



*Nature*Uganda

Presentation

By

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Echuya project

Outline of the presentation

- Overview of *Nature*Uganda
- Introduction to Echuya forest conservation project-Title, Goals and objectives
- Project Landscape status and interventions
- Scenarios-Project photos
- Challenges
- Lessons learnt
- Summary of new Echuya project-2011-2015

*Nature*Uganda (NU)

NU is the Ugandan Branch of East African Natural History Society (EANHS), the oldest conservation organization in East Africa, set up in 1990 as a scientific organization with the primary aim of documenting the diversity of wildlife in East Africa.

Mission:

Promoting the Understanding, Appreciation and Conservation of Nature

In pursuing this mission, *Nature*Uganda strives to:

- Create a nature-friendly public
- Enhance knowledge of Uganda's natural history
- Advocate for policies favorable to the environment
- Take action to conserve priority species sites and habits

*Nature*Uganda's Programme areas

- Conservation and community livelihoods
- Conservation partnerships and Coalitions
- Awareness, publicity and advocacy
- Information/data sharing and networking
- Training and capacity building
- Monitoring and research in Important Bird Areas and other Key Conservation Areas
- Improving management of Key Conservation Areas

ECHUYA FOREST CONSERVATION PROJECT (EFCP)-2004-2011

- A livelihood and conservation project aimed at empowering the surrounding communities to contribute towards sustainable conservation of Echuya Forest Reserve.
- Implemented by **Nature**Uganda with financial support from DFID-Civil Society Challenge Fund through the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Project Goal

- More prosperous and sustainable local economies secure the long term conservation of Ugandan forests

Project purpose

- Communities gaining benefits by claiming their rights (to manage their natural resources in and around Echuya Forest) influence forestry policy and institutions in Uganda

- A densely populated landscape of Echuya



- Cultivation up to the forest edge due to land shortage



Hilly, eroded, unproductive landscape



Project interventions

- Collaborative Forest Management
- Community nursery establishment and tree planting
- Bamboo domestication
- Bee keeping
- Fruit growing
- Soil and water conservation
- Mushroom growing

Interventions cont'd

- Sustainable Organic Agriculture-vegetable growing, organic pesticides, liquid manure, plant tea, livestock keeping, organic foods e.g pineapple wine
- Environmental education through-community drama, primary school environmental clubs, radio talk shows and publications, community meetings

Interventions cont'd

- Microfinance
- Research
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Institutional development of farmers into farmer groups and community based Associations/Organizations
- Capacity building

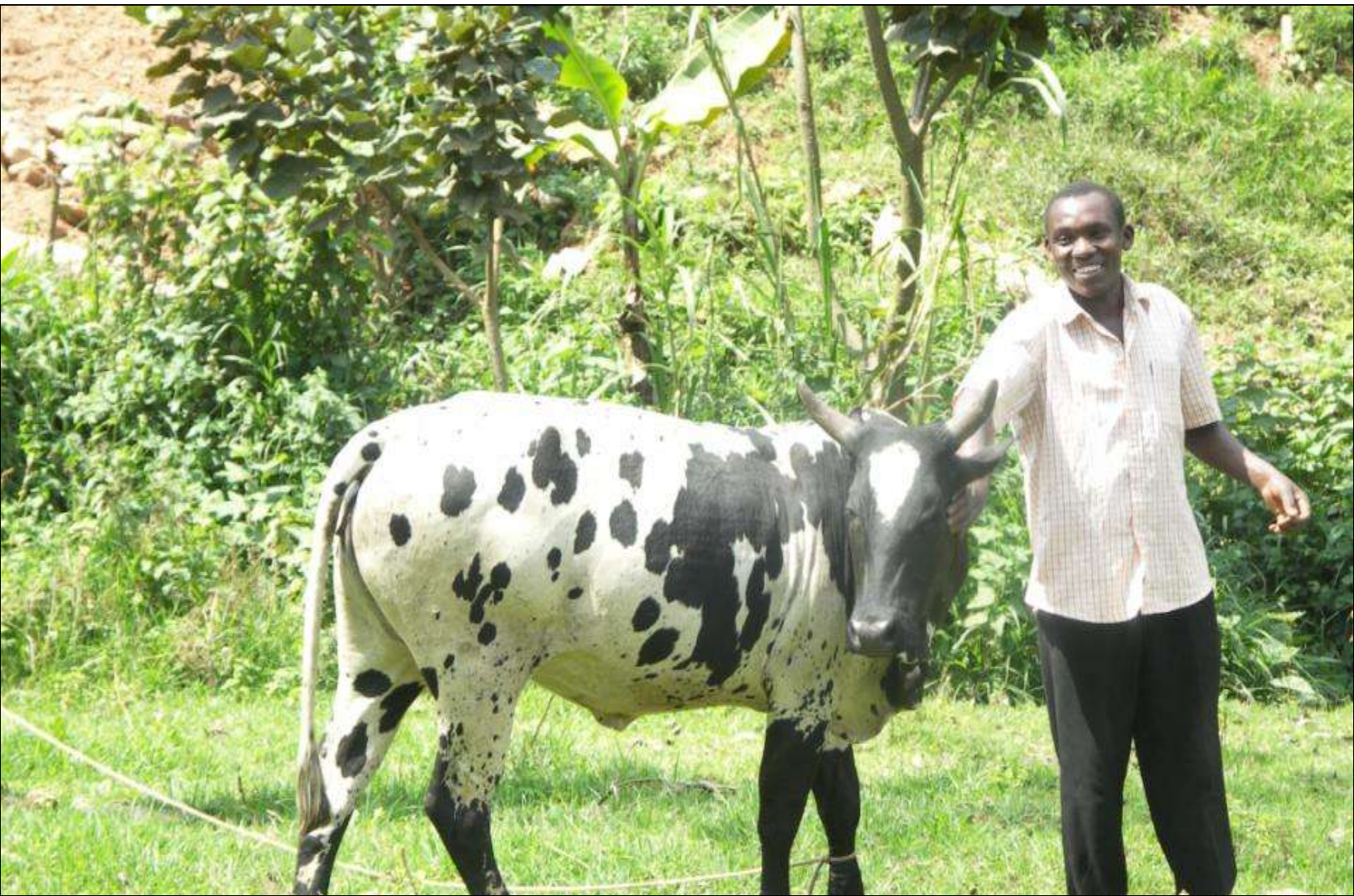
Activities



Community nursery beds and tree planting: agro forestry- calliandra, grevillea; medicinal-pulnus Africana and commercial species- pinus patula

