



Kapchorwa District Landcare Chapter (KADLACC)

Our journey from formation to delivering results for community and landscape

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What is KADLACC

Kapchorwa District Land Care Chapter (KADLACC) is an alliance of farmer groups, community-based organisations (CBOs) and government departments addressing commonly identified problems of land degradation and reduced productivity. It is an innovation platform addressing complex integrated natural resource management (NRM) issues facing these communities and targets the poor and the vulnerable groups in the watersheds. The platform was formed out of community felt need to address land degradation and is led by self-motivated, cohesive farmer groups that share the primary objective of landcare with other stakeholders and exists with or without external support.

KADLACC has a vision of a sustainable landcare system that enhances community livelihoods. Its mission is to mobilize and strengthen the capacities of stakeholders to adopt and promote sustainable landcare practices. With a goal to improve community livelihoods through sustainable land management, increased access, control, ownership and productive use of common natural resources among the vulnerable poor and disadvantaged people in the community. KADLACC is made up of 35 groups from Kapchorwa and Kween Districts.

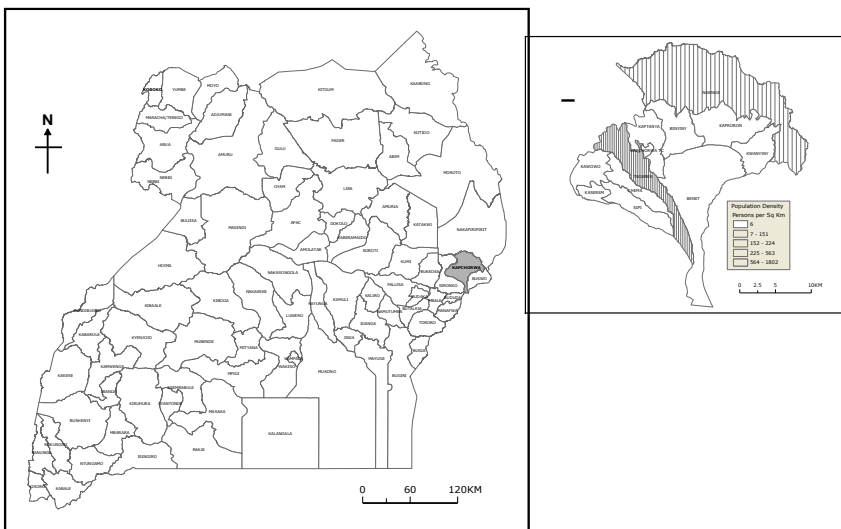
Why it was created

Complex landscape management issues such as indiscriminate removal of vegetation cover, eroding soils, exacerbated by steep slopes and poor agronomic practices had resulted in reduced soil fertility and landslides that destroyed crops, property and lives. Natural resource management challenges were compounded by social issues (Chemangei et al. 2007) such as land abandonment in lowland areas of the landscape owing to cattle rustling and opening new and fragile lands to cultivation and gender inequality, with women providing most of the agricultural labour but with no decision-making power. There was conflict in the protected areas of Mount Elgon National Park such as displacement of the indigenous Benet people and forest encroachment into the protected areas for firewood collection, grazing and hunting. Poor relationship between the community and park authorities resulted in arrests of livestock and levying of heavy fines on livestock found inside the park (Otiende et al. 2016). Poor governance around natural resource management resulted in

policy contradictions, limited local enforcement and resource allocation for governance systems. KADLACC was formed by the community to tackle these land degradation and social issues.

Where does it operate

KADLACC operates in Kapchorwa and Kween Districts on the slopes of Mount Elgon in eastern Uganda. Bukwo was initially part of KADLACC but was weaned off in 2006 to form Bukwo District Landcare Chapter (BUDLACC) but still works in very close relationship and consultation and KADLACC will continue to provide support to BUDLACC in the future. The area ranges between 1000 and 3000 meters above sea level with steep rolling and undulating slopes and annual rainfall of between 920 and 1,650 millimetres with higher rainfall further up the mountain. Kapchorwa District occupies an area of 1731.7 Km². It is approximately 65 kilometres, northeast of Mbale town, and regarded as one of the most productive areas in Uganda.



