



Conservation and Demand Agency **CODEA**

An NGO Incorporated in Uganda as a Company Limited by Guarantee

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PRESS RELEASE

CODEA Expands Tree-Growing Initiatives for Environmental Rehabilitation, Stewardship, and Enhanced Crop Productivity in the Rwenzori Region

September 25, 2024 – Rwenzori Region, Uganda – The Conservation and Demand Agency (CODEA) has launched an expansion of its ambitious environmental rehabilitation and stewardship initiative, the **Rwenzori Yethu project**, aiming to enhance crop productivity and improve the livelihoods of communities in the region.

Speaking on the project, CODEA highlighted the **tree-growing initiative** as a socio-economic intervention designed to benefit approximately 11,000 households by promoting social inclusion and youth employment opportunities. The project is being implemented across 25 sub-counties in Kasese and Ntoroko districts and has already seen the supply of **over 165,000 trees for planting** as of September 2024. The long-term goal is to plant **3.1 million trees over the next five years**.

This initiative will rehabilitate **3,000 hectares of agroforestry**, establish **2,000 hectares of mixed woodlots**, and create **1,500 kilometers of tree hedges**. These efforts are expected to safeguard agricultural landscapes, restore ecosystems, and support both environmental preservation and socio-economic development in the Rwenzori Region.

CODEA's Executive Team expressed their commitment to rehabilitating degraded landscapes while also improving agricultural productivity. In alignment with global climate change efforts, the **Rwenzori Yethu project** seeks to boost **carbon sequestration**, enhance ecosystem resilience, and mitigate climate risks.

The project promotes the planting of **nine (9) indigenous tree species**, including *Maesopsis eminii*, *Albizia coriaria*, *Markhamia lutea*, *Spathodea campanulata*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Senna siamea*, *Cordia africana*, *Excelsa*, and *Khaya grandifolia*. These species were selected for their ecological benefits, including enhanced biodiversity, timber and firewood production, and overall ecosystem health.

Complementing the tree-planting efforts are **farmer training programs** focused on land clearing, pitting, planting and farm management techniques. These hands-on trainings empower local farmers to adopt **sustainable land management practices** while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

As the project continues to unfold, **CODEA is proud to set a powerful example** of how environmental stewardship and community welfare can work in tandem to create long-lasting, positive impacts. The organization remains committed to restoring ecosystems, boosting agricultural productivity, and supporting the socio-economic advancement of communities in the Rwenzori Region.

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