

Tree planting in Uganda underway

by [Jens Schiersing Thomsen](#) | 31. maj 2019

I can confirm that our partner in Uganda is in full swing with planting of the tree seedlings that we have provided. I recently visited Uganda (2nd- 14th May 2019) on a 'working holiday' to personally oversee the planting and to also check the progress of the trees that were planted 2 years ago. During the visit I was able to make closer contact with the Ugandan NGO CIDI, the group that is running the project with close connections to the local people who are planting the trees. There are also close ties between CIDI and the Kingdom of Buganda, the locality in which the trees are being planted.

The visit was generally an uplifting and positive experience, however it is clear that Uganda is feeling the effects of the Climate Crisis, in that the 'normal' rainfall has in recent years become less certain. The local people are however optimistic, and believe that if they can replant their forests, which like in Denmark have been cleared from the landscape over the years, then the rain will also return. The uncertainty of the rain has meant that our two partners TROFACO og CIDI have decided that all plantings in 2019 should occur in those areas that have the 'safest' rainfall. You can read the full story with pictures [here](#).



Review of tree planting in Uganda from 2nd. to 14th. May 2019

Visit to the Ugandan National Minister

The day after we arrived in Kampala, the national capital of Uganda, we met with the country's national minister for Land, Agriculture, Cooperatives, Trade, Community Development and Environment, Ms. Mariam Oweek. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the plans agreed between the government and our partners CIDI/TROFACO for tree planting and re-afforestation in Buganda.

The Royal province or Kingdom of Buganda lies within the country of Uganda, and has existed as such for 800 years. The King of Buganda, known as the 'Kabaka' is Muwenda Mutebi II. He is recognised as the 36th Kabaka of Buganda. The current queen, known as the Nnabagereka, is Queen Sylvia Nagginda.

The Kingdom of Buganda and its administration are highly respected within Uganda and its people make up 17% of Uganda's population. The people belong to a number of which are loyal to the King. Buganda is a strong institution within the country of Uganda and the central government of Uganda respects the interests and wishes of the King and the way the Kingdom's lands are managed.

This means that the GROW-FOR-IT planting activities are under the protection of the Kabaka. It is not permitted to cut down the King's trees unless stated otherwise in the official forest plans for the particular forrest. The local people are entitled to farm the land between the rows of trees and to thin out any additional forest growth in accordance with local traditional forestry practice.



Photo: The Minister was pleased with the Project and expressed a wish to see original tree species reintroduced

There are already plantations of exotic tree species such as eucalyptus and pine, which are not native to Uganda, but are useful in housing construction, as they are resistant to termites.

It was a wish of the Kingdom of Buganda that the plantings should be of local native tree species. The agreement with CIDI/TROFACO is clear and specific – "no eucalyptus nor pine trees".

Tree planting at school



Many schools are looking to plant trees in the playgrounds to provide shade and fruit to supplement lunches



Seedlings ready for planting

2017 planting at Rakai

Our trip took us to the south easterly part of Buganda, in the area known as Rakai. In 2017 there had been 650 trees planted in Rakai at the Kabaale Makondo Primary School.

The quality control test for this planting was to see how many of the 50 planted Mango trees had survived. We found 42 of the 50 Mango trees, but we could also see that the missing trees had been replaced with Jack Fruit trees, so the end result was satisfactory.

Kabaale Makondo Primary School, Rakai

Subcounty	Lwanda
Planted in 2017	
Species planted	Number
Mango	50
Grevillea robusta	200
Musizi	100
Added in 2018	
Species planted	Number
Grevillea robusta	300
Total	650

Name of sponsor	GroFork Batch Number	Number of trees	Note
Jens Schiering Thomsen	GOF-2017-009	650	50 trees at: St Edwards Primary School

Year: 2017 - before planting

+

Year: 2017 - planting

+

Year: 2018 - 10 months old

+

Quality control test was to find the 50 planted Mango trees.



The author with a 2 year old tree. Note the wooden stake at the right, that has set roots and begun to grow.

MINZIRRO Hills on the border between Uganda and Tanzania.

We subsequently visited the MINZIRRO Hills where GROW-FOR-IT plans to plant a large number of trees on a hillside in an area close to the Tanzanian border.



