

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Abayuuti Regional Community

Campaign for Climate Change and

Environmental Conservation Awareness

Prepared by: Crispus Mwemaho, founding member

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1. ORGANISATION PROFILE

Abayuuti Community Group is a group of African youth climate activists seeking climate and environmental justice through activism and awareness programs. The group is situated in Kakajjo Zone Bukesa Parish Kampala Central Division, in Uganda. It was registered on 29th October 2020, as a community based organization. The group was founded by seven members, both male and female, but because of its relevance and good image portrayed in communities, today the number of group members surpasses thirty. Many other youth, as well as people in different age groups, continuously show interest in joining the group both locally and internationally. As such, we are considering transforming the group into an international movement.

The group performs climate and environmental activism through community sensitization and engagement of both youth and the general population to create awareness on climate and environmental justice. Abayuuti Action has been featured on and participated in different online activism events demanding climate and environment justice. For example: the international school strike Fridays for Future, and international annual Climate Live events, among others. In this short time of our existence we have created partnerships with international bodies such as Red Cross Society Uganda because of our relevance to current issues and participation in activities that impact our societies.

The group also does charity services for people affected by climate change events such as floods and droughts, as well as to disadvantaged groups of people in our communities. We have had two charity events since our start. The first one was conducted in October 2020 in the ghettos of Bukesa Parish among the identified groups of people who were greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. People were given relief in the form of food stuffs such as maize flour, beans, and matooke. Other common utilities such as sugar, salt, and soap were also provided. The second charity was held in December 2020. This was a relief project to the people of Kasese who were affected by flooding and landslides in May of last year. These people were living in temporary camps at Kanyengeye and Cream Zone Primary School. In this relief project we were able to reach out to these people with food stuffs, sanitary pads, tumplines, treated mosquito nets, and liquid soap, among other necessities. All these charities were possible because of financial support from our friends and well wishers from our social media, as well as group member contributions.

The group has two patrons who guide and mentor us in both leadership and management of the group: Mr. Moses Tashobya, District Internal Officer (DISO) Kampala Central, and Mr. Tuyisenge Godfrey, Chairman of LCI Kakajjo Zone.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Project title: Abayuuti Regional Community Campaign for Climate Change and Environmental Conservation Awareness

2.2 Project location: The project is envisaged to serve western Uganda, because this region is one of the most affected by the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

2.3 Implementing agent: Abayuuti Community Group

2.4 Mission: Honest, active, and deliberate youth and community engagement for a sustainable environment.

2.5 Vision: Building communities which are well informed and environmentally conscious.

2.6 Core values: To create communities that both conserve and protect the environment. We are guided by the following values: honesty, integrity, information sharing, team work, orientation towards action, and accountability.

2.7 Long term goal: To create environmentally sustainable communities in Uganda.

2.9 Objectives: Empowering communities and youth to create a safer, healthier, cleaner, and greener environment. Creating community awareness on climate change and adopting eco-friendly habits in the society.

2.10 Activities

- Sensitization and awareness
- Tree planting
- Training farmers
- Follow up of farmers
- Information sharing and networking
- Monitoring and evaluation

2.11 Beneficiaries: The primary focus of the project is communities and schools in western Uganda. The farmers in this region constitute over 75% of the region's population. Most of the general population are youth less than 30 years of age, and women constitute over 60% of the population. Agriculture practices in the region are largely subsistence, and are marked by traditional and uninformed use of fertilizers. The explicit zones to be covered by this project will be Ankole sub region, Kigezi region, Ruwenzori sub region, and the Albertine region. All of these are in the western part of the country.

2.12 Amount required and project period: The project will require US\$300,000 for three years, with an annual budget of US\$100,000. The breakdown of the budget will be shown in this proposal. The group hopes to begin the project in 2022, pending acquisition of sufficient funding.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Human and community survival are inextricably linked to the natural environment in many ways. But human activities in Uganda, especially in western part of the country, are largely responsible for the degrading level of the natural habitat and the general environment.

