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## Background

Important trees including medicinal trees are threatened and are disappearing in Uganda. Failure to protect these species will have important repercussions on the health and productivity of the people. It is therefore important that these and other woody species are conserved.

This project contributed to the protection of trees in Kaliro District by **establishing nursery gardens** in Kaliro and Mukono and undertaking **participatory research** with farmers on tree propagation. The project built on previous work through which important medicinal plants of Kaliro District had been identified.

## Activities

### 1.0 Establishment of Nursery garden at Kaliro Tree Center (KTC) Kyalizwanyuma in Kaliro District

Kaliro tree centre (KTC) was initiated by Ms. Torunn Stangeland in March 2007 and was inaugurated in July 2007 by the LC 5 Chairperson Kaliro District, Mr. Elijah Kagoda. The area MP. Hon. Engineer Gagawala Wambuzi, attended.

The primary aim of KTC was to contribute to the domestication and conservation of indigenous medicinal trees. It was planned that seedlings would be distributed at a small cost to healers. After the experimental nursery was established the community requested that it be expanded to include commercial tree species like Musizi (*Maesopsis eminii*), pine and Eucalyptus. 37 tree species were raised in the centre.

Professional advice on seed germination was provided by Mr. Sebastian Walaita of the National Tree Seed Centre of the National Forestry Authority.

### Challenges

We failed to sale seedlings at the minimal fee in the villages around. Because of the poor market the garden was shifted to Mbalala in Mukono district in collaboration with Tropical Aloe Lands (TAL). Infrastructure including an office, a staff house, store, shade houses for seedlings and visitors, a germination shade house, and a mixing and potting shade house have been established.

### Outcomes

1. We raised seedlings of medicinal trees and established them in medicinal gardens
2. Several healers and farmers planted trees using seedlings from the garden
3. Skills of nursery gardening were transferred to community members
4. There was increased awareness about tree planting. People in Nawaikoke talk about tree propagation frequently. The nursery garden has been visited by many people including schools.
5. There has been improved networking between universities and the community

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### References

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- <https://sites.google.com/site/stangelandtorunn/>



Photos of nursery activities. (a) pricking seedlings, (b) hardening of seedlings, (c-e) inauguration of nursery garden

### 2.0 On farm research with healers

Tree seedlings were raised in a nursery established for this purpose in Nawaikoke from March 2007 to April 2008. We used the Framework Tree Species Method (Elliot et al. 2003). Seeds were collected from neighboring farms and fallows.

Three groups of Traditional Healers provided land, prepared land, put up fences, planted and weeded the plots 3 times during the first rainy season and agreed to manage the seedlings. We provided seedlings, money for ploughing and putting up a fence around each plot. The trees were not harvested during the first year while we monitored growth, but after that the healers took full control.



Photos of Torunn conducting on farm experiments