide monetary and non-monetary benefits to men, youth and women in forest communities around the world.

• Men and women often have different roles in managing forests, different knowledge about them, different access to forests and different ways of using forest resources.

• Women and men’s practices, knowledge and priorities in forest resource use are different. The gender division of labor gives women and men expertise in different parts of the tree and forestry depending on how the activities are distributed between them.

• One of the main factors that has created a differentiated impact between men and women is the unequal access to ownership and control of forestry resources.
Private sector Plantation and small holder tree planting in Uganda: The case of the Sawlog Produciton Grant Scheme-SPGS

1. In 2004, the forestry sector in Uganda received funding from the European Union (EU) through a newly established programme, the Saw log Production Grant Scheme (SPGS).

2. This was started as a joint initiative between the Government of Uganda and EU. The scheme was used to advocate, empower and build capacity of private tree growers.

3. The efforts towards plantation development in the country have been with the Government of Uganda through the National Forestry Authority (NFA), and its development partners.

4. In the first phase of the project (Oct. 2004-June 2009), SPGS triggered a major interest in commercial tree planting in Uganda, with some 11 000 ha established to the required standards.

5. The Government of Norway also joined in the funding of the second phase of SPGS (Sept. 2010-2013) and has already supported the establishment of 6 000 ha of timber plantations. This phase had an ambitious target of establishing 30 000 ha of plantations by the end of the project.

6. The SPGS has been a key mover in commercial plantation development by providing technical training about tree growing right from establishment through tending and management. In addition, it provides a grant of UGX 850 000/ha (US$ 340) for growers in the category of 25-500 ha, and UGX 600 000/ha (US$ 240) for growers in the category of 501-3 000 ha. The money from these grants was only paid out after site visits by SPGS project staff to check for against agreed standards. The payment was made over a 3-year period.
SPGS Model SPGS

Retrospective grant

Technical Support

Commercial approach
SPGS Project achievements
Increased forest plantation cover for the country to meet demand for wood

Phase I (2004-2008) = 10,000 ha

Phase II (2009-2015) = 36,000 ha

Phase III (2016-2021) = 35,000 ha

Total area to date = 81,000 ha
Stimulating interest from the private sector to invest in commercial forestry
Formation and institutional strengthening of Uganda Timber Growers’ Association (UTGA)
Developing capacity and Skills for industry Service Providers

Certified Forest Contractors

Certified Forest Contractors
Increased knowledge and information on forestry investment
Tools, Standards and Guidelines to Support industry development
Enabling factors/Opportunities to small holder planted trees development in Uganda: Beyond the Policy

1. Vision 2040 calls for a medium income status for Uganda’s population by the year 2040.

2. High demand for timber and with the Build Uganda Buy Uganda Policy, where government is calling for local production to supply industry.

3. The profit and the relatively low risk associated with tree growing as a business as well as the incentives provided by some government led schemes e.g the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme.

4. The financial and technical support provided in some cases.

5. Supply of fuel wood has become more important as the small to medium processing and service industries increase.

6. Available guidelines and standards for tree planting and wood products respectively has improved quality of forestry products and attracted higher premium.
Constraints to expansion of small holder planted forests/trees

1. Security of tree and Land tenure systems.
2. Lack of technical assistance to farmers particularly those not directly supported by projects.
3. Competing interests for those depending on home labour alone. Food crops normally take first priority over trees when it comes to tending e.g planting and weeding;
4. Difficulty in accessing good markets to get a good return on the .
5. High costs involved in Managing of trees by farmers to achieve maximum production and quality.
6. Limited access to financing institutions
What should the future for small holder planted forests and trees have?

1. More tree planting is needed to take care of the deficit
2. More of Value addition and processing industry growth, while utilising the standards for both soft and hard woods
3. Policy improvements to cater for incentivising development of small holder planted forestry e.g marketing and technical support provision, outgrower schemes
4. Promote forest certification
5. Formation of Cooperatives and associations: these would help with registration, reduce isolation in small-scale forestry by providing information, advice and management support, as well as chances for networking and communication.
THANK YOU