Maps showing Kapchorwa District highlighted in a map of Uganda (left) and the district in more detail (right)

There are a range of income generating activities in Kapchorwa District including crop production mostly maize, beans, bananas, coffee, and cassava as well as livestock with dairy cattle and local chicken the most common (Kimaiyo et al. 2017). Other important crops include Irish potatoes, wheat, barley and vegetables (cabbage, onions, and garden peas). Forest products collected by men and women include honey, timber/logs, fuel wood, fruits and medicinal plants (Bourne et al. 2015).

Landcare – mending the broken land

For KADLACC, Landcare is an approach based on the notion of caring for land as a community, about mending the broken land. Landcare is about voluntary community land conservation groups taking action to secure benefits from caring for land for today and future generations through the prevention and control of land degradation. Landcare is focussed on bottom-up rather than top down approach and values community empowerment and collective action to develop and apply innovative solutions to local natural resources management challenges.

The term landcare originated in Victoria, Australia in 1986 as the registered name of a government programme to assist voluntary community land conservation groups. At the same time rural communities in other states began to establish groups to tackle their local land degradation problems. "Landcare 'became the term to describe these groups and activities they undertook. Both the federal and state governments in Australia strongly support landcare groups and activities. The landcare movement brings the community, government and business together to collaborate in making the best use of the environment. Landcare was also established in Germany at a similar time and has spread to many parts of the world since, with a vibrant network in Uganda.

How KADLACC was formed

In 2000, community members initiated discussions with various stakeholders to build consensus and mutual understanding around the landscape challenges they faced. Community facilitators were trained to support farmer organisations using farmer-learning cycles (Otiende et al. 2016).

A facilitator of a grassroots innovation program introduced the term landcare to the district in 2003 and the platform was formed that same year. The facilitator consulted with the district and community leaders and shared the principles and approaches of landcare. As landcare works at a landscape scale this was a suitable model for the issues the community was addressing. Landcare is about voluntary community land conservation groups taking action to secure benefits from caring for land for today and future generations, often through the prevention and control of land degradation.

The following steps were taken in the development of KADLACC:

1. Spontaneous village level consultations on natural resources management problems experienced by individual farmers, farmer groups and institutions.
2. Formation of a coalition of champion farmers from different villages.
3. Selected members from the champions sought donor and government support for landscape restoration.
4. Watershed planning meetings were held by community and facilitated by Action Aid, African Highlands Initiative (under ICRAF) and local government who were ready to assist farmer groups who had identified a common problem and were ready to solve it themselves. Meetings at watershed level involving all stakeholders, including all watershed residents, to give feedback on the draft work plans and technical recommendations on ways to address priority problems. This approach led to community ownership and they fully participated in the process of planning and implementation and consolidated the commitment of development actors to support communities in collectively solving their felt needs.
5. The coalition created awareness amongst CBOs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local government.
6. Establishment of the organisation structure at watershed, sub-county and district levels.

As part of developing KADLACC, a common vision was established. Visioning is an integral component of the landcare process in Kapchorwa, where the community draws a visual image of how they want their landscape to look in the future. By discussing the desired future, an agreed

vision is established, and the community can set clear steps towards achieving that future with greater cohesion and agreement, which is positive for the platform (Neely et al. 2017).

Structure and governance of KADLACC

KADLACC consists of 35 farmer groups each with an average of 25 members. More groups have expressed interest to join and they will undergo the visioning process before becoming members. Before a group can become a member, they must be well established and organised with a common vision for land management. The platforms provide a forum for member organisations to share experiences, lessons, challenges, successes and harmonize plans and budgets in line with their priorities. With sustained community capacity building, the platform has developed organisation and leadership structures that have improved community mobilisation for collective action in integrated natural agricultural resources management.

KADLACC mainly operates on a voluntary basis, where individual champions (individuals that are self-driven and are able to move the process forward, guided by the common shared vision) from various organisations, farmer groups, CBOs, the local government departments and the self-employed have joined together to enable the operations of the platform be successful. KADLACC has a secretariat, a steering committee and a general assembly.

