



Nature and the Environment

“Women as Guardians of Natural Ecosystems”

Slide 2: The Role of Women in Nature

- Historically, women have been custodians of forests and herbal medicine.

Before modern medicine, women used herbal remedies for pregnancies, childbirth, and healing.

Even with modern medicine, women in Africa still use herbal remedies for these functions, including child care.

Continuation of Slide 2

- Human influence, **especially by men**, disrupted this ecosystem, leading to environmental distortion, deforestation, swamp degradation, and climate change.

Slide 3: Man's Interference and Environmental Degradation

- Deforestation for commercial purposes such as the hardwood industry in Africa, charcoal burning, non-indigenous tree planting (eucalyptus).
- Religious and economic factors discouraging traditional medicine through psychological manipulation.

Pictorial of Man's Interference



Deforestation of a Forest Reserve



Brick making facilitated by burning of wood



Encroachment of a Forest Reserve

Presentation by His Excellency Prof. Gilbert B. Bukenya

Slide 4: The Eucalyptus Problem

Eucalyptus tree planting has been introduced in many African countries, including Uganda, as a replacement for indigenous forests for commercial purposes.

Negative impacts:

- Reduces biodiversity and depletes soil nutrients.
- Lowers water tables, worsening drought conditions.

The commercial advantage is far less than the destruction it causes to the environment.

Continuation of Slide 4

Example 1: In South Africa and Uganda, eucalyptus plantations have led to worsening droughts, soil nutrition depletion, and declining biodiversity.

Example 2: Nepal's Forestry Sector Policy of 2015 is now actively putting an end to eucalyptus trees.

Eucalyptus trees in Nepal



In Nepal, a eucalyptus boom became a cautionary tale

Welcome to Kyewaaga Forest Reserve



Slide 5: Restoring Nature through Women's Leadership

- The '**Time is Now**' to restore nature if we are to combat climate change!

The biggest destroyer of nature is “**MEN**”; however, those who suffer the most from this destruction are **women and their children**.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that women should have a leadership role in restoring nature.

How?

- Reforestation: The proposal is for every rural woman to plant forty (40) indigenous trees, including medicinal ones, at a price of a Dime per Tree per day (**UGX 365**). Of the forty (40) trees planted by each woman, ten (10) should be medicinal trees.

This is possible in a rural community!

Continuation of Slide 5

Example 1: In Uganda – 18,000 trees were planted a month ago in the dry season, but now, 17,000 are thriving. The planting took place in Kyewaaga Forest Reserve, located in Entebbe, Wakiso District, using the army. In 2.5 hours, 18,000 trees were planted successfully!

The seedlings are being looked after by six people. Being an urban area, the six people are paid **UGX 3,300 per day (USD 90 cents)** . However, my proposal is to pay **UGX 365 per day (10 cents)** to the rural population.

Pictorial of Planted Trees in Kyewaaga



So, how much per tree?

‘A dime per Tree’: This includes planting and nurturing the indigenous tree until it is ready for carbon net absorption.

- Encourage communal fish farming



- Growing forest-friendly food



- Every woman participating in this program should acquire a solar-powered cooker at a subsidized cost.



Other Activities at Kyewaaga Forest Reserve



Watering of the seedlings using irrigation cans



Make-Shift Retention Dam for watering seedlings

Slide 6: Advanced Scientific Research and Technology for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)

Advancing scientific research and technological innovations to extract pharmaceutical compounds from medicinal plants is crucial.

This will increase the range of APIs available for drug manufacturing and reduce the cost of drugs if these activities are done within the tree planting area by international organizations.

Indigenous and Medicinal Trees at Kyewaaga



Vitellaria paradoxa
(Shea Butter Nut
Tree)



Milicia excelsa
(Mvule Tree)



Soursop Tree
(Ekitaferi)



Warburg Africanus
(Ugandan
Greenheart)

Shea Butternut Tree



Soursop Tree (Ekitaferi)



Creation of Centers for Innovation

- Establish scientific – based centers for innovation

Examples:

- Ideas of inventing a new thing:
- IT Apps such as TikTok, WhatsApp, Twitter
- Juices (Banana Juice)
- Motorized engines
- Explosives

Slide 8: Call for Action

- Recognize women as the main key stakeholders in environmental restoration.
- Promote reforestation in Africa with indigenous trees (A dime per tree – 40 trees per woman per day!) This is feasible!
- Implement, at the earliest, the solar cooking stove per homestead targeting the participating women in the '**Dime per Tree**' initiative.

Call for Action Points

- The solar cooking initiative will significantly reduce the purge on charcoal and firewood, which are currently used as cooking fuels.
- Introduction of researched agroforestry for food production.
- Call for research in the medicinal compounds of indigenous trees in Africa leading to Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients used to produce drugs. This technological innovation should be established around tree planting communities in Africa.

Continuation of Slide 8

- Public lands and forest reserves should be reserved for indigenous and medicinal trees, and not eucalyptus.

While eucalyptus may be grown on private land, strict policies and enforcement are necessary to ensure that government-owned forests focus on native tree restoration only.

- Establishment of Innovative Centers



Questions?

Thank you for listening!