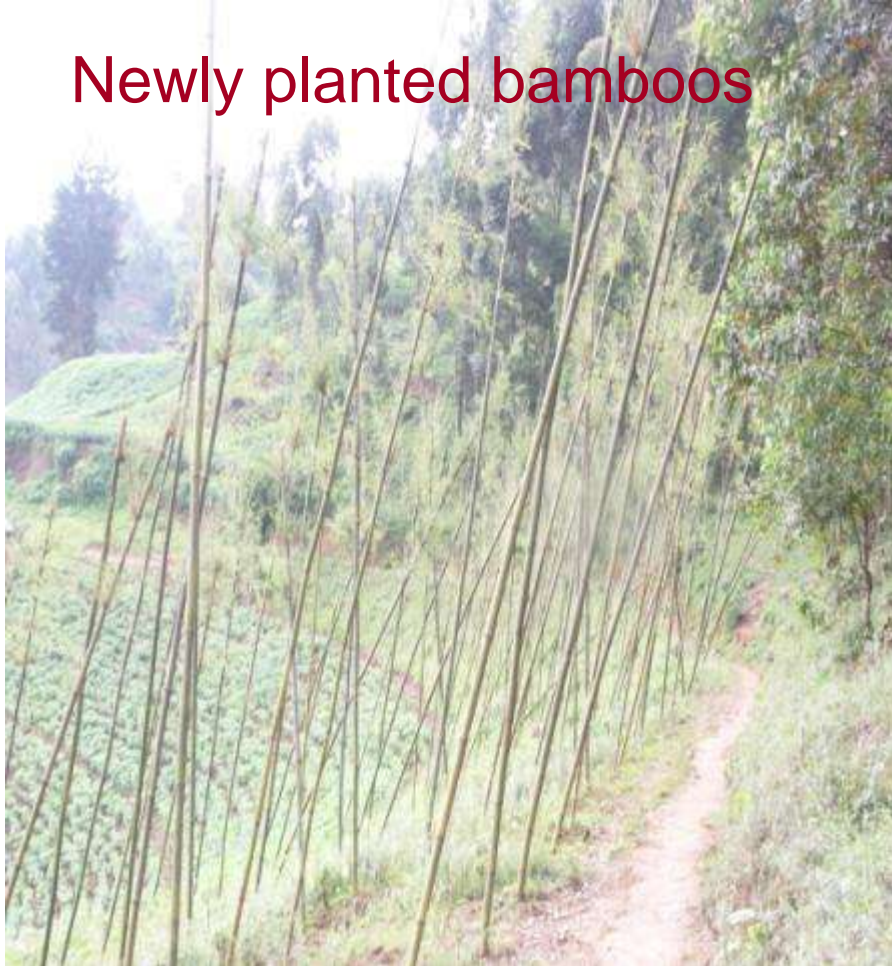


Using money from the sell of pine seedlings

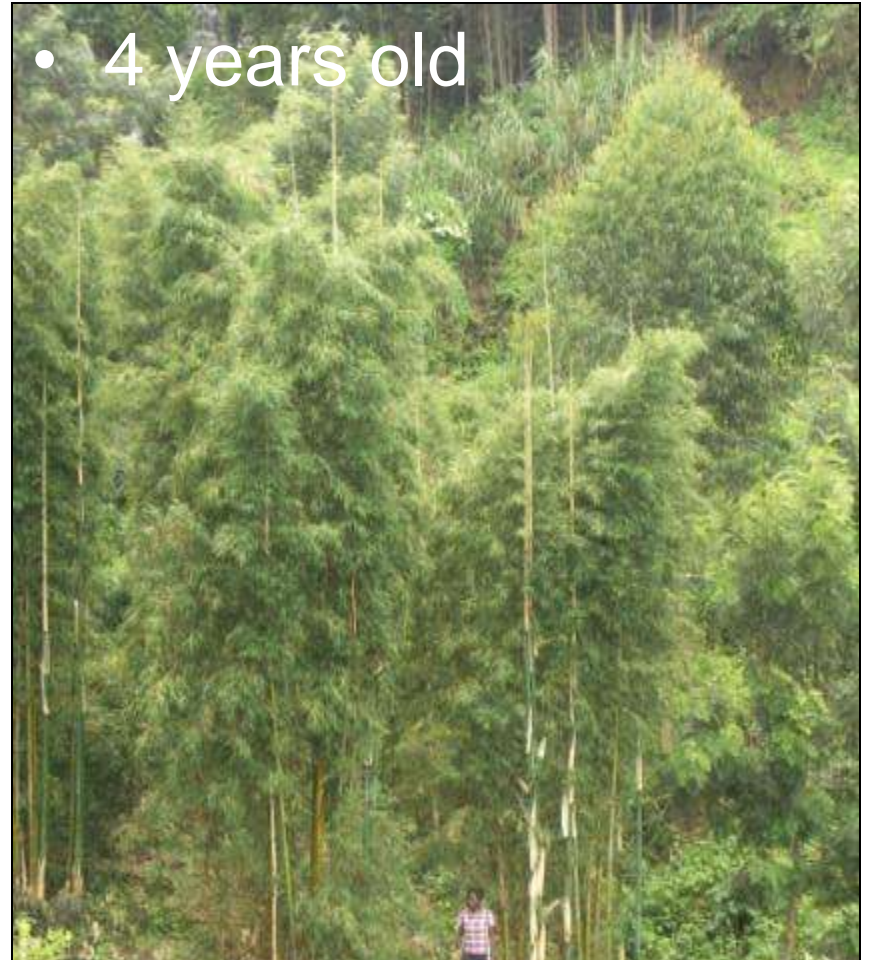


Bamboo domestication

