

# PROJECT SUPPORT PROPOSAL

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Monday May 12, 2008

**SUBMITTED TO** : (ANY PROSPECTIVE SUPPORT PARTNERS)

**SUBMITTED BY** : ORGANIC PERSPECTIVES



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**PROJECT TITLE** : AGROFORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION

A project aimed at raising community awareness on (the causes and impact of) global climate change and, showcasing a range of agroforestry technologies through which tree planting can protect the environment and as well diversify the farming outputs for small scale farmers.

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

Organic Perspectives is implementing a pilot agroforestry project in Kamuli Town Council and the rural communities of Nabwigulu Sub County—Kamuli District.

The project is aimed at raising community awareness on (the causes and impact of) the escalating phenomenon of global climate change. As part of the remedial effort to counter the challenge, Organic Perspectives is radically focussing on educating the communities on the value of trees in protecting the environment, and how well-managed forestry systems are in effect a viable way of emancipating their own small-scale economies.

The project is involving the following activities:

- Conducting community awareness sessions on the environmental and economic benefits of properly managed agroforestry systems.
- Establishing demonstration tree nurseries and woodlots. These should constitute a learning centre to help in cascading to local communities the practical skills for seed handling (e.g. pretreatment); nursery management; sapling protection and design of particular agroforestry technologies<sup>1</sup>.
- Equipping local communities with knowledge of the tree species appropriate for systematic design and maintenance of specific agroforestry technologies
- Planting and taking care of tree seedlings in the identified suitable locations.

During the project, school children and local farmers are to be involved either as volunteering labor providers or as project target persons. Organic Perspectives' own team is to be charged with initiation of demonstration activities; supplying and taking care of seedlings and monitoring of progress.

The program will plant at least 5000 trees in the pilot program area in two years. Our estimated total project cost means that each tree will be planted at a cost of **£ 0.82** or **US\$ 1.64**. The program will also involve training sessions aimed at enabling participants to later sustain agroforestry on their own.

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<sup>1</sup> The key agroforestry technologies to be promoted by the project will depend both on context (or relevance) and the tree species available for demonstration purposes at our nursery centre. These will include: alley cropping; windbreaks; living fences; firebreaks and woodlots. Living terraces and contour plantings in particular may not be much essential as lands here are predominantly flat.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.0 BACKGROUND REVIEW</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS	4
1.2 CONTEXT: THE WORK OF ORGANIC PERSPECTIVES	5
<b>2.0 CURRENT PROGRESS AND THE ENVISAGED ACTION PROCESS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.0 PURPOSE OF THE FUNDS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4.0 DETAILED BUDGET</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.0 APPENDICES</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 ABOUT ORGANIC PERSPECTIVES' TEAM	9
5.2 BIBLIOGRAPHY	10

## 1.0 BACKGROUND REVIEW:

### 1.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

The earth is going through an era of tremendous increase in the levels of atmospheric gases. These gases are mainly emitted from industries and automobiles that rely on the use of fossil fuels as source of energy. The gases are referred to as 'greenhouse gases'.

"Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide. They are called 'greenhouse gases' because they trap the sun's (radiant) heat like the plastic sheeting that is used to make greenhouses<sup>2</sup>" (The Uganda Carbon Bureau).

These gases "work like an invisible blanket that wraps around the earth, trapping the heat inside" ([Trees for the Future, USA](#)). According to the Uganda Carbon Bureau, these gases "naturally encircle the earth...and, cause the earth to heat up. This is called global warming".

Global climate change has been the most immediate result of global warming. In this, "global average temperatures are raising, sea levels are raising as the polar ice melts, and weather patterns are changing. Insects and animals are changing their migratory patterns. Invasive species and insects are spreading to new territories" (Trees for the Future).

"Humans have caused too much carbon dioxide to be released. Cars, planes and factories burn fuel, releasing carbon dioxide. When forests are burnt, they also release carbon dioxide" (The Uganda Carbon Bureau).

