

# TREE PLANTING

## Youth are key in mitigating climate change and fighting poverty

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The ministry also has the product grant scheme for communities and commercial tree growers mainly to produce logs for timber and some for fuel (charcoal and firewood).

"This ensures that the many youth who might not be able to access the 50% of the investment cost per hectare subsidy can be supported in terms of training and provision of planting materials," Adata explains.

However, she notes that reaping the benefits of these programmes is easier as a group because groups are easily co-ordinated which fosters engagement unlike dealing with individuals.

Such groups include the Youth Go Green which has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Under the National Forestry Authority, there is also support for community tree planting under the Greening Uganda Programme, which is aimed at planting 100 million trees in the next five years. The programme supplies free and/or subsidised tree seedlings, support private initiatives in production of tree seedlings.

According to Michael Mugisha, the executive director of NFA, an accumulated total of 1,210kg of tree seed out of the targeted 1,368kg, were procured and 1,092kg sold to private nurseries.

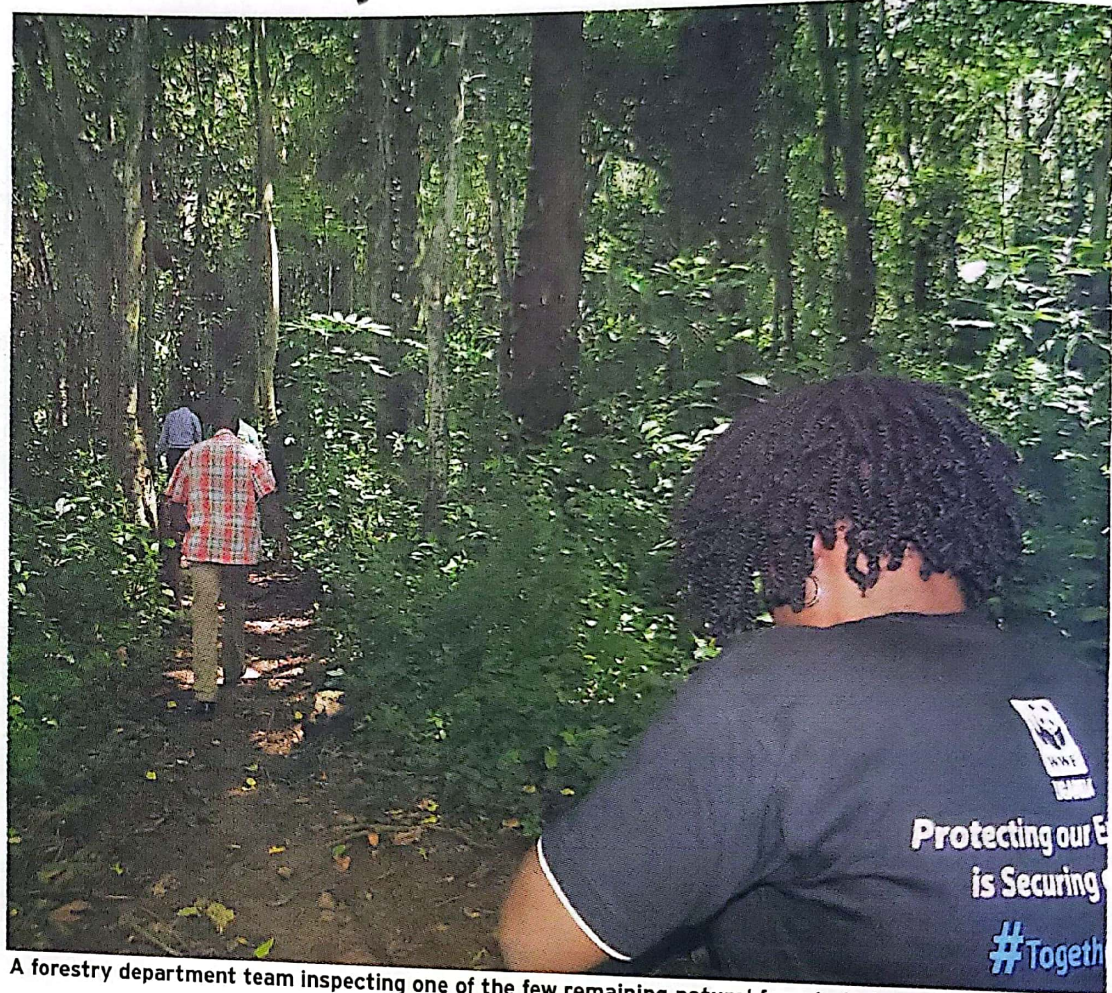
**THE YOUTH CAN ALSO APPROACH THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT TO SEEK SUPPORT IN LINE WITH TREE PLANTING.**

The Ministry of Water and Environment also introduced tree planting exercises on all national holidays under the greening Uganda programme.

This exercise has seen the involvement of the population in tree planting leading to a total of 9,9984,445 seedlings procured against the targeted 17,629,193 targeted for the year.

Besides the economic benefits of tree planting, one cannot ignore the impacts of climate change, which we have all felt like lack of water for our livestock and domestic consumption and no water for growing crops. Tree planting can mitigate this.

"The youth still have a sizeable lifespan of their lives left so when they work towards mitigating climate change problems now, they will have a secure future," Adata says.



A forestry department team inspecting one of the few remaining natural forests in Luwero district