Newly planted bamboos



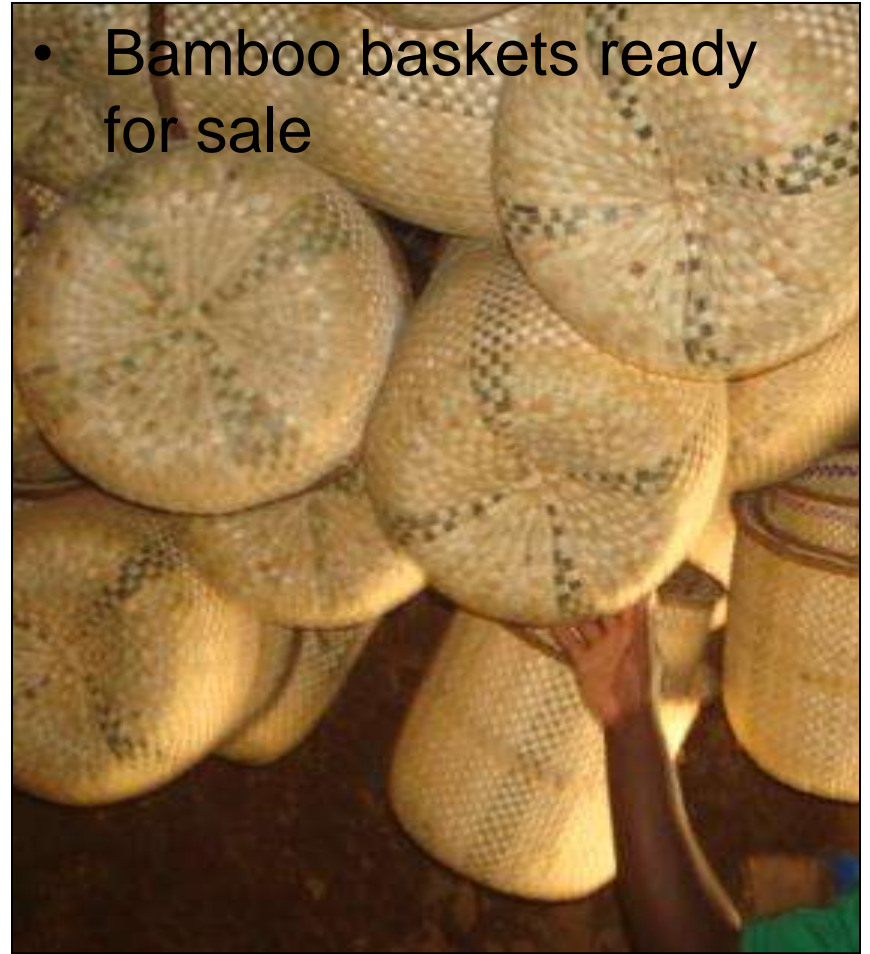
- 4 years old



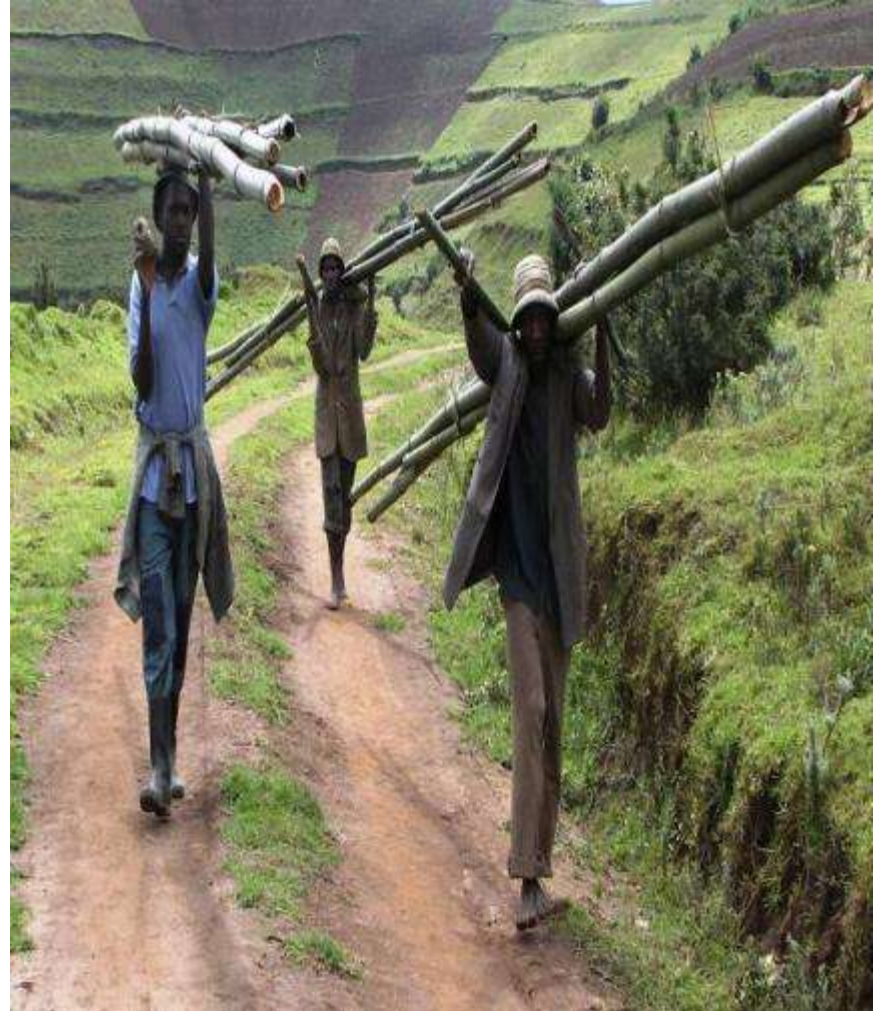
Basket making from domesticated bamboos.