"To reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and thereby fight climate change, we can grow trees and protect forests" (The Uganda carbon Bureau). "Trees help to filter massive volumes of atmospheric carbon and store it resiliently as part of their biomass in leaves, trunks, roots and any other tree litter. Trees also use large volumes of the carbon dioxide during photosynthesis" (Trees for the Future).

Unfortunately, while the increased use of fossil fuels has increased quantities of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere, the world's forests are being deforested more rapidly than ever before. According to Trees for the Future, "the world is losing its forests at a rate of 13 million hectares every year".

Burning of forests has meant that more carbon (that was formerly stored in trees) is being released into the atmosphere where there are less trees to remove it. To a greatest extent, "deforestation takes place in developing communities" (Trees for the Future). As an upcountry and less developed part of Uganda, Kamuli District is no exception. Indeed, Kamuli district has for decades been one of the best producers of charcoal that is taken to urban parts of Uganda.

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<sup>2</sup> A greenhouse is a structure that is used in colder climates to grow plants, flowers and vegetables" (Trees for the Future). Even when outside temperatures drop below freezing point, greenhouses are still warm enough to grow plants.

## 1.2 CONTEXT: THE WORK OF ORGANIC PERSPECTIVES

Organic Perspectives is a Ugandan not-for-profit concerned with protecting the Earth's biodiversity; promoting food security and supporting the development of sustainable and economically viable agriculture. Our work seeks to find solutions to factors behind environmental degradation both in the local and global context. As such, our main focus is on how local gardening practices or other human activities affect the quality of the environment, and what can be done to ensure sustainable productivity.

With particular regard to the escalating global climate change, we are committing a more radical effort on tree planting. In this, we want to be part of the lead in offsetting atmospheric greenhouse gases (such as carbondioxide) which trees absorb and save as part of their biomass or use during photosynthesis.

In general, our work is implemented through agroforestry and organic gardening projects with small scale farmers. In this, we not only aim at partnering with local communities in embracing ecologically resilient agriculture, but also to emancipate the farmers' agrarian economy as organic farm products are of increasing consumer preference, while agroforestry on the other hand is a viable way of diversifying farming outputs.

One of the findings in our August 2007 Baseline Research is that many local farmers have large pieces of land that are **not in use** throughout the year due to a range of constraints (especially lack of planting materials), while others have very small land and are desperate for ways of increasing their production. The small land owners in particular are basically concerned with how their land can help them become food secure while also sustaining other economic ventures like livestock. In addition, much of their land has for decades been deforested for charcoal burning (as an income source) leading to steadily degenerating weather patterns and unproductive soils.

Our Survey Report (with pictures) from the August 2007 Baseline Research (conducted in Buwanume Parish, Nabwigulu Sub County – Kamuli) is on:

<http://www.gaianlife.co.uk/docs/small%20Scale%20Farmers%20-%20Building%20Self%20Sufficiency%20Interventions.pdf>

Our community training programs will aim at raising awareness on the value of trees in restoration of the environment and diversification of the small-scale farmers' economies through sustainable and low-labour forestry systems.

We want to train local farmers in adopting a range of systematic agroforestry technologies. An example is 'alley cropping'. We already have large quantities of coppiceable and nitrogen-rich tree species that are appropriate for this purpose. Farmers need to learn the multipurpose benefits of managed forestry systems, such as getting animal forages for managing livestock on small pieces of land; restoring the productivity of degraded lands (using nitrogen-rich and fast-growing tree species); maximising the output from small fragmented lands or where cultivation is limited due to labour shortage. A complete list of tree species that we have is enclosed.

Pictures and progress information from the upcoming activities will be put together for documentation purposes and sharing with our support partners.

## 2.0 CURRENT PROGRESS AND THE ENVISAGED ACTION PROCESS

Organic Perspectives has received large quantities of fast growing and leguminous tree seeds from many sources. These include: [‘Trees for the Future \(USA\)’](#), [ECHO \(USA\)](#) and the [‘New Forests Project \(USA\)’](#) all free of charge. However, much as we received these seeds at the end of 2007, we have not yet established any tree nurseries. We began clearing our nursery site only lately (in May 2008). This is because our organization had difficulty in obtaining a free (non-rented) piece of land for a nursery site.

