



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



Concept note for the 2025 edition of the National Tree Planting Day celebrations

Busoga College Mwiri

3rd October 2025

**Theme for ROOTs 2025: Revive, Restore, Sustain: Indigenous
Species for Uganda's Future.**

1.0 BACKGROUND

The “*Running Out Of Trees (ROOTs)*” Campaign is a nationwide tree planting initiative that aims to plant one tree for every Ugandan annually. In September 2014, during the Climate Change Summit, Uganda pledged under the Bonn Challenge to restore 2.5 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030. It’s on this basis that in 2019, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), through the Forestry Sector Support Department (FSSD), partnered with private sector stakeholders, development partners, civil society organizations, among other non-state players to launch this initiative.

The loss of forest cover has had far-reaching consequences, with climate change being one of the most significant. The ROOTs Campaign focusing on reforestation, restoration, and forest conservation, aligns well with the government’s commitments and aspirations to address these challenges. Uganda’s forests are faced with worrying trends of encroachment, deforestation, and forest degradation through the conversion of forest land to other land uses such as agriculture and urbanization. The increasing population pressure on the already dwindling forest estate has reduced the country’s forest cover from 24% to 12.2% between 1990 and 2023. Consequently, the communities have been exposed to the impacts of deforestation, such as limited access to timber, fuelwood, and other forest products, loss of livelihoods, and exposure to extreme weather conditions.

By promoting sustainable partnerships and active community involvement, the initiative aims to combat deforestation and restore degraded landscapes through sustainable forest management, ensuring the long-term growth and maturity of planted trees. Over the years, the ROOTs campaign has gained nationwide support and attracted diverse stakeholders to actively participate in restoring Uganda’s forest cover. These stakeholders have contributed to the ROOTs campaign in various ways, including providing financial and in-kind support; raising awareness and mobilizing communities; and offering land for tree planting, among others.

To commemorate the culmination of the ROOTs Edition each year, a **National Tree Planting Day (NTPD)** is held at a strategically selected venue, promoting environmental conservation and community engagement through tree planting activities. In 2025, the NTPD will be held at **Busoga College Mwiri** on the **3rd October 2025**. The Busoga region was selected basically because it was once a thriving agricultural hub and industrial center, earning it the title of "food basket." However, it has faced significant environmental degradation, impacting its ecosystem and productivity. Efforts to restore and conserve the region's natural resources will revitalize its agricultural and industrial potential.

On the NTPD, residents of Busoga region and the entire country Uganda will be sensitized about the importance of tree planting and tree growing, learning about its numerous benefits including soil conservation, climate regulation, biodiversity preservation, and improved air quality. This awareness campaign will encourage community members to actively participate in tree planting activities, promoting environmental sustainability and helping to mitigate the degradation that the region

has faced. By engaging the community in this way, the initiative aims to foster a culture of environmental stewardship and restore the natural beauty and productivity of not only Busoga as a region but the entire country Uganda.

1.1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ROOTs CAMPAIGN TO-DATE

1. In October 2019, the ROOTs campaign was conceptualized. In 2020, a series of activities were implemented including a breakfast meeting which was held at Serena Hotel Kampala and attracted a number of partners including; Heads of Corporate Companies, Diplomatic Missions, Non-Governmental Organizations-NGOs, and Government and Cultural Institutions, among others.
2. In February 2020, a Symbolic 330km long Relay Run along the Kampala-Gulu highway took place on February 07, 2020 and was graciously flagged off by the then Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga. However, the original plan of planting 40 million trees in 8 hrs was not achieved due to COVID-19 lockdown that took effect in March that year, closing down the whole economy, restricting movements and mass gatherings in observance of the COVID 19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
3. In 2021, the campaign was able to maintain its partners and also bring more on board including National Water and Sewerage Corporation-NWSC, Uganda National Farmers Federation-UNFFE, Bulindi Chimpanzee Project, ECOTRUST, Mogas (U), and Buganda Kingdom, among others. A virtual run was successfully organized and held at the Parliament of Uganda officiated by the then Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga. In the same year, over 12,000,000 tree seedlings were planted across the national landscape within the planting calendars of March-May and August- November.
4. In 2022, the ROOTs 2022 Edition was launched with a Symposium in form of a Panel Discussion which was held on the 21st March 2022 which also doubled as the International Day of Forests. This Event was a precursor for the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) celebrations held at NWSC's International Resource Centre (IREC). The panel discussion was a hybrid event and attracted both physical and online participation with a keynote address by Professor Gorettie N. Nabanoga, Principal College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University. The Symposium was able to raise awareness and mobilize the country to plant and maintain trees across the country in the run up to the peak of the NTPD.
5. During the same UWEWK, tree planting was carried out in collaboration with Buganda Kingdom for the restoration of Lake Wamala in Myanzi, Kassanda District, Kakungulu Akright City; at Kyenda in Mubende in partnership with FAO as well as in Luweero at Bethany Land Institute by ATC-Uganda and Uganda Breweries Ltd supported by Tree Adoption Uganda.
6. Prior to that, a total of 26,023 assorted tree seedlings were planted during the Water and Environment Walk which lasted from March 04–18 March 2022 from the Ministry of Water and Environment Headquarters to Lira City. These included among others: Avocado, Mangifera indica (Mangoes), Psidium guajava (Guavas), Grevillea robusta, Mahogany, Prunus africana, Maesopsis emnii,