- Bamboo baskets ready for sale

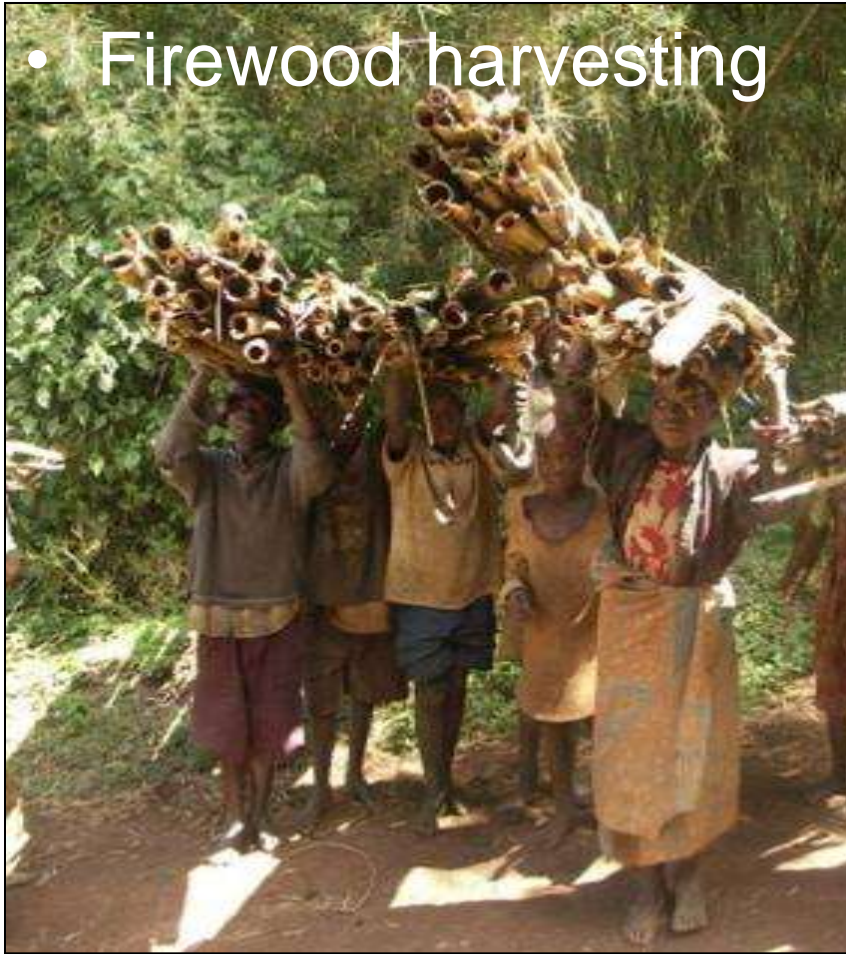


CFM-(5 agreements signed with facilitation from NU)



Firewood collection and monitoring of forest off takes under CFM

- Firewood harvesting



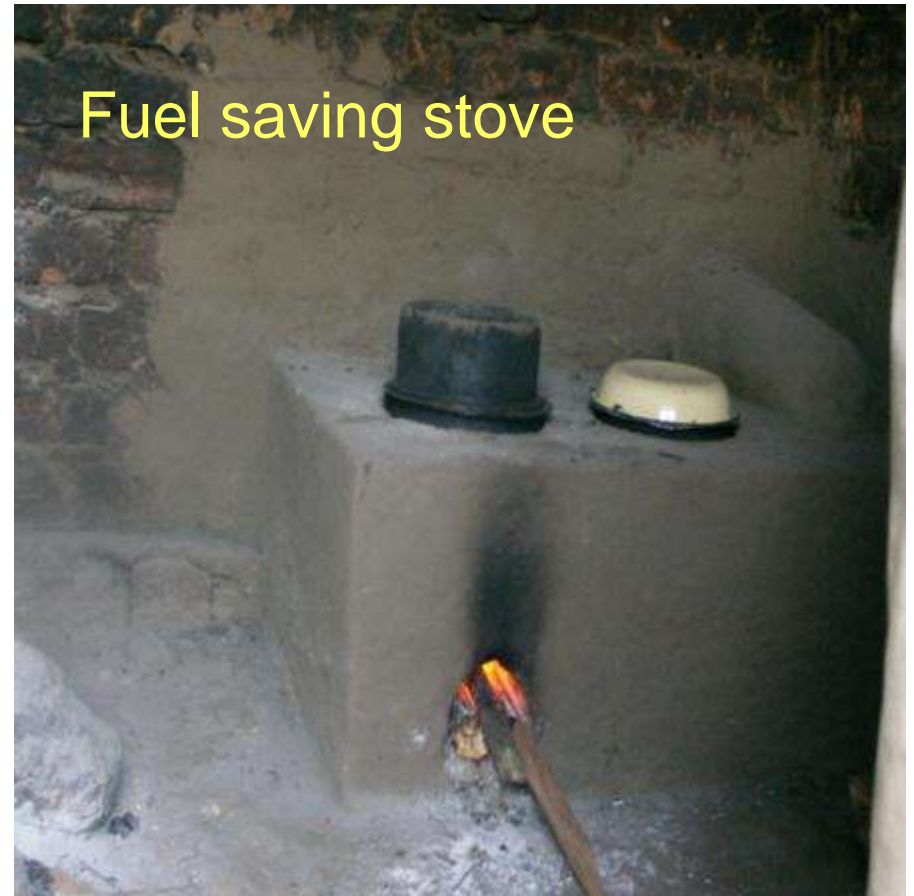
Off take monitoring of forest resources

A fuel saving stove uses 70% less fuel than a 3 stone stove; cooks faster, less smoke.