We waited in vain for decisions by Kamuli District Local Government; Nabwigulu Sub County and Kamuli Town council administrators who had all promised to offer us free land for our nursery and demonstration garden. In all cases, the concerned officials and their departmental counterparts could hardly secure time to engage in a joint decision over our land request—resulting in lengthy delays. We had to forfeit the promises.

Fortunately, one local farmer recently gave us a free piece of land on April 28, 2008. This moment henceforth is therefore a period of real hard work at our new site. We also intend to make this a learning centre that should aid in cascading to local communities the practical skills for nursery management; sapling protection and design of the various agroforestry technologies as well as organic gardening.

This pilot project is to run for two years from the time our initial seedlings are ready for transplanting (starting July 2008). Once our nurseries are in place and tree seedlings are ready for transplanting to new locations, we are to run the pilot project in Kamuli Town Council and Buwanume Parish (one the 8 parishes in Nabwigulu Sub County).

We decided to make Kamuli Town Council part of our pilot program area because this suburb is just within Nabwigulu Sub County—much as it is considered independent. The two local communities make up at least 169 sq. km and are home to at least 95,000 people. In Buwanume Parish, we shall primarily begin working with 110 families that we contacted during our 2007 Baseline Research. Kamuli Town Council will be embraced as a whole and, all schools (at least 15) in Kamuli Town Council and Buwanume Parish are to receive our seeds right from the start. Buwanume Parish and Kamuli Town Council make up at least 36 sq. km. Organic Perspectives shall work hard to quickly extend its tree planting projects to other parts of Nabwigulu Sub County not covered in the pilot program.

Moving and planting of the ready tree seedlings in the identified suitable locations will be the responsibility of Organic Perspectives’ own team. The seedlings will be planted in any appropriate public places like schools; along roads; in hospital compounds as well as in individual local people’s families in the program areas.

Organic perspectives is registering a growing number of primary school pupils willing to take part in the project as volunteers. In the process, the pupils will render free effort in watering the seedlings planted in nearby public places, while local people will take care of those seedlings planted in their family locations. We shall also have one community volunteer as project leader in each of the 11 local villages in Buwanume Parish.

We hope that after farmers have acquired the basic agroforestry skills through our training, they will ultimately be able to sustain this work on their own. Trees for the Future has already sent us ample agroforestry training manuals that we shall use in educating the local communities. We have also received technical information sheets on particular tree species and agroforestry in general, from the New Forests Project and ECHO. Our team is privileged for having recently undertaken comprehensive agroforestry training by Trees for the Future. Attached is an agroforestry certificate (from Trees for the Future) for one of our team leaders.

### 3.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF SUPPORT NEEDED

As we set off our nursery work, we have a number of basic materials required of us. The materials necessary in nursery management are at the forefront of our key needs. At the same time, our pilot program community is somewhat a vast area; water resources (for nursery irrigation) are few and distant.

In the near future, we shall also be required to distribute ready tree seedlings in our program areas; get in contact with local people (for awareness creation or training sessions) in our program areas and to make extensions of our tree planting projects to the remote parts of Kamuli district, where indiscriminate tree cutting for charcoal burning has prevailed for decades.

Similarly, watering and taking care of the tree seedlings that will be planted in certain areas (Kamuli Town Council in particular e.g. along roads) will be the responsibility of own team and the volunteering school children. This is with the exception of trees to be planted in well-gazetted locations like schools, people's families or any other areas that might have willing laborers to do the work.

The above implies that the following are part of our general needs.