Seedlings ready for planting in the MINZIRRO Hills



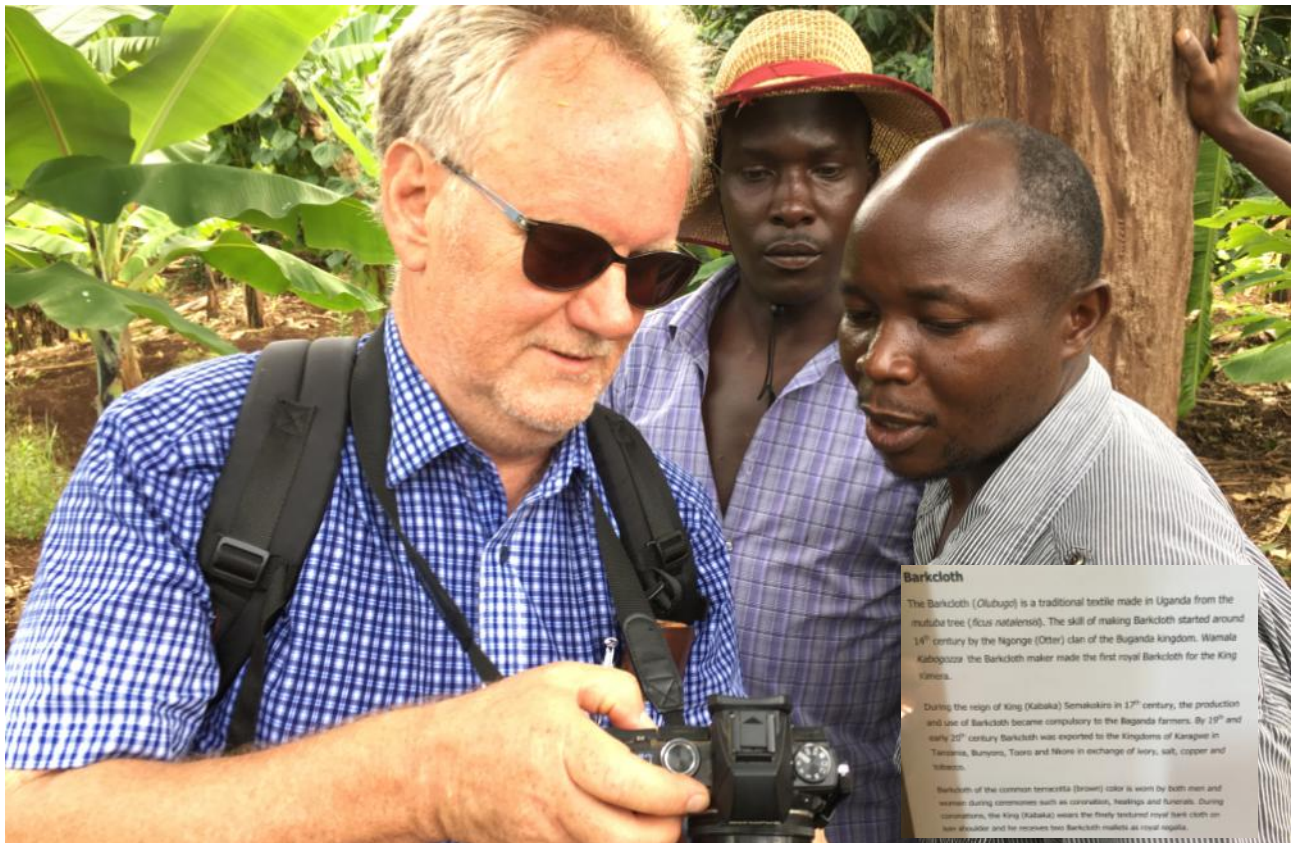
Photo of the hillside in the national park in the lowlands with Tanzania in the background



Edible Jack Fruit - is also being planted



120 year old trees on the border with Tanzania



Steffen, from TROFACO, shows photos from the botanical gardens to the local forest folk – “Barkcloth” tree in the background. These trees produce a fibre that can apparently be used for the production of clothes.



The Danish Church charity fund has previously helped with the construction of a water well. It continues to function perfectly and is run by the local community under a co-operative arrangement, where a small payment made by users when drawing water contributes to the cost of maintenance. It is a good example of a successful foreign aid project.

Planting in flat fields



Trees planted in rows, between which crops such as peanuts and sweet potato are grown



Trees in rows, with peanuts in between

Botanical gardens in the town of Entebbe

On the public holiday, we traveled to Entebbe to see the trees in the botanical gardens. It was impressive to see the big trees with crowns of 30 meters in diameter! It would be possible to collect seeds from the old trees (175 years) and re-establish some of the original species out in the countryside.



Trees from the botanical gardens



Churchill is said to have participated in the construction of these steps in the 'original forest' part of the gardens.