Traditional 3 stone stove



Fuel saving stove

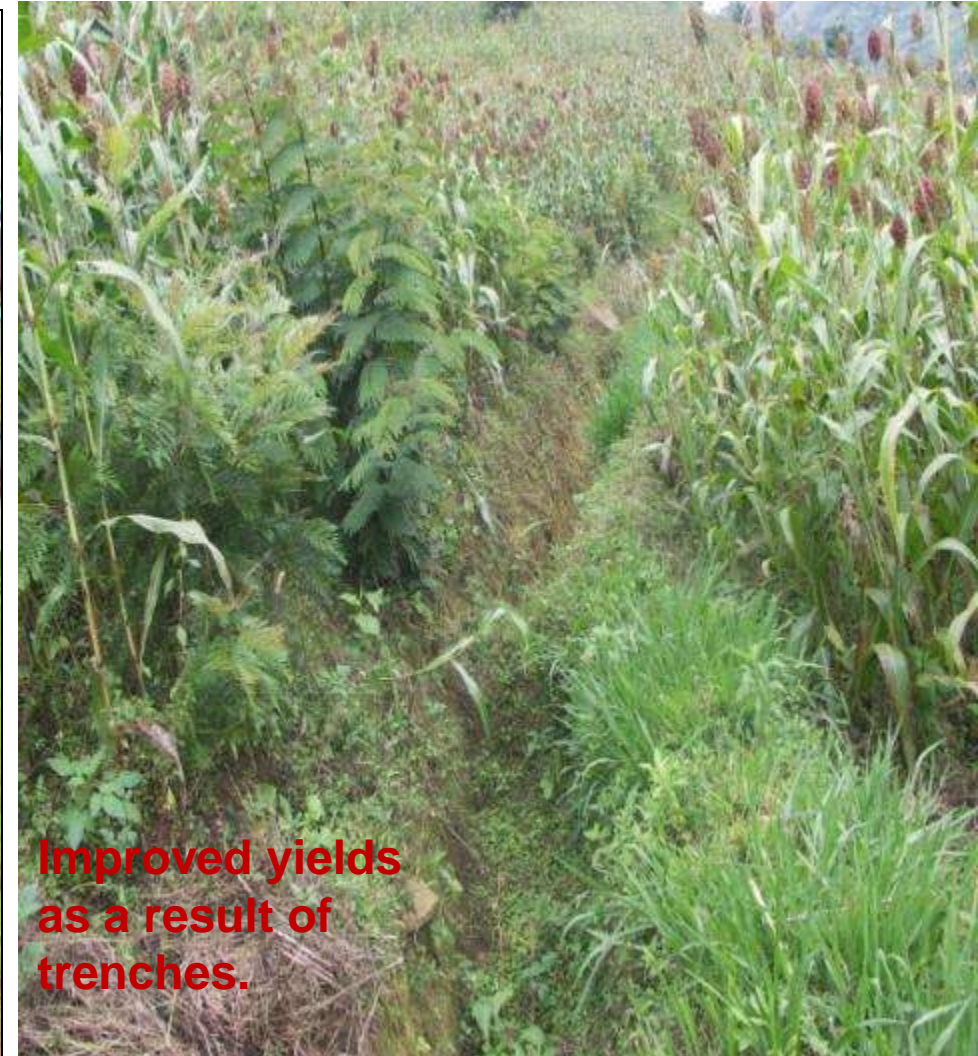




**Construction
of soil and
water
conservation
trenches**

Soil and water conservation trenches

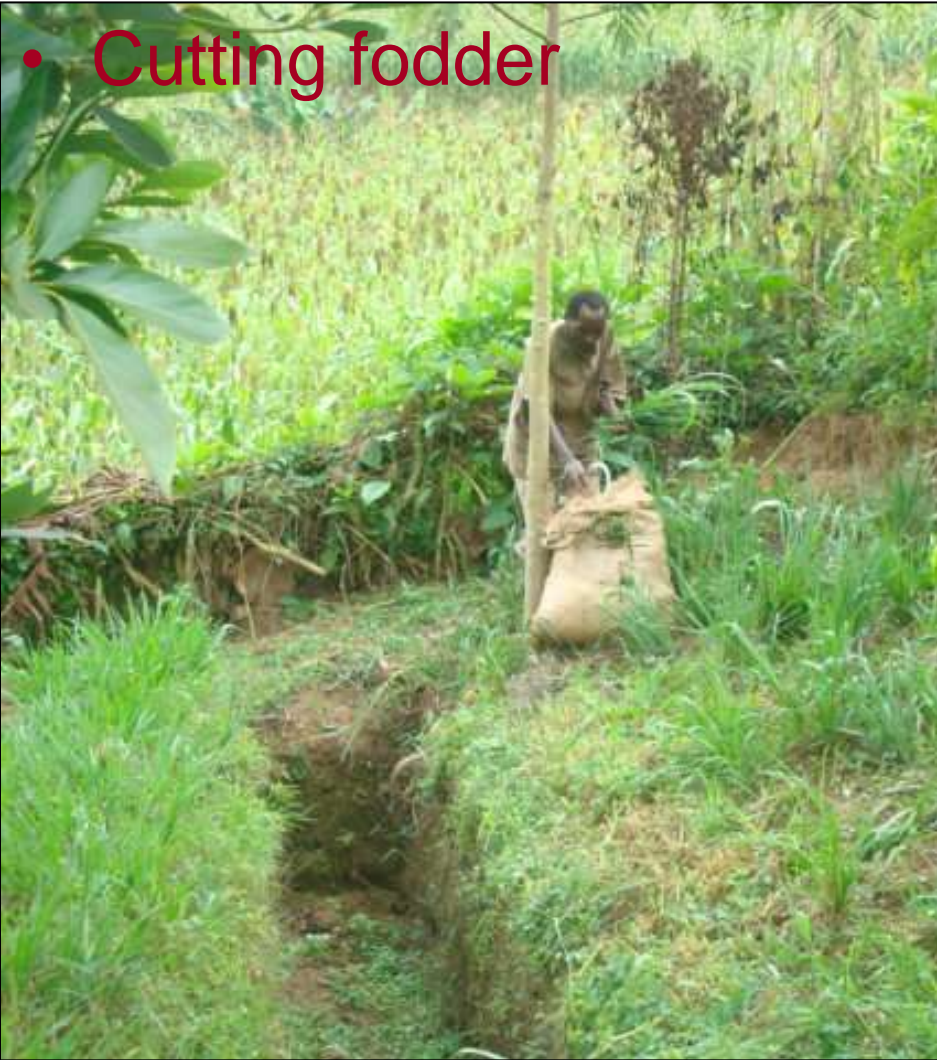
- Lesson sharing with project partners.