- A plastic water tank (e.g. of 5000 litres). This is needed for collecting water for seedling irrigation at the nursery site.
- Assistive garden equipment e.g. hand hoes, trowels, watering cans, wheelbarrows (for collecting manure).
- Some bicycles to aid our team in collecting irrigation water or nursery shade materials (e.g. grass and reeds) and in supervising seedlings that are to be cared for by ourselves.
- A metallic fencing wire mesh (chain link) is needed as to keep off animals. Free range animal grazing is the tradition in local communities here.
- Accessibility equipment (e.g. one motorbike) for making contact with distant communities both in our vast pilot program area and the most severely deforested remote parts of Kamuli district—where we want to soon extend our work to.
- An ample piece of land independently owned by Organic Perspectives. We need to make this a learning centre that should aid in cascading to local communities the practical skills for seed handling; nursery management; sapling protection; design and maintenance of specific agroforestry technologies as well as organic gardening.
- A photocopier and stationery paper for reproducing and distributing to local farmers the technical information sheets we receive from our partners. Organic Perspectives has been asked by the New Forests Project (NFP) to become the national distributor for their tree seeds (together with technical information sheets) here in Uganda. **(Details on page 9)**

The approximate total cost of the pilot project, we hope, will be **£ 4,111** (Four thousand one hundred eleven British Pounds only) or **Ushs. 13,155,500**. A detailed breakdown for the budget of the estimated total cost of the pilot agroforestry project is attached. This excludes costs for fuel; equipment maintenance; computer purchase (already covered); stationery paper; meetings; labor; office rent and electricity bills which our own team is determined to meet.

In order to meet part of the above basic needs, we need a basic sum of **£ 3,460**. A detailed budget of how your money (not the total project cost) will be spent is on page 8. If the requested amount is more than what a prospective funder would offer, we request for support towards specific materials on the list being requested from you as on page 8. We have also asked for a sum of US\$ 97 from Trees for the Future (details are on page 9).

#### 4.0 DETAILED BUDGET

We think that a basic sum of at least £ 3,460 or US\$ 6,920 will enable our project move on. This money will help us to acquire the under-listed materials. We have used an average exchange rate is £ 1 = Ushs. 3200/= here in Uganda. The most current foreign exchange rates, however, are available on currency converter sites such as <http://www.xe.com> .

ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT COST (IN UGANDA SHILLINGS)	TOTAL (IN UGANDA SHILLINGS)
Watering can	4	Shs. 10,000/=	Shs. 40,000/=
Trowel	3	Shs. 10,000/=	Shs. 30,000/=
Rake	4	Shs. 10,000/=	Shs. 40,000/=
Forked hoe	5	Shs. 10,000/=	Shs. 50,000/=
Hand Hoes	3	Shs. 7,500/=	Shs. 22,500/=
Bicycles (For collecting irrigation water for the nursery and seedlings that should be cared for by our team)	3	Shs. 180,000/=	Shs. 540,000/=
Plastic water tank (1500 litres)	1	Shs. 550,000/=	Shs. 550,000/=
Photocopier (for reproducing technical information sheets).	1	Shs. 3,000,000/=	Shs. 3,000,000/=
Chain link (fencing wire mesh). Measuring 60 ft long and 6 ft high.	4 rolls	Shs. 200,000/= each roll.	Shs. 800,000/=
Motorcycle (Honda 125)	1	Shs. 6,000,000/=	Shs. 6,000,000/=
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>Ushs. 11,072,500</b>

We believe that after acquiring the above mentioned prerequisites for the pilot project, not only will the implementation costs for our future projects become typically little (and thus cost-effective), but also, participants in this work will be able to take on the effort on their own—ensuring sustainability.

This is because of two (2) reasons:

- Our community training sessions will aim at equipping participants with knowledge and skills for best agroforestry species selection; seed collection, storage and pretreatment. In this, the farmers will become independently able to procure tree seeds and use the acquired knowledge to design and maintain specific agroforestry technologies.
- Once our team puts in place a nursery site and/or demonstration garden having the appropriate management equipment, the only key input in our work thereafter will be seeds. Organic Perspectives already has many alliances for sourcing free seeds.