Steering Committee

This consists of the chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and three committee members; all elected by the general assembly. Three committee members are drawn from the 35 member groups. A civil society representative is nominated to represent the sector. Government representatives join the committee meetings to support on technical issues. The district local government is represented by officials from the natural resource and production departments that are part of KADLACC and occasionally host the platform. The secretaries for production and natural resources (executive local council) and chairpersons of the standing committees for production and natural resources are involved in KADLACC steering committee meetings occasionally to provide technical support on policy issues.

The major responsibilities of the steering committee include a) Formulation and reviewing of policies that govern the chapter, and b) Approving work plans, budgets and accounts of the chapter prepared by the secretariat. The steering committee convenes its meetings quarterly.

General Assembly

The general assembly is the supreme body of the chapter. It is charged with responsibilities such as policy approval and making decisions on any matter pertaining to the chapter (but not to the platforms) and electing the steering committee. The general assembly consists of representatives of paid-up member organisations of the chapter. The general assembly meets annually.

Secretariat

The secretariat is the official office of KADLACC and it's the policy making and administrative body that coordinates and facilitates KADLACC activities. . The secretariat consists of the chairperson,

coordinator, program officer, accountant and other supporting staff. This team is selected by the steering committee. Ensures the everyday running of the office and the platform. The secretariat is also supported by organisations and local government departments that subscribe to KADLACC and provide backstopping. Many of the secretariat members currently work on a voluntary basis.

How KADLACC operates

There are a number of key activity areas that KADLACC supports as outlined below.

Support to farmer groups/organisations in planning and capacity building

Objective: To build the capacity of member organisations to effectively participate in participatory planning, budgeting, technology implementation, monitoring and learning processes.

KADLACC uses the reflect learning cycle methodology, where farmers come together at the watershed or group level to exchange views. The learning cycle groups are led by farmer innovators with expertise in the topics of interest, often these groups have up to 25 members from a neighbouring area (Otiende et al. 2016). The groups go through a visioning process where they look at the current situation and discuss how they want things to be in the next few years. They then discuss the key issues and challenges in achieving their vision and put forward ideas and activities for what they can do to overcome these challenges (action points) and the external support needed. These ideas are brought together into an action plan. Identification of appropriate technologies is supported through community facilitators.

KADLACC supports the landcare groups in the prioritisation, planning and budgeting process. Landcare groups mobilize communities for collective action at watershed level, through coordination and networking. Community participation stimulates visionary attitudinal change and activity implementation.

Capacity building to enhance collective action approaches, access to inputs, and/ technology uptake on integrated NRM and marketing of enterprises is provided by KADLACC community innovators/facilitators or through government extension agents. To complete the reflect cycle, group members come together to review the activities that were implemented and re-plan. KADLACC secretariat provides periodic monitoring for accountability and reporting purposes. The KADLACC secretariat makes follow-up visits for monitoring and backstopping for plan implementation and bring in partners from government, research institutions and others to support the platforms.

The reflect cycle methodology is used at different levels. When watershed plans are brought together then individual innovation platforms at watershed level develop plans and budgets that are sent to the district platform secretariat for sharing with the rest of the platforms. Representatives from each watershed platform¹ participate in the district platform and when they

¹ KADLACC works with groups whom we share a common objective of land management. Groups that subscribe to KADLACC with landcare principles are referred to as innovation platforms (IPs). They are usually registered, and some are CBOs. IPs can be single or multi-enterprise and can have diverse focus.

have meetings it is a critical time to discuss issues and bring together workable priorities with little external support needed. Representative members report back to their watershed platform the improved plans and budgets.

Coordination, networking and partnerships

To create a forum for the civil society organisations, research institutions and other stakeholders involved in NRM to regularly exchange views to enhance landscapes and livelihoods.

