



JULE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (JCDF).

PROJECT CONCEPT & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

Restoring Pader's Land & Livelihoods.

A community-led ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture initiative

Project Information	Details
Project Location	Pajule, Pader District, Northern Uganda, Uganda.
Primary Target	500 farming households.
Proposed Budget	US\$25,000
Core Approaches	FMNR, tree regeneration, climate-smart agriculture, farmer training, demonstrations and community mobilisation
Purpose	GlobalGiving project fundraising and donor engagement

"Restoring Ecosystems, Preserving Culture, and Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development."

1. Executive Summary

Jule Cultural Development Foundation (JCDF) proposes Restoring Pader's Land & Livelihoods, a community-led initiative designed to help 500 farming households in Pajule and surrounding communities in Pader District respond to land degradation, declining soil fertility, loss of trees and increasing climate variability. These pressures are reducing agricultural productivity, weakening food security and placing household incomes under increasing strain.

The project will combine Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), tree regeneration, climate-smart agriculture, practical farmer training, demonstration activities and community mobilisation. Rather than treating environmental restoration and livelihoods as separate concerns, JCDF will work with farming households to restore productive landscapes while strengthening the knowledge and practices needed to sustain agricultural production over the long term.

The initiative will build on JCDF's community-based experience in ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, community empowerment and collaboration with traditional leaders, local government, civil society and technical and development partners. Farmers will receive practical knowledge and follow-up support, while community leaders and local structures will be engaged to encourage local ownership and responsible management of restored land.

The proposed fundraising target is US\$25,000. The investment is intended to establish and strengthen community restoration and climate-smart agriculture activities that can be maintained and expanded beyond donor support. In the longer term, JCDF expects restored land, improved farming practices and strengthened community stewardship to contribute to greater food security, improved livelihoods, biodiversity recovery and resilience to climate-related shocks.

Project at a Glance

Item	Project Information
Problem	Land degradation, declining soil fertility, loss of trees and climate variability affecting farming households.
Target	500 farming households.
Location	Pajule, Pader District, Northern Uganda.
Approach	FMNR, tree regeneration, climate-smart agriculture, demonstrations, training and follow-up.
Budget	US\$25,000
Long-term ambition	Restored productive landscapes, stronger livelihoods and community-led natural resource stewardship.

2. Background and Problem Statement

Agriculture is central to the livelihoods of rural households in Pader District. Farming families depend on the productivity of their land for food and income, while the surrounding natural environment provides important ecological services. However, land degradation, declining soil fertility, loss of trees and increasing climate variability are creating a difficult operating environment for rural producers.

For many households, environmental degradation is not an isolated ecological issue. It directly affects the ability to produce food, maintain household income and cope with climatic and economic shocks. When soils lose fertility and vegetation cover declines, farmers may face lower yields and greater pressure to cultivate new land or intensify the use of already stressed areas.

The problem is therefore both environmental and economic. Addressing it requires approaches that farmers can understand, apply and sustain using locally available resources. JCDF considers community ownership essential to this process. Farmers, traditional leaders and other local actors need to participate in decisions about restoration and land management so that practices become part of everyday community stewardship rather than short-term project activities.

3. Project Rationale

JCDF's rationale is that restoration is more likely to last when communities see a direct connection between healthy land and household wellbeing. FMNR can encourage farmers to protect and manage naturally regenerating trees and vegetation already present in the landscape, reducing unnecessary clearing while supporting ecological functions. Combined with climate-smart farming, restoration can support soil protection, moisture retention, biodiversity and more resilient production systems.

The project also recognises the importance of local leadership. Traditional and community leaders can help mobilise households, strengthen collective responsibility and encourage locally appropriate stewardship practices. JCDF will therefore use community structures as partners in implementation while maintaining an inclusive approach that encourages the participation of women and youth.

4. Goal, Objectives and Expected Results

Overall Goal

To improve the resilience and livelihoods of 500 farming households in Pader District by restoring degraded land and strengthening adoption of sustainable, climate-smart agricultural practices.

Specific Objectives

1. Increase the knowledge and practical capacity of farming households to apply Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration and other land restoration practices.
2. Promote climate-smart agricultural practices that improve soil health, protect natural resources and strengthen household food production.
3. Strengthen community participation and local leadership in ecosystem restoration and sustainable natural resource management.
4. Establish practical learning and demonstration opportunities through which farmers can observe, discuss and adapt restoration and climate-smart agriculture practices.
5. Strengthen community resilience by linking environmental restoration with sustainable livelihood opportunities and local knowledge.

Expected Results

By the end of the project, 500 farming households will have been engaged in project activities and exposed to practical knowledge on restoration and climate-smart agriculture. Participating farmers are expected to demonstrate increased understanding and application of FMNR and sustainable land management practices. Community leaders and local structures will have stronger capacity to support restoration and encourage responsible management of natural resources. Demonstration and learning activities will provide practical evidence that can support replication by other households and communities.

The longer-term outcome sought is a transition toward healthier and more productive landscapes in which farming households are better equipped to cope with climate variability, protect natural resources and improve their livelihoods.

5. Project Approach and Implementation Strategy

5.1 Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration and Ecosystem Restoration

JCDF will promote FMNR as a community-based restoration approach that encourages farmers to identify, protect and manage naturally regenerating trees and vegetation. The approach will be introduced through practical learning, field demonstrations and farmer-to-farmer engagement. Where appropriate, restoration will also include tree growing, enrichment tree planting, and protection of existing vegetation, with emphasis on locally relevant practices and community ownership.

5.2 Climate-Smart Agriculture

Farmers will be supported to strengthen agricultural practices that improve soil health, reduce degradation and increase resilience to climate variability. Training and demonstrations will emphasise practical measures that can be applied within local farming systems and connect soil and vegetation management with improved agricultural productivity and household food security.

5.3 Farmer Training, Demonstrations and Follow-up

The project will use a learning-by-doing model. Farmers will participate in practical sessions and demonstration activities where they can observe restoration and climate-smart agriculture practices. Follow-up will identify implementation challenges, reinforce learning and document emerging results.

5.4 Community Mobilisation and Local Leadership

Traditional leaders, community leaders and other local actors will be engaged as partners in mobilisation and stewardship. Their involvement will strengthen local ownership and encourage collective action around restoration. The project will promote inclusive participation so that women and youth can contribute to and benefit from activities.

5.5 Learning and Adaptive Management

JCDF will document implementation experience, farmer feedback and emerging lessons throughout the project. Learning will be used to adjust activities where necessary and identify practices that can be replicated or scaled.

6. Key Activities and Implementation Plan

Activity	Purpose	Participants	Timing
Community mobilisation and inception	Introduce the project, identify participating households and strengthen ownership.	Farmers, local/community leaders, traditional leaders, women and youth.	Start-up
FMNR and restoration training	Build practical knowledge on natural regeneration, tree protection and sustainable land management.	500 farming households and community facilitators.	Early and continuing
Climate-smart agriculture training	Improve