Population explosion due to influx of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan is partly to blame for the massive pressure placed on the environment in search for settlement and the fertile cradle land. This has encouraged drastic felling of trees, loss of green cover and wetland, and has subsequently led to both uncontrolled flooding and drought.

Further, the landscape of the region is generally mountainous. The presence of other physical features, such as lakes and rivers, accounts for risky settlement by natives of the region making the housing and communities prone to calamities like floods because of building and living in risky places. The rampant use and poor disposal of plastics and polythene accounts for the reduced food productivity in the region. This is directly linked to effects of plastics and polythene disposed of on cradle land, thus degrading the soil fertility. Therefore, such uninformed usage and disposal practices expose the soil to dangerous chemicals and consequently reduce its productive quality over time. This leads to poor fields, and eventually subjects households to food insecurity, poverty, and hunger.

Pollution of air, soil, and water due to uninformed human activities inevitably results in poor human health. Burning of plastics and polythene in open spaces is responsible for air and water pollution in the region, especially given that communities depend on open water sources such as rivers and streams, in addition to wells, for domestic use. This plastic pollution of air and water is responsible for adverse health effects such as disruption of endocrine, nervous, and immune systems. We acknowledge that some of these activities are undertaken by communities due to lack of awareness and literacy about the impact of their actions.

As such, we take a deliberate and action oriented approach with youth and communities to remedy these challenges. Our approach seeks to inform, sensitize, and empower the youth and general population on the practical and context-specific sustainable mechanisms for environmental management. Therefore, through this project, we hope to improve this situation by raising community and youth awareness and understanding of their responsibility towards themselves, the ecosystem, and future generations.

4. JUSTIFICATION

We believe that active youth and community engagement and environment will not only stimulate productivity and environmental protection, but will most importantly restore and preserve the natural environment for generations to come.

We believe also that empowerment initiatives will deepen the understanding of both the youth and general public on how to sustainably use natural resources without depleting them.

We believe that involvement of the population in activities such as tree planting and proper waste disposal will enhance community ownership and make itself sustainable. Contrary to interventional approaches that take services to the people, our strategies entail active participation of the youth and communities in caring for their own community. This approach is sustainable since it stimulates both societal and individual responsibility for the environment.

We believe that through training of farmers specifically and the population generally, the communities will adopt farming practices which are both environmentally friendly and sustainable. Adopting these methods will restore and strengthen soil fertility, enhance ecosystem balance, reduce air, soil, and water pollution, and boost agricultural production.

We hope to create a youth population that is empowered and enlightened. We will do this through school debates and sensitization talks, school seminars, workshops, and quizzes based on awareness of climate change and environment conservation topics. We hope to create communities which are self-sustaining, self-reliant, productive, and environmentally conscious. These communities will result from our deliberate and active engagement of communities in training, farm visits, and awareness talks. It is our commitment to promote sustainable farming and encourage climate change adaptation strategies amongst the youth and farmers as means of strengthening the communities towards self-sufficient living and ultimately sustainable development.

We also hope to suggest the introduction of patriotism and climate change awareness to our educational curriculum for lower secondary and primary levels. We believe it is important to teach children to love their country and protect it, and to adopt sustainable environmental living to mitigate the impact of climate change. Through collaborative efforts, we hope to foster the development of sustainable agriculture and environmental practices both nationally and internationally. However, financial limitation is currently our main and most significant challenge.

Finding and securing a financial partner with adequate capacity to fund our project and activities will boost our potential to cover the entire country and beyond. Consequently, it will deepen our community while effectively and positively impacting our society.

5. EXPECTED OUTPUT

For community members and leaders, we hope to organize six workshops annually on sustainable farming and climate change adaptation. Through these workshops, causes and effects of farming and environmental practices will be discussed. We also plan to extensively discuss management and disposal of plastics and polythene, as well as use of renewable energy.