## **5.0 APPENDICES**

### **5.1 ABOUT ORGANIC PERSPECTIVES' TEAM**

Organic Perspectives is run by a team of three primary school teachers. They are:

1. Kalulu Anthony – Mutekanga Memorial Primary School, Kamuli.
2. Nansima Moses – Kananage Primary School, Kamuli.
3. Matende Joshua – Mutekanga Memorial Primary School, Kamuli.

We understand that a range of human activities impose enormous environmental challenges, more so as agriculture is an indispensable cross-cultural backbone for the economy of Uganda. Our commitment therefore is that of researching transferrable knowledge and skills that can translate into an ecologically sound and economically viable system in our communities.

We particularly appreciate our current involvement with 'Gaian Life (UK) and a number of global support partners who enable us to obtain seeds; technical and scientific expertise on agroforestry technologies and permaculture in general.

We believe we shall do even better and expand our projects to the more remote parts of Kamuli district—such as Budiope county—where indiscriminate tree cutting has been on for years. This will particularly be possible when we have ample tree seeds and other basics.

#### **Agroforestry Training**

Our team is privileged for having recently undertaken comprehensive agroforestry training by Trees for the Future. It is our intent to support the continuity of this program by cascading to local communities the knowledge and skills we acquired through the agroforestry training program by 'Trees for the Future'. Attached is an agroforestry certificate (from Trees for the Future) for one of our team leaders.

#### **Project support from Trees for the Future.**

As graduates of an Agroforestry Training Program by Trees for the Future (TFTF), our team automatically qualifies for any level of project support (including funding) that TFTF can offer. Their support, however, is only basic. On Tuesday May 6, 2008 we submitted a request for US\$ 97 only from Trees for the Future. This request, we hope, will certainly be considered. Any developments in this will be gratefully communicated to our other support partners.

#### **Organic Perspectives to distribute NFP'S tree seeds here in Uganda.**

The US-based New Forests Project (NFP) has asked our organisation to act as the national distributor for their tree seeds in the whole of Uganda. This is under their new program of decentralizing seed distribution. In this, the NFP envisages reducing on costs for shipping different seed packets requested by different people in various countries, and to eliminate the costly and lengthy process of obtaining phytosanitary certificates whenever seeds are to be sent to a foreign country.

This also necessitates us to have a photocopier and stationery paper for copying and distributing NFP's technical notes to farmers receiving seeds from us. This, we hope should be one of the alliances that will enable us have a steady supply of tree seeds—even in our own projects. Details can be obtained from with NFP's Pia Iolster < [piolster@newforests.org](mailto:piolster@newforests.org) >

## 5.2 BIBLIOGRAPHY

In developing this work, we have used and gratefully appreciate ideas from a number of sources and/or organisations. We particularly extend our thanks to the following resources:

1. Agroforestry Training Program Manual; Taking Action, Reaching Out. Trees for the Future, P.O Box 7027, Silver Spring, MD 20907 USA. Website: <http://www.plant-trees.org>
2. "The Climate is Changing!", Press Release by the Uganda Carbon Bureau with sponsorship from the British High Commission. Edition of the *Sunday Vision, Uganda's Leading Daily Newspaper, May 4, 2008*.  
Website: <http://www.ugandacarbon.org>
3. (a) Agroforestry in the Tropics and (b) Planting out Firewood and Fodder Trees. Two different publications by Henry DoubleDay Research Association.  
Garden Organic (HDRA—the Organic Organisation)  
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Tel: +44 (0) 24 7630 3517 Fax: +44 (0) 24 7663 9229  
Website: <http://www.hdra.org.uk> and <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk>
4. Permaculture in a Nutshell (By Patrick Whitefield).
5. Agroforestry: Farmers' Book, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1999 (The Uganda National Farmers National Association (UNFA).
6. Technical information sheets on nursery establishment and maintenance; seed pretreatment and seedling protection. (Two related versions from the New Forests Project and ECHO respectively).

### INTERNET REFERENCES:

1. Oxfam UK: Climate Change Resources.  
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/issues/climatechange/introduction.html>