Improved yields
as a result of
trenches.

Fodder from trench stabilization materials-calliandra & setaria

- Cutting fodder



- Zero grazing





Fruit growing

- Fruit nursery



- A farmer in his Passion fruit garden





Mushroom growing



- Production stage



Harvested mushrooms ready for post harvesting



Part of revolving fund scheme





One of the revolving fund scheme beneficiaries



Bee keeping

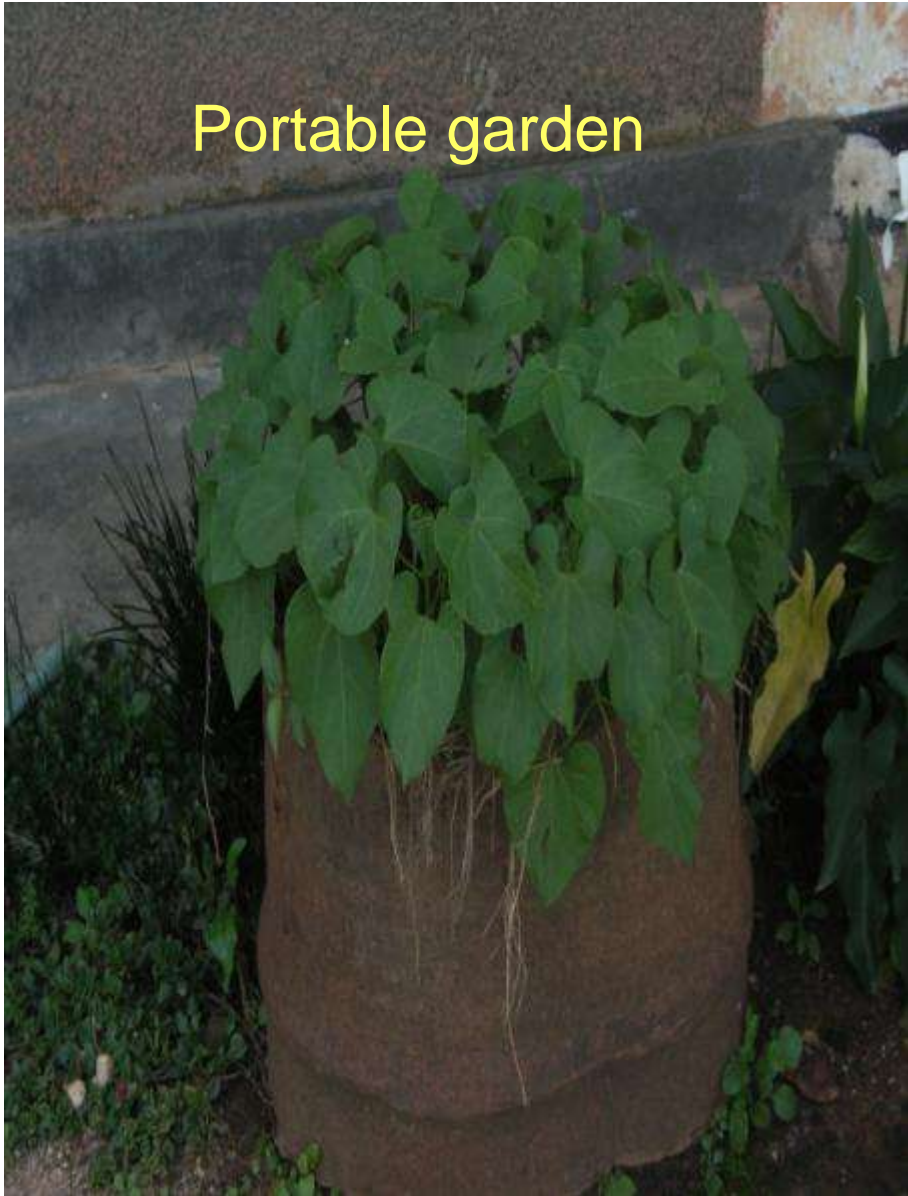


Part of Organic Agriculture activities

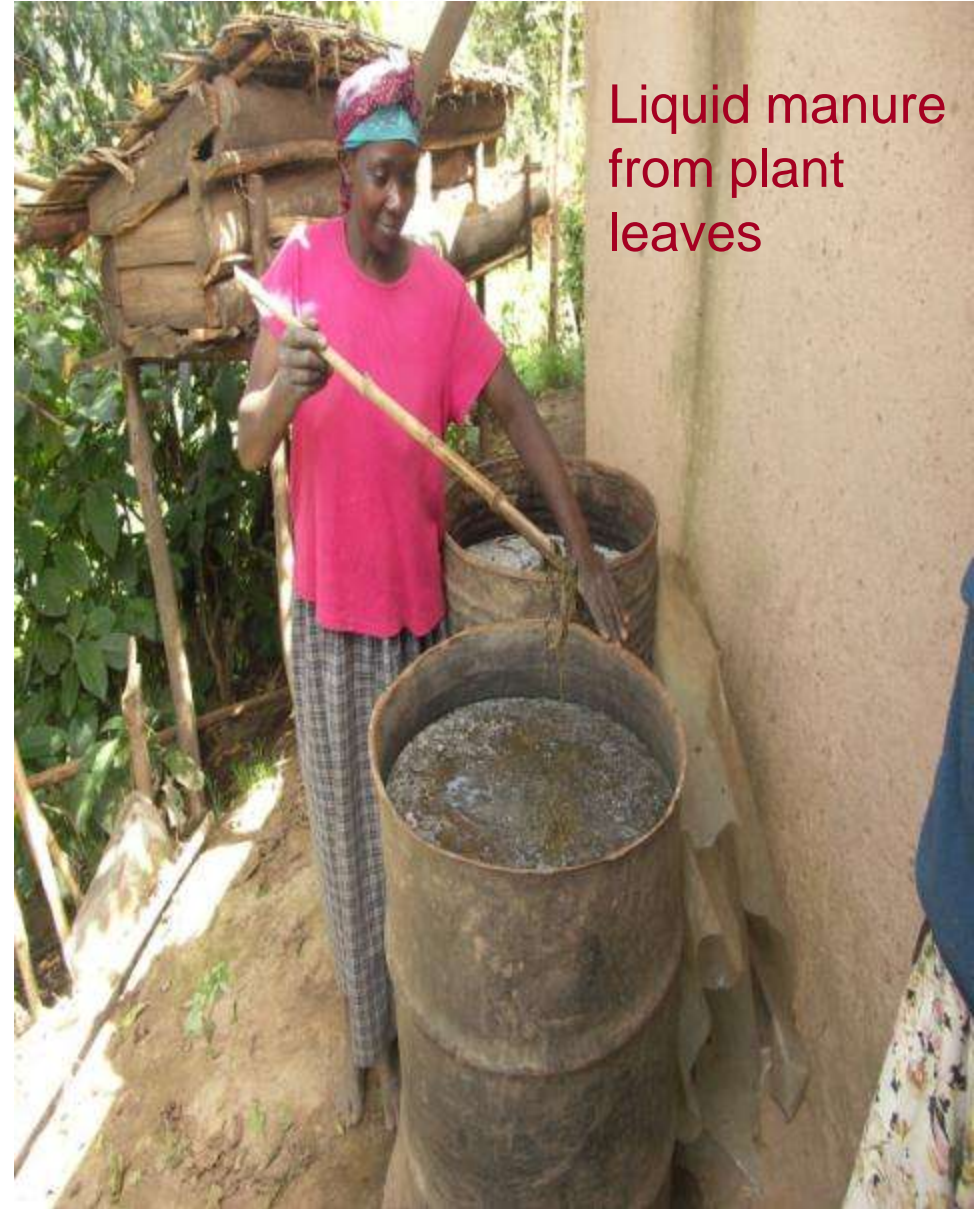
- Vegetable growing



Portable garden



Liquid manure from plant leaves



Environmental education



Women Drama group

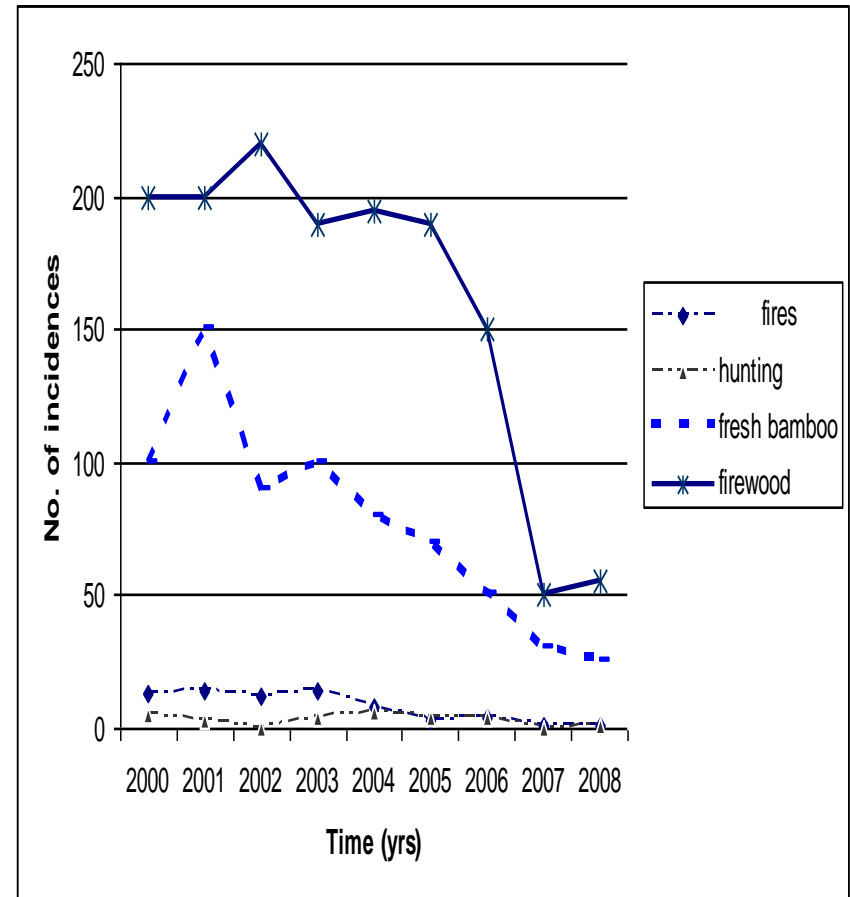
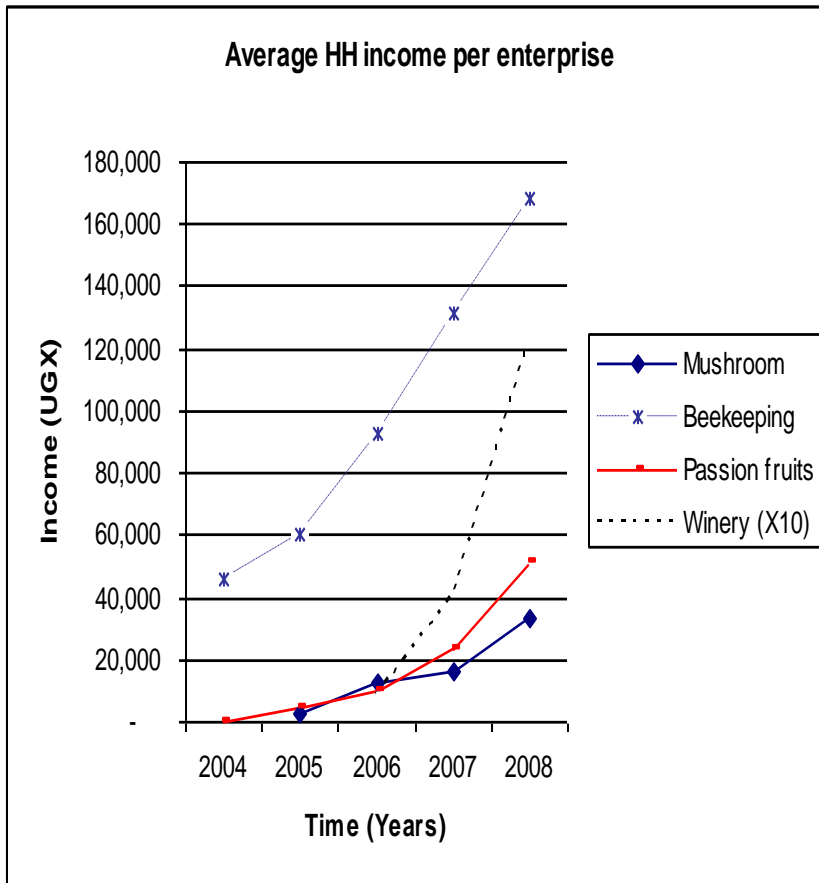


School environmental club

Integrating project activities into sub county dev't plans in Kanaba



Poverty linkages to conservation; A case of Echuya Forest Reserve



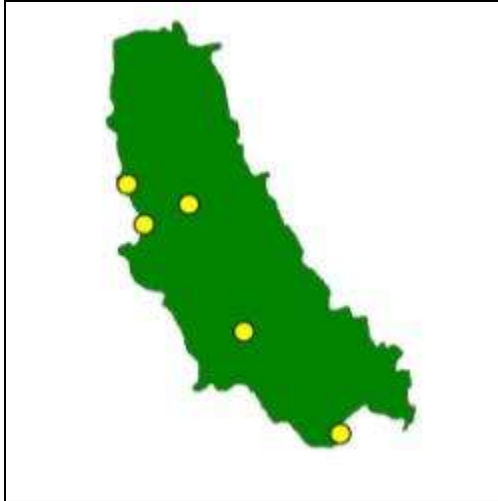
Challenges

- The project has not yet found a solution/strategy for ending the illegal activities from the Rwanda side of Echuya
- High expectations from stakeholders especially from communities
- A new trend of conflicts/issues between NFA and CFM Associations in CFM implementation.
- Difficult terrain that does not favour easy reach to the target beneficiaries