KADLACC has a number of roles in this activity area including enhancing visibility, capacity building, supporting interaction and collaboration, research, fund raising and linking technical skills to landcare groups, as outlined below:

- Creating awareness about the Landcare philosophy amongst the local leadership, civil society and our platforms through meetings, workshops, learning/exchange visits and demonstrations.
- Building the capacity of staff, facilitators and the member organisations in identified areas through study tours, workshops and demonstrations/action research.
- Holding consultative meetings with different stakeholders to share experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learnt or on particular issues such as collaborative management of resources in the buffer zones of protected areas.
- Soliciting technical and financial support to organizations and facilitate community innovations/farming methods that address Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and livelihoods.
- Supporting research, documentation /publications on NRM and livelihoods issues.
- Conducting stakeholder analysis and build partnerships.
- Sourcing resources to support innovative landcare approaches.
- Identifying and piloting new NRM/SLM opportunities such as Junior Landcare (which is in the offing) among others.

Resources to support KADLACC have come from a number of sources at different times since 2003 but the platform has primarily run through voluntary efforts, which have enhanced ownership and sustainability.

Market access

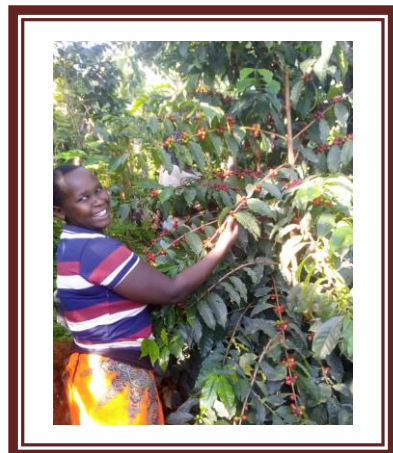
Objective: to support livelihood enhancement of the community.

KADLACC has supported the identification of markets and marketing opportunities. The platform also supports groups to enhance their entrepreneurial and negotiation skills.

The Value chain Innovation Platforms for Food Security (VIP4FS) project aimed at identifying principles and drivers that support scalable establishment of effective and equitable innovation platforms that enhance food security through greater engagement of smallholder farmers with markets. The project was implemented in Kapchorwa District and focused on the coffee, honey and dairy value chains building on the high social capital and progress in landcare in areas that had been supported by KADLACC (Okia et al. 2019). KADLACC was a local partner under this project

responsible for community mobilization, capacity building and monitoring and learning. This provides an excellent example of how projects and efforts are able to build on the work KADLACC has led to bring in the market dimension, building on the social capital that has been built over time. Through this project, Innovation platforms from Kapchorwa districts were able for the first time to export speciality coffee to Australia and participated in national, regional and international trade fairs to promote Elgon/Kapchorwa coffee. The honey innovation platforms improved their bee keeping practices by adopting the use of be houses which can accommodate over 100 improved beehives thus increasing honey yields and have improved packaging of honey (e.g. Sikako Honey) which attracts better prices.

Capacity building through participatory research and technology development. This has empowered farmers in ownership of the programs, an important ingredient in facilitating technology uptake e.g. Calliandra uptake, coffee selective picking of the right cherries
Bee House



2. Photos: for Degraded landscape.



Degraded landscape in Teryeet

Restored landscape



Governance, policy and bye-law development

Objective: To participate in and influence natural resources management policy and by-law formulation processes.

Potential for improving livelihoods and more sustainable natural resource use is enhanced by collective action on *natural resources management* - where it is absent, including both informal negotiation support and formal bylaw reforms (German et al. 2008).

Bylaws were built around local knowledge and their identified challenges, so they address local level need and due to this are naturally cross sectoral and at a landscape level.

Bylaw development

A bylaw is a regulation (rule or law) made by a local authority to control the actions of its community. The first bylaw to be developed was the Benet Community Landcare bylaw 2009, which addressed free grazing, loss of tree cover, conflicts within protected forests, excessive runoff, poor farming practices, youth, family conflicts and use and ownership of forests. It was to regulate proper land use and conservation. This is a sub county level document that addressed community landcare issues in all the parishes of Benet sub-county.