Azzeria africana, *Terminalia superba*, bamboo, *Melia volkensii*, *Markhamia lutea*, *Albizia* spp., and *Azadrachta indica* trees.

7. In 2023, several pre-event activities took place at Serena Golf Resort-Kigo; Palm Valley Golf and Country Club; and Akright City, Bwebajja. The main event was held at St. Francis Xavier in Bweya, resulting in the planting of 20,480,357 tree seedlings across all events and by various partners.
8. In 2024, the event was successfully organized and held at Sir Samuel Baker School in Gulu City. It was officiated by His Lordship, Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo – the Chief Justice of Uganda. During the Event, several seedlings were planted both within the school compound and along its boundary. Tree Adoption Uganda mapped out 300 of these seedlings. To note is that many more tree seedlings were planted in the 2024 campaign. However, mapping has remained a significant challenge as of 2025, as less than 1% of those tree seedlings have so far been mapped.
9. Following the 2024 NTPD Event, the school was supported with 997 macadamia integrifolia tree seedlings, of which 400 were planted prior to the official celebrations climaxing the tree planting campaign for 2024 while the rest were allocated by the school to the neighboring community members. At least 1.5 hectares of degraded school land at the hilltop was also restored through enrichment planting. The planting during the celebrations achieved over 90% survival rate.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE ROOTS CAMPAIGN 2025

2.1 The main aim:

The objective of the 2025 Edition of the ROOTs Campaign is to inspire all Ugandans to take an active role in restoring degraded environments and protecting existing tree species, with a strong focus on preserving and rejuvenating the rich diversity of the country's indigenous tree species.

2.2 The specific objectives

- i. To create awareness among the Ugandan population about the importance of planting and nurturing native trees, restoring forests, and adopting sustainable land management practices, and cultivate a culture of environmental stewardship.
- ii. To train and educate the young generation (especially those in schools) on the importance and fundamentals of tree growing to instill a sense of responsibility for Uganda's future.
- iii. To promote the adoption of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) at the farm level as one of the main strategies of ensuring conservation of biodiversity and restoration of the degraded landscapes.
- iv. To enhance the participation and engagement of the private sector, civil society, cultural and educational institutions, as well as the general public, in restoring degraded landscapes and conserving tree and forest resources.
- v. To develop and operationalize a digital Monitoring, Verification, and

Reporting (MVR) system for restoration activities, ensuring that at least 80% of stakeholders use it to report progress and outcomes effectively.

3.0 TARGET PARTICIPANTS/AUDIENCE

- Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (including enlisting more MDAs) such as NEMA, NFA, MWE, NWSC, etc.
- Individuals committed to environmental conservation
- District Local Governments (DLGs), particularly those located in the Busoga region as well as DLGs in other regions of Uganda
- International and national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Development Partners
- Cultural and Religious institutions
- The private sector (e.g., corporate companies, private tree nursery operators, etc.)
- National and international Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Institutions of learning (Universities, Secondary Schools, Vocational institutions, Primary Schools, etc.)
- Members of the environment-related CSO Networks e.g. the Uganda Forestry Working Group (UFWG); the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) CSO Network; and the Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET).
- Local communities
- Media

4.0 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF BUSOGA COLLEGE MWIRI, THE HOST OF THE 2025 NTPD EVENT

Busoga College was founded on the 25th September 1911, as Balangira High School, to educate the sons of Busoga Chiefs. Busoga College Mwiri is located on Mwiri Hill in Wairaka Parish, Kakira Town Council, in Jinja District, in the Eastern Region of Uganda, adjacent to the immediate west of the town of Kakira. Mwiri is approximately 14.6 kilometres (9 mi) by road, north-east of Jinja city, the second largest city in Uganda.

Busoga College Mwiri's background regarding tree cover is characterized by a once-forested hill that has experienced significant degradation due to human activity. The school is situated on a 560-acre hill, with 60 acres comprising the school premises and the remaining 500 acres historically covered by forest. This forested area has been impacted by encroachment, commercial activities, and termite infestations, leading to a decline in tree cover. However, there's an ongoing effort to restore the tree cover, including some recent tree-planting campaigns.