This project aims to train 2,000 farmers every year and directly benefit about 6,000 members of their households. Follow up will be made by the group to assist the farmers in adopting and implementing the ideas and practices.

We hope to plant 30,000 trees annually, of varying species, in different communities and schools. This will include both fruit trees and other tree species to improve the green cover as well as mitigate the level of carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) in the atmosphere.

We will train and encourage farmers to uphold forestry as a way of restoring the lost forest cover. This will ensure sustained provision of wood products without damaging the natural habitat. We believe that this approach will create a safer, cleaner, and healthier environment and atmosphere.

We hope to engage over 200 schools in our project. We will form an environmental club, organize writing competitions, debates, seminars, and quizzes amongst students on climate change specifically and generally on environmental management. This early education will create a generation of enlightened citizens and future leaders.

6. MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Success of our project will be measured based on pre-set targets within a defined time frame, as well as change in community behavior.

This shall include the following:

- The number of training workshops organized and the number of farmers trained.
- The number of trees planted in schools and communities.
- The debating competitions held in schools, school seminars, and the number of participating schools.
- The number of environmental clubs formed in schools as well as the number of students involved in the activities.
- Behavioral change in farming practices and waste disposal.

7. IMPACT

The long-term success of our project will be defined by the following attributes:

- Increased tree cover, reduced levels of air, soil, and water pollution, improved methods of waste disposal, and reduced incidences of floods and droughts.
- Improved standards of living and environmentally sustainable practices, improved agricultural productivity, better health standards, and more informed society.

8. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The longevity and sustainability of our project will be enhanced through the following:

- Active engagement and involvement of farmers during the training will ensure that they master the skills to re-shape their farming practices. These practical skills will develop in the farmers a sense of ownership for natural resources and environment at large.
- Sensitization and involvement of both the youth and community members in tree planting and general environment protection will provide room for checks and balances. We will work with our partners and our community members to develop a system of checks and balances that will be practical, effective, and sustainable. But most importantly the youth, our custodians of the future, will be able to make informed choices which will protect the environment.
- Formation of both environmental clubs in schools and farmers' groups in the community will ensure that the vital information and knowledge continue to flow from one generation to another. The engagement of schools and communities will also ensure that trees are nurtured and sustained. Most importantly, the schools and communities will take ownership of the projects implemented in their jurisdictions.
- Our engagement with and involvement of local leaders and government agencies like National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Forest Authority (NFA) and Ministry of Water and Environment enables government ownership of the projects

and as such they are protected and sustained by legislation. We believe that gaining the support of local leaders will greatly enhance community members' trust in our organization and willingness to learn and implement environmentally sustainable practices that will benefit generations to come.

9. RISKS

The risks that surround the development of these undertaking include:

- Some of the trained farmers may revert to their old ways of farming.
- Unfavorable weather conditions such as long spells of drought and flood may impact the agriculture activities.
- Unchecked cutting down of trees by foreign agencies such as investor companies may change the communities' attitudes towards tree planting.
- Disintegration of farmer's groups and school clubs may pose follow up challenges and information sharing.

10. ASSUMPTIONS

The project assumes the following:

- The community members will have interest in sustainable farming.
- The social, economic, political and weather conditions will be favorable for sensitization training and most importantly acceptance and execution of ideas.

11. WORK SCOPE:

Below are the major activities to be involved and include:

11.1 Awareness

The school children and communities will be sensitized on the causes and effects of climate change. Consequently, the community needs to be enlightened on environmental dangers associated with traditional farming and human activities and availability of alternative approaches. To achieve this we shall employ different methods and media which include: school talks, television and radio talk shows, public rallies, field days, church gatherings, posters, and social media. During this stage, we will also conduct visits to existing farmer groups so that interested students and farmers are assisted to form manageable clubs and groups respectively. We will also ensure training details and actions plans are set. We will include debates and uniting competitions on climate change and sustainable farming by school children at different levels.