Key steps in the bylaw development drawn from Chemengei et al (2007) and German et al (2008) are:

Preparation:

- Literature review, especially on issues related to law and policies.
- Participatory mapping with district stakeholders to identify interest groups.

Consultation at village, parish and sub-county with continued feedback and/Review:

- Focus group discussions with each of the identified stakeholder groups including the Benet communities and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).
- Stakeholder meeting facilitated by district champions to initiate dialogue on co-management among the stakeholders. Every village with all their leaders brought out the common big issues and proposed penalties for adverse behaviour. Issues from each village were then compiled together. Through discussion of livelihood and conservation issues surrounding the park as well as possibilities for co-management, they reached a consensus on key challenges and support areas for the community. The compiled and edited information was taken back to the villages for feedback and improvement of the combined village list. This step was also for the villages to acknowledge that there were issues they identified e.g. Agreement was reached on days for Benet to collect honey and bamboo shoots in the protected areas in exchange for supporting protection of the park.
- KADLACC follow-up with UWA Warden to share Benet interests and receive support through commitment for tree and fodder planting materials.
- Discussion between KADLACC and community on activities that could further build their relationship with UWA without threatening the park conservation objectives.
- Multi-stakeholder meetings facilitated by KADLACC at parish level with community, UWA and government to negotiate rights and responsibilities for the community in co-management, building on the village level meetings. At the parish level, the issues were introduced and discussed with local council II leaders (LCII), parish chiefs, parish environment committee chairpersons and LCII secretaries for production and natural resources.
- Sub-county executive committee and speaker (many of whom had participated in the bylaw development directly – as members of that parish during parish consultative meetings) received the document with background information, issues, actions and penalties well spelt out for discussion with some technical officers. Once they understood, a date was given for a full council for discussion.
- Sub-county council received copies in advance, and they added / removed / modified and/or agreed in accordance with the 'District local government act' and approved the bylaw (with or without amendments). Once the amended corrections are done. It was put before the executive once it was approved with amendments for acceptance of the amendments. If issues were not approved, then they would be corrected first and brought back to the full council for approval. All these steps depend on the magnitude of the issues. Finally, the bylaw is carried to the District council, which then blesses the bylaw – It is then effective.

Landcare Ordinance

An ordinance is a district document covering community issues that are considered serious by the district local government and impact larger areas than covered by a bylaw. A similar process as for the bylaw was used, as outlined below:

1. First the natural resource department compiles the related landcare issues, highlighting seriously affected areas, in a law/policy version document.
2. The document is taken through the standing committee for natural resources and production for discussion and agreed upon by the standing committee.
3. Agreed document is then taken to the district council. The draft ordinance is pronounced to the district council by the district speaker when each of the members of the council has a copy. The council is adjourned and at the next council sitting the ordinance is discussed and improvements made if needed.
4. Once agreed, council is adjourned, and members are asked to go and make consultations with community members of their constituencies for three months. The council consultations are sometimes supported technically by the technical team – moving with the draft ordinance from sub-county to sub-county to see if anyone has comments to make. This is done in a big meeting or a day's workshop. Local leaders must understand the laws being promoted, be fully engaged in the process to ensure ownership.
5. During the three months, a summary of the ordinance and the draft ordinance is displayed at the subcounty headquarters and at times posters are used to share feedback with the community.
6. All comments are compiled and included in the draft final document for discussion. At this point the ordinance may go back through the standing committee again, particularly if there are issues that need further discussion for council approval.
7. Once approved it is then submitted to the attorney general to ensure the ordinance is in accordance with the constitution of Uganda.
8. Once cleared, it is then circulated for implementation by the district.

What are the results in relation to the landcare principles?

Landcare is guided by a set of principles. The Landcare principles used by KADLACC and adapted from Prior and Holt (2006) are:

1. *Integrated Sustainable Natural Resource Management*
2. *Community based and led natural resource management* within a participatory framework
3. Development of *sustainable livelihoods* utilising empowerment strategies
4. Government, community and individual *capacity building*
5. Development of active and true *partnerships*
6. Blending together of appropriate upper level *policy processes* with *bottom up feedback mechanisms*

These principles set a useful framing by which to review the impact of KADLACC. The outcomes and impacts of KADLACC's work are outlined below under each of the principles.

