



LERWA-LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS WATCH AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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*Empowering communities for sustainable land and
environmental preservation and protection.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRPERSON REMARKS

Dear Reader,

I, on behalf of LERWA Board of Directors and Secretariat, welcome you to a pleasant reading of our Annual Report 2022. We consider you special readers since you are one of our main stakeholders and we appreciate the invaluable advice and support to LERWA that you continue to provide or plan to provide to assist make LERWA a development organization in Uganda and Africa to reckon with. We appreciate the founder members of LERWA and staff for the successful work done over the year 2022. I appreciate the dedicated team of Board of Directors too.

This report highlights on LERWA, for instance, who we are, where we are located, what we do, how we do it and with whom we worked with over the last twelve months. I herein commend my fellow Directors on the Board for their enthusiasm and readiness to serve given that the Board was inaugurated in September 2022. We are together taking stock of our operations over the calendar year 2022 given the work plans and budget provided for this period and in consideration of the available physical, financial and human resources, opportunities created and challenges encountered over the period.

In our planning, the Year 2022 was a year of consolidating on the strategic objective of capacitating communities for sustainable land and environmental preservation and protection through the Forest Garden Fund project, with support from TREES for the Future organisation. The team work, commitment, resilience and zeal with which the Project Management and staff worked is highly commended given the unfavorable socio economic environment as well as the challenging climate change issues making the year not very easy to accomplish. In strengthening the LERWA governance, a new Board of Directors was inaugurated and the team came with a wealth of knowledge and experience, committed to oversee that LERWA in its entirety responds to the local and global challenges of development especially being in frontline for advocacy on land rights and climate change in

general.

LERWA's operations remained largely focused on establishing forest gardens with support from the Trees for the Future organization under the Forest Garden Fund project in eight Subcounties of Rubongi, Kwapa, Molo, Paya, Nabuyoga, Peta, Merikit and Mulanda. The project targeted 300 farmer beneficiaries, with a target to plant 741,300 trees on 280 hectares of land.

A small but dedicated Project/Technical team worked closely with the beneficiary farmers offering trainings, technical advice and supervision of project activities. The beneficiaries, mobilized into farmer groups, provided the land and labour for the project implementation.

The total number of trees planted over the year was 547,817 and this effort provided a 623,829 cumulative figure of trees planted over the two year period. Farmers established vegetable permagardens and reported improving household livelihoods & food security.

We sincerely thank Trees for the Future as well as the people who contributed their funds. It is our sincere hope that the funds were well utilized, had value for money and contributed to the realization of relevant changes in the target community.

I leave you to appreciate our position since the areas of Land rights, environmental rights and climate change still require immense efforts in terms of physical and financial resources as well as innovative, cost effective and participatory approaches. This we shall do while networking with local and regional CSOs, to have sound land management and climate resilient interventions contributing to achieving the local and global vision, targets and sustainable solutions.

Our main focus will be to remain relevant, effective and seek to have impact at all levels we operate in within Tororo district for the coming year 2023. We call upon all partners to join us and be a friend to our land, climate and communities for resilience. We wish you a Prosperous 2023 with lots of hope for further work for the good of our communities in the coming years.

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Who we are

LERWA-Land and Environmental Rights Watch Africa Ltd, is a not-for-profit organization based in Rubongi sub-county, Tororo district, founded in 2020 and incorporated in 2021 as a Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital. The organization focuses on facilitating local communities (particularly women and youth) understand their needs in



as far as land and environment is concerned, develop skills and knowledge to problems on land and environment, take initiatives, be creative and participate in and organise action through sustainable long term improvement and changes for their communities through capacity building, advocacy, research and monitoring.

LERWA-Land and Environmental Rights Watch Africa Ltd's vision is an *equitable society living in harmony with nature*. Its mission is to *empower communities for sustainable land and environmental rights protection*. The organization's core values are *Environment and sustainability, Partnerships, Justice, Professionalism, Innovation and Action*.

We vision an Equitable Society Living in Harmony with Nature.

What we do

The organization's strategic objectives are;

- **Capacitating** communities to enhance their capacity in land and environmental preservation, protection and promotion through participatory approaches,
- **Advocacy** to influence policy for systemic change through strategic engagement with relevant stakeholders,
- **Research** to investigate concerns, success stories on issues affecting land and environment,
- **Monitoring** to assess the impact of development activities by multinational institution on the environment.