11.2 Tree planting:

Tree planting activities will be done in schools and communities within the region. School children and community members will actively participate in the exercise and be encouraged to nurture trees for posterity. Different varieties of trees will be planted, ranging from fruit trees to hard wood trees. Restoration of tree planting in forests, together with surrounding community members, will be part of this exercise.

11.3 Training farmers:

The farmers will be trained on various aspects of sustainable farming, such as soil and water management, as well as plastics and polythene management. The training will embody discussions, sharing of experience, demonstration of skills and basic practices, and participatory on-farm experience. The key concepts for the training will include:

- Techniques for soil improvement
- Methods of soil conservation
- Crop rotation and farm management
- Crop diversity
- Agroforestry
- Animal husbandry in relation to animal welfare
- Plastics and polythene reduction, management, and disposal

11.4 Follow-up of farmers:

Continuous engagement with the farmers will enable smooth transition to sustainable practices. These will also boost the community members in coming up with various sustainable livelihood initiatives. This follow up experience will open new ground for demonstration farm visits by different community farmers' groups and substantially enhance the sharing of best practices.

11.5 Information sharing and networking

We hope to work very closely with other like minded institutions and organizations to improve on efficiency in service delivery. Through these approaches, we will learn from the work of others which will enable us to play a complementary role to others and mitigate duplication.

We hope to participate in relevant meetings, conferences, and workshops to gather knowledge and information, as well as strengthen our practice within the sector.

We hope to be part of the policy preparation and change, advocacy and public awareness on topical issues across the different networks.

We will share the relevant experience, ideas and formulation of gathered information during our discussions with the school children and community members through different

strategies - including print and online media - and consequently enable the farmers to share their views, feelings, and ideas.

11.6 Monitoring and evaluation

The project activities will be followed up on regularly. They will be documented, reported, and discussed by the management and staff on a progressive basis. The records will be securely stored and prepared for auditing. Progress and general reports will be safely kept and only shared with the boards, funding agencies, and relevant partners. Records will also subsequently be used for project evaluation. We shall evaluate our project's success annually and assess the extent to which the annual targets are met.

During this stage we will analyze the project enablers and challenges and lay ground for the following year. If funding allows, we will invite external consultants to evaluate our projects. The reporting and recommendations of the independent consultant will be used for project adjustments and help the funding agencies to assess the impact of the grant in meeting the community's needs.

11.7 Implementing Agent:

Abayuuti Community Group

Project annual work plan

ITEMS	AUG 2021	SEPT 2021	OCT 2021	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	JAN 2022	FEB 2022	MAR 2022	APR 2022	MAY 2022	JUN 2022	JULY 2022
sensitization & awareness creation	Blue	Blue				Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Training of farmers		Red	Red			Red	Red		Red	Red		
Follow up of farmers			Red	Red			Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Tree planting	Green	Green	Green			Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green
Information sharing and networks		Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan			Cyan	Cyan		Cyan	Cyan
Monitoring and evaluation	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta	Magenta

13. PROJECT ANNUAL BUDGET

REQUIREMENTS	QNTY	UNIT COST (\$)	AMOUNT	ITEM SUMMARY
Follow ups	4	300	1200	1200
Sanitization and awareness creation				
School Communities	20	350	7000	18000
Other media	20	250	5000	
Transport (team)	10	300	3000	
	10	300	3000	
Training of farmers				
Transport (farmers & team)	10	300	3000	9000
Stationery	Lump sum	300	3000	
Communication requirements	10	300	3000	
Tree planting transport (team & trees)	20	300	3000	33000
seedlings	30,000	1	30,000	
Monitoring & stationery	Lump sum	300	300	900
Evaluation transport (team)	20	300	600	
Information sharing & networks	8	300	2400	2400
Accommodation facilitation (team)			13000	13000
Feeding (team) facilitation			15000	15000
miscellaneous			7500	7500
TOTAL			100,000	100,000