Integrated Sustainable Natural Resource Management

KADLACC groups work on a range of NRM interventions, including soil conservation structures and planting of trees to reduce soil erosion. Tangible activities on ground have been soil and water conservation through contour siting and trench digging, soil fertility management, organic farming, bee keeping, zero grazing, tree planting/agroforestry, fodder establishment, fuel wood saving stoves and merry-go-round savings. An integrated approach has been used to address land degradation and improve livelihoods simultaneously. For example, grasses and shrubs are planted on bunds to both secure the soil and to provide fodder for cows to enhance milk production. The landcare groups then collectively market their milk. The adoption of various conservation technologies and practices by landcare farmers has been recorded. Otiende et al (2016) reported that from the inception of KADLACC in 2003 to the year 2011, there was a significant increase in tree cover through planting of diverse trees by community groups and that a range of products including fuel wood, poles, timber and improved fertility benefitted the community as a result. In the same period, communities established extensive networks of contour bands and bench terraces, trenches resulting in increased land use potential (Otiende et al., 2016). Other reported benefits include reduction of livestock free grazing, increased milk production, increased household incomes, reduction of landslide frequency and increased food production (Nyangas & Chemangei 2010, Mowo et al. 2009).

It was noted by the VIP4FS project that “adoption of landcare potentially has huge environmental impacts for soil and water conservation in the steep Mt. Elgon landscape with a dense population and highly fragmented landholdings” (Okia et al. 2019).

An impact evaluation of the landcare approach in Kapchorwa undertaken by Mowo et al. (2009) concluded that rapid adoption of landscape remediation practices was achieved through facilitated learning and community interest in improving livelihoods as well as their environment. The landcare approach built the capacity of the community to experiment with different practices and to share the outcomes with their peers, facilitating the scalability of experimentation and adoption (Muller 2015).

Community based and led Natural Resources Management (NRM) within a participatory framework

Landcare has been successful in bringing the community together for collective land management with positive landscape outcomes and increases in production (Catacutan et al. 2015, Tanui and Russell 2009). Results noted from landcare as a community based and led NRM approach include:

- Improved community attitude towards land management.
- Negotiation skill development enabling communities to negotiate their inclusion in protected area management and benefit sharing. Communities can plan and sign MOU's with partners such as the UWA for benefit sharing.
- Scaled out membership to develop CBOs.
- Groups training other neighbouring farmer groups and building their capacity.
- Cultivated interest by other groups to join KADLACC: At inception in 2003 there were 3 groups, by 2006 there were 11, 2008 there were 18, later-23 and today there were 35.

- Community cohesion and unity in NRM is evidenced by the networking, knowledge sharing, relationships and trust.
- Gender balancing through workloads and decision making.
- Youth engagement.

KADLACC was nominated as the best-performing group by Uganda Landcare Country programme in 2005. Consequently, KADLACC was rated as the second runners up during the international Landcare conference in Melbourne, Australia 2009. KADLACC was rated the **Second runners up in The Africa LandCare Achievement Award during the 2014 African LandCare Network Awards in Durban South Africa. This award acknowledges and rewards the excellence of LandCare activities at group, region or country level in Africa.**



(Above) KADLACC – (Uganda) won "Africa Landcare Achievement Award" during the the 5th Bi-annual landcare conference in Durban - South Africa Sept 2014. Awadh Chemangei; Chairman KADLACC (Center) receiving the Award from the state minister (Right)

In a study of farmer groups (some of which were members of KADLACC) in Kapchorwa and in a region further around the mountain, it was found that Kapchorwa groups had more formal registration and had fewer reported challenges with and trust among group members (Kimaiyo et al. 2017). The farmer groups were also found to be better organized with a very good sense of collective action and social capital. These groups were found to be more mature than other farmer groups in Manafwa district which did not have landCare

Development of sustainable livelihoods utilising empowerment strategies

KADLACC aims to improve on community livelihoods through sustainable NRM, increased access, control, ownership and productive use of common natural resources among the vulnerable, poor and disadvantaged people in the community. Their success has been reported through increases in milk production from 2.5 to 6.5 litres per cow and maize yields increasing from 13 to 25 bags (Otiende et al. 2016).