- Growing population
- NFA transfer of staff

Development pressure which overlooks, overrides or ignores environment concerns!!

Records of a globally threatened species the Grauer's
Rush warbler

1998-2000



2008



2009





Lessons learnt

- *Indigenous knowledge and experience from local communities is important in conservation and community development*
- Technical support and capacity building of FACs is still very vital for better and effective implementation of different interventions and also building the local knowledge base necessary for sustainability

- Continuous awareness of communities is key.
- Affirmative action and integration approaches towards Batwa-plays a great role in changing positively their attitude towards development and it has helped in bridging the marginalization gap that used to exist before
- Data collection and packaging is a vital component through out the project cycle

Lessons cont'd

- Partnerships/linkages between CSOs, Gov't institutions and private sector +communities-good for project implementation and sustainability
- Harmonization +co-ordination of stakeholders
- Participatory approaches very relevant to project's success and sustainability
- Information / lessons sharing
- Resources (synergies, co-financing)
- Networking / advocacy
- Integration of cross cutting issues-gender, health

ECHUYA FOREST CONSERVATION PROJECT- JULY 2011- June2015

NatureUganda in partnership with DOF-The Birdlife Partner in Denmark secured funding from DANIDA to implement a project at Echuya forest reserve in south-western Uganda.

- **Project title:** Improved livelihoods through sustainable management of forest resources in and around Echuya Forest, Uganda
- **Project Purpose:** providing a national demonstration of how to develop a sustainable source of income through Collaborative Forest Management (CFM)

Project objectives

1. Capacity of FAC's, NFA and *NatureUganda* increased to manage NRM projects and to communicate and advocate for the developed CFM agreements, livelihood approaches and lessons learned at national level
2. Incomes and livelihoods of FACs equitably improved and social benefits they receive increased through training/support in sustainable livelihood options and natural resource management
3. The ecological integrity of ECFR improved through securing the natural resources, environmental services and biodiversity in the long term

The struggle still continues!!!



Thanks for listening!!!



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