The NTPD (2025) is intended to mobilise tree planting at Busoga College Mwiri hill, the sister school of Wanyange Girls Secondary School at Wanyange Hill, as well as the Kyabazinga Palace at Igenge Hill.

4.1 PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES

The NTPD (2025) will be preceded by a week-long Pre-event activities led by Mwiri Old Boys Association (MOBA), commonly dubbed as “MOBA Homecoming” to be held from the 27th September to 3rd October 2025. With the theme: “*Road Safety and Environment Awareness*”, the Pre-Event activities will majorly comprise of a Homecoming Walk; planting of indigenous trees at stop points, including schools; clean-ups of towns such as Iganga and Jinja City; and radio talkshows, among others. The Homecoming Walk will be held on Saturday 27th September 2025 and will consist of:

- a) A Walk from Mwiri Primary School-Busoga College Mwiri-BCM (5 km), starting at 8.00 am
- b) A Walk from Amber Court-BCM (15 km), starting at 7.00 am
- c) A Walk from Shell-Mukono Service Station to Mwiri Club House (58 km) starting at 6.00 am
- d) A Walk from Shell-Lugogo Service Station to Mwiri Club House (76 km) starting at 5.00 am

For a detailed programme, please see Annex II. For Registration, one can contact **Mr. Abaliwano Michael Muwaya on Tel: 0772-450848/0753-450848** and/or **Mr. Michael Bageya on Tel: 0784-421412**.

5.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

At the end of the National Tree Planting Day, the following are expected:

- a. Restoration of Busoga College Mwiri Hill, Igenge Hill and Wanyange Hill Forests through the planting of indigenous tree seedlings, prioritizing ecological balance over commercial tree species.
- b. Promotion of biodiversity conservation by protecting the natural habitats of monkeys and wild birds that originally thrived in the forest.
- c. Building a well-informed public that fully understands the importance of tree planting and growing in environmental protection and climate resilience.
- d. 50,000 assorted indigenous tree seedlings successfully planted and geo-mapped in (10,000 tree seedlings during the Mwiri Old Boys Homecoming Week’s activities; and 40,000 tree seedlings during the NTPD, showcasing a collective commitment to forest restoration).

6.0 SEEDLINGS REQUIREMENTS

Considering the total area of landscape to be restored on three hills, a total of 40,000 indigenous tree seedlings will be required for planting on the main Event Day. In addition, approximately 10,000 assorted tree seedlings will be needed for the pre-event planting phase i.e. during the Walk led by the Old Boys of Busoga College Mwiri (Mwiri Old Boys Association-MOBA), to be distributed and planted at various stop points, including selected schools along the designated route as well as designated sites such as at hotels within Jinja City. Largely, members of MOBA will be tasked to mobilise stakeholders locally to provide tree seedlings for planting during the Homecoming Walk

from various points to Busoga College Mwiri.

7.0 THE PROPOSED NTPD BUDGET

The total Budget for the NTPD Event (2025) is estimated **at UGX 329,117,750=** (Three Hundred and Twenty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Seventeen Thousand and Seven Hundred and Fifty Shillings Only). A summary budget for the NTPD is presented here in Table 1 below, while Annex I presents the detailed budget. A detailed budget is also attached in a separate Excel Sheet.

The contributions to the NTPD can be made in various forms including cash and in-kind contributions (e.g. in form of tree seedlings; transport e.g. for seedlings; airtime; knowledge and ideas; airtime on TV or radio; support with mapping; etc.).

Table 1: Summary of ROOTs National Tree Planting Day (2025)

SN.	ITEM	TOTAL (UGX)
1.	Venue costs for the National Event	25,900,000
2.	Food & Refreshments (Guests & Students)	60,500,000
3.	Media Campaign & Publicity	62,800,000
4.	Mobilisation Costs	20,000,000
5.	Programme & Facilitation (E.g. MC, etc.)	5,000,000
6.	Planting materials and related needs	73,500,000
7.	Post planting maintenance & monitoring	10,000,000
8.	Participation (National) in Walk by MOBA	55,000,000
9.	Contingency (5%)	16,417,750
	GRAND TOTAL:	329,117,750

Cash contributions can be made using the following bank details held by Environmental Alert, the Secretariat for the ROOTs Campaign:

- **Account Name:** Environmental Alert
- **Account No.:** 9030005667827
- **Name of Bank:** Stanbic Bank

Cash contributions can also be made by Momo Pay using the following Merchant Codes:

- **Airtel Merchant Code:** 4 3 9 4 5 0 3
- **MTN Merchant Code:** 7 7 4 8 9 1

For any inquiries related to the NTPD, please contact Environmental Alert using Tel: 0393 101 814.

ANNEX I: THE DETAILED BUDGET FOR THE NTPD (2025)

Below is a detailed draft budget covering the costs associated with seedlings, venue, promotional materials, refreshments, labor, and tools.