KADLACC demonstrated that in an economic system that is characterised by land degradation, cultural practices and resettlement indicates that multi-stakeholder engagement is critical. This is because it preconditions a community movement to more sustainable and viable livelihoods (Otiende et al. 2016).

A study by Muller (2015) which surveyed 168 households, 55 of which were Landcare group members found that Landcare member households were more food secure. The study found that Landcare in Uganda can contribute to household livelihood and food security outcomes (Muller 2015).

The VIP4FS project built upon the Landcare groups to develop Innovation Platforms for market access and reported that these platforms provide fora for farmers and traders to realise the value of other actors and the importance of teamwork, sharing lessons and building networks (Okia et al. 2019).

Government, community and individual capacity building

Through volunteerism and mobilising community facilitators, costs of implementing activities is reduced while ownership, local capacity and sustainability are enhanced. Many of the members of the secretariat have developed capacity and sustained their support of KADLACC even when no resources were available.

Member organisations have enhanced their skills and technology implementation capacity through hands on activities. There has also been improved access to and use of technologies through the support of the district extension staff and partners.

Landcare has contributed to strengthened social capital in Kapchorwa, which is an enabling factor for collective action for landscape scale management (Muller 2015).

Development of active and true partnerships

KADLACC has developed and maintained diverse partnerships. World Agroforestry (ICRAF) has been a long-term partner and through one of its programs, African Highlands Initiative, supported the development of KADLACC. Local partners such as the District local government, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) have also been key partners. Other partners, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognised the value of engaging with KADLACC to support conservation efforts on Mount Elgon and has provided financial and technical support to the platform (Otiende et al. 2016).

KADLACC provides a platform for negotiation and decision-making in the implementation of interventions on the management of natural resources (Otiende et al. 2016). A number of donors from Italy, Australia and others have supported KADLACC for certain activities. While these resources have been important for certain activities to take place, the existence of the platform is not tied to external resources as it is largely based on voluntary efforts.

Focus group discussions with 12 farmer groups, 6 of which were Landcare groups found that 75% of the groups had Landcare as a partner and the Landcare groups had richer and more diverse stakeholder engagement (Muller 2015).

KADLACC has improved networking and collaboration among member institutions and district level platforms in the country. It provides a learning site for other groups and aspiring networks. Many KADLACC groups are visited by farmers and institutions involved in natural resources management from other parts of Uganda and beyond, to learn from their experience. The successful experience of landcare in Kapchorwa has been shared with other sites in Uganda such as Masaka and Kabale ([Catacutan et al. 2015](#))

KADLACC is a member of the Uganda Landcare Network, African Landcare Network, Landcare International and with close connection to Australian Landcare International, thus linking to national, regional and global landcare movements.

Blending together of appropriate upper level policy processes with bottom up feedback mechanisms

KADLACC has been responsible for bringing community voices to policy making at the district level and has been instrumental in the development of bylaws at the local level. Establishment of bylaws and district level ordinances is the sign of success for KADLACC. Due to the consultative and transparent process of formation, these local level laws are owned by the community.

Landcare bylaws in Kapchorwa increased adoption of soil erosion control technologies ([Barungi and Tukahirwa, 2017](#)). Trust was built between the Benet community and UWA and they were able to dialogue around resource use options that would not negatively impact the conservation of the protected areas (German et al. 2008). This led to a mutual agreement on shared management for sections on the park where the Benet community support the conservation and are provided access rights. This resulted in enhanced access for bamboo but decreased livestock grazing in the park and the number of arrests (German et al. 2008). KADLACC provided a forum for historically opposed parties to engage positively and manage conflict with a positive outcome and the multi-stakeholder process provided a link between policy intent and on-ground realities (German et al. 2008).

