

## Project Update: January 2014

Landscape degradations have negatively impacted on human livelihoods and long-term sustainability. Global Partnerships on Forest landscape restoration (2011) ranks Uganda as critically in need of restoration. Northern Uganda has acute ecosystem degradation yet gaps in knowledge and skills in landscape restoration remain major challenges. We provide baseline ecological and anthropological information, to aid in the Muni landscape restoration process.

Mapping of River Asa catchment area and species was carried out using GPS. Simplified rapid timed species counts and field observations were used to assess floral and faunal diversities along three transects. Site interviews were held.

72 species of bird species were identified, representing 6.9% of Uganda's 1,050 species. Pied-crows and kites were dominant. Thirty species were unique to Muni landscape. Thirty-eight indigenous tree species were recorded. Species of high socio-economic, medicinal and conservation importance, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Khaya grandifolia*, *Parinari curatellifolia* and *Vitex doniana*, were found in this landscape. Agricultural work, brick-making and construction of houses were the dominant human activities.



Plate 1 A sugarcane plantation in the flow path of River Asa along trail 2.



Plate 2 A rice and banana plantation in the flow path of River Asa along trail 2.



Plate 3 Brick-laying activities being carried out along trail 3.