Budget breakdown for the National Tree Planting Day (2025).					
No	Budgeted Item	Unit	No. Units	Unit Cost(UGX)	Total UGX
A Venue costs for the national Event					
1	Security	Persons	30	50,000	1,500,000
2	Tents	No.	03	3,500,000	10,500,000
3	Transport for Tents	No.	02	600,000	1,200,000
4	Chairs	No.	2000	500	1,000,000
5	Decoration & branding	No.	1	1,500,000	1,500,000
6	Stage & backdrop	No.	1	1,200,000	1,200,000
7	Public Address system	No.	1	5,000,000	5,000,000
6	Movable toilets	No.	5	800,000	4,000,000
	Sub-Total A				25,900,000
B Food and refreshments					
1	Water and Refreshments	Persons	2000	2000	4,000,000
2	Food/Refreshments (VIP)	Persons	1000	30,000	30,000,000
3	Food/Snacks for Students	Persons	2000	13,000	26,000,000
4	First Aid	Station	1	500,000	500,000
	Sub-Total B				60,500,000
C Media Campaign and Publicity					
1	Journalists	Persons	10	110,000.00	1,100,000
2	Radio talk shows	No.	4	1,500,000.00	6,000,000
3	Live coverage	No.	1	52,000,000.00	52,000,000
4	Radio and TV mentions	No.	10	150,000.00	1,500,000
5	Twitter/X Space	No.	1	200,000.00	200,000

6	Press Conference	1	10	50,000.00	500,000
7	MC	1	10	50,000	500,000
8	Campaign Materials (E.g. Printing Big Banners	Pcs	03	500,000	1,500,000
	Sub-Total C				63,300,000
D Mobilization costs					
1	Pre-mobilization costs, including site mapping	Lump sum		10,000,000	10,000,000
2	Fuel for pre-mobilization activities and actual day movements	Lump		10,000,000	10,000,000
	Sub-Total D				20,000,000
E Programme & Facilitation					
1.	Master of Ceremony (MC)	Persons	3	500,000	1,500,000
2.	Entertainment	Group	1	500,000	500,000
3.	Ushers	Persons	10	150,000	1,500,000
4.	Photography and Videography	Team	1	1,500,000	1,500,000
	Sub-Total E				5,000,000
F Planting materials and related needs					
1	Assorted seedlings	No.	40,000	1,500	60,000,000
2	Tools (Watering cans, hoes, wheel barrows, etc.)	Lumpsum			1,000,000
3	Labor for site clearing, pitting, and planting	Persons	50,000	250	12,500,000
	Sub-Total F				73,500,000
G Post-planting maintenance and monitoring					
1	M&E Teams			10,000,000	10,000,000
	Sub-Total G				10,000,000
H Participation in the Walk by Mwiri Old Boys – A Week before Event					
1	Assorted visibility materials (t-shirts, scarves, caps, bottles, banners)	No.	1000	50,000	50,000,000

2	Refreshments for Walkers	Persons	2000	2000	4,000,000
3	Assorted tree seedlings to plant at stop points	No.	10,000	1,500	-
4	Tools (Watering cans, hoes, wheel barrows)	Lump sum	1	1,000,000	1,000,000
5	Contingency (5%)				16,417,750
	Sub-Total H				71,417,750
GRAND TOTAL:					329,117,750

**ANNEX II: ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE FOR MWIRI OLD BOYS’
ASSOCIATION (MOBA) HOMECOMING AND NATIONAL TREE
PLANTING WEEK (SEPT. 27TH – 3RD OCT. 2025)**

SN	DATE	ACTIVITIES	LOCATION	Responsible person(s)
1.	Sat. 27 th /09/2025	1. Home coming walk 2. Tree planting	Kampala - Busoga Collage Mwiri, Jinja Mwiri Hill	MOBA
2.	Sun. 28 th /09/2025	1. NBS FM radio talk show	Nabeta Plaza, Nizam Road, Jinja City.	Jinja City / BCM committee
3.	Mon. 29 th /09/2025	1. Tree planting at Iganga SS 2. Clean up at Iganga central Market	Iganga SS, Iganga Town	Iganga Municipal council
4.	Tues. 30 th /09/2025	1. Baba FM talk show on the Effects of deforestation.	Bugembe	BCM/NTP committee
5.	Wed. 1 st / 10/2025	1. Massive tree planting at Uganda Railways Seed School, Eng. Zikusoka Rd.	Jinja City Southern Division	Jinja City council
6.	Thurs. 2 nd /10/2025	1. Jinja City clean up at Bugembe market 2. Bridge FM Radio Talk Show	Bugembe town	Jinja City/ BCM committee
7.	National Tree Planting Day celebrations	1. Ceremonial tree planting 2. Main Celebrations	Busoga Collage Mwiri	BCM & NTP Committee; Guests; Students