The Bukwo District Landcare Ordinance No.1/2013 (2013) was the first landcare ordinance approved. The ordinance provides a legal instrument for protecting land and to build community and leaders' capacity to understand the benefit of their resources and the need for sustainable management.

The ordinance addressed mono - cropping, destructive tilling practices, vegetation removal, soil erosion, declining soil fertility, erosion and landslides, water siltation and conflict in forest areas. Benefits to the community include the right to collect bamboo from the forest, reduced pressure on natural forest, boundary and water source conflicts reduced, enhanced practice of agroforestry and trees in communal areas and rehabilitation of riverbanks to reduce stream siltation. The process resulted in improved relationships between community and protected area managers and collaborative management agreements for sections of the national park where the community manage the resource and are provided with some access rights, such as siting beehives in the forest and collecting some resources for community use.

Key lessons from ordinance development:

- leaders at all levels must be involved from the beginning,
- It takes a long time and needs patience, hard work, consultations and teamwork for a good document to come out in good time, however, it can be achieved in 3 to 6 months depending on the availability of funds and district council commitment.
- It involves high costs e.g. various field visits, community meetings and district council sessions
- Weak enforcement of land restoration and management policies.

The Kapchorwa District landcare ordinance 2014 (draft) i.e. Kapchorwa District landcare Bill No.3/2014 was received and discussed by the council. It was then given time for inclusion of community ideas at the sub county levels and another for restored landscape with support of the area councillors and technical officers. At the time of consultations by the area councillors and the technical team with the community at the sub-county level for their inclusions there was a financial constraint. So, it was not returned to council for approval for onward submission to attorney general for harmonisation with the constitution of Uganda. The process will be continued to completion whenever funds shall be available.

Tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) for restoration of Atari Riverbank between communities and District Local Governments (2012). This MoU was supported by IUCN and Tree talk. The two institutions engaged Kwoti beekeeper's association, one of the KADLACC IP's to raise 100,000 seedlings for restoration of the Atari riverbank to allow in sieved clean water to the lower community and Kapchorwa town. The Kapchorwa district Natural resources department provided technical support.

Challenges

KADLACC secretariat team has always worked on a voluntary basis, this makes it strong but it is also a challenge for sustainability (for example, if the chair did not have support from his position as a district officer, it would be difficult). Resources are sometime limiting, for example an Annual General Meeting may not be held in some years when there are limited resources available. However, the limited funds increase the level of voluntary contributions and limit conflict over resource use and allocation.

Other challenges include lack of documentation and knowledge management, resource management for out scaling, need for a resource centre and capacity development of chapter members .

Future plans

Plans for future Landcare activities:

- Integrated sustainability of approaches to be continued with enhanced technology adoption at different levels.
- Improved documentation (from data collection, analyzed and disseminated).
- Empowerment of platforms to further, demand, source funds and own implementation processes.
- Initiate new Junior Landcare activities and scale out to include other opportunities.
- Build capacity of government extension staff to support landcare and IPs.
- Train umbrella and lower platforms on conflict resolution and related capacities

Successes

The landcare training held in Manafwa by Australian Landcare International (ALI) and African Landcare Network (ALN) was important in building social capital and mainstreaming sustainable land management in innovation platforms formed under the VIP4FS project. Members of the different IPs were also exposed to other landcare activities in Kapchorwa through exchange visits which showed them outcomes of working together and as cohesive IPs. A network was also established to facilitate local learning and action to scale out landcare in the Mt. Elgon region (Okia et al. 2019) and could be built on.

Acronym list

AHI	African Highlands Initiative
ALI	Australian Landcare International
ALN	African Landcare Network
BUDLACC	Bukwo District Landcare Chapter
CBOs	Community-based organisations
ICRAF	World Agroforestry
IP	Innovation Platform
KADLACC	Kapchorwa District Land Care Chapter
LCII	Local Council II
LI	Landcare International
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
NRM	Natural resources management
SLM	Sustainable land management
VIP4FS	Value chain innovation platforms for food security project
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

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