ADMINISTRATION

Achievements	Challenges	Lessons
A new Board of Directors was inaugurated in September 2022 to strengthen the organization governance & provide oversight to all operations.	Budget constraints	Continuous fundraising
International Certification of the program technical team. The organization now has three certified Forest Garden Approach Trainers working with communities.	The Certification examinations continue to bully most of the program team despite their efforts.	Hire dedicate & professional staff
Recruitment of Lead Technician & Assistant Technicians to coordinate and manage the Forest Garden Fund project & other project activities.	High rates of staff turnover. In October 2022, the Assistant Technician resigned which forced the organization to hire a volunteer technician to fill the gap.	Network & partner with likeminded CSOs

FOREST GARDEN FUND PROJECT

2022 was a learning year for LERWA as we partnered with TREES for the Future to implement the Forest Garden Project in Mulanda, Rubongi, Nabuyoga, Petta, Molo, Kwapa, Paya & Merikit sub-counties of Tororo district. The major aim of the project was to improve the livelihood of beneficiary farmers, revitalise degraded soils, mitigate negative effects of cli-

mate change and improve household nutrition.

Project Activities

- Mobilisation & Registration of beneficiary farmers
- Trainings in Forest Garden Design, Nursery Bed Establishment, Nursery & Tree care, Outplanting seedlings, Permagardening, Com-

- posting, IPM, etc
- Farmers mapped & designed their forest gardens, established tree nurseries, established compost piles & vegetable permagardens and outplanted tree seedlings
- Follow up to support farmers and monitor project activities



Particulars	Targets	Achievements
Trees	741,300	547,817
Farmers	300	212
Land size	280	170.25

Lessons Learned

- Always keep in touch with funder for technical support
- Work within an area easily accessible
- Proximity of farmer to farmer and farmer to leader is key
- Register farmers whose expectations are within the project expectations.
- Involve government stakeholders



- Continuous awareness creation on the value of agro-forestry trees
- Appoint proactive lead farmers committed to project cause.
- Forming solidarity groups within farmer groups
- Need to invest in HR (technicians and lead farmers)

Challenges

- Wide coverage area of 8 sub counties (time man-

agement, monitoring, Long distances)

- High rate of absentisms of farmers during trainings due to personal challenges such as sickness, funerals, domestic violence, etc
- Unpredictable weather patterns resulting in delay in implementing project activities by the farmers, high prevalence of pests & diseases, destruction of seedlings in nurseries & out-planted, etc.
- Low germination rates of seeds such as calliandra, melia & sesbania.
- Destruction of seedlings in nurseries by goats, chicken, children, pigs, etc
- The hyperinflation and skyrocketing cost of living

Women Permagardening

Recognizing the need to improve household nutrition and establish rapport with the nearby community, the program team designed the women permagardening project. The project aimed to support & skill women from 30 households in vegetable growing to supplement their family nutrition. Mobilisation of farmers was done through creation awareness sessions in churches and village saving group sessions. 16 women registered and were trained in establishment of vegetable nurseries and permagardening beds. They were also given vegetable seeds including dodo, akeeyo, sukuma wiiki, eggplants,

tomatoes and ntula seeds which they were encouraged to plant on their individual permagardens. The women were followed up for monitoring & technical support.

LERWA Rieko a Meni Infoshop

In alignment with the strategic objective of providing a community platform for information sharing, the organisation is in the process of establishing a community library with the aim of making information and knowledge accessible to the community.

The *LERWA Rieko a Meni Infoshop* is a space for intergenerational learning, skills development, promotion of cultural heritage, social inclusion, and environmental and physical education as well as health promotion. The major aim of establishing the library is to promote literacy development and lifelong learning for children, youth and adults through the diverse services and outreach activities that will be implemented in order to address social, environmental and economic challenges within the communities.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

The year was riddled with financial constraints as our fundraising efforts did not yield much. The organisation 's major income source was the Forest Garden Fund grant from Trees for the Future organisation. The US\$10000 grant financed all programs and administrative operations from December 2021to November 2022. The grant was disbursed on a quarterly basis in line with the approved project budget.

We are continually on the lookout for potential donors, contributors and partners to support our development efforts. For information on how to partner, or donate to LERWA, email us at allforlandnenvironmentalrights@gmail.com / director@lerwa.org or WhatsApp on +256759481995

Description	BUDGET	EXPENSES
Salary/ Personnel	13,200,000	13,350,000
Seeds/Planting Materials	5,999,000	6,726,500
Tools & Equipment	2,100,000	2,100,000
Transportation	3,600,000	4,167,500
Training and Workshops	6,089,860	4,757,500
Monitoring and Evaluation	1,200,000	890,000
Internet bundles and airtime	1,680,000	1,550,000
Other (office expenses, financial charges, planning meetings, etc)	1,531,140	1,768,610
Total	35,400,000	35,310,110

**The financial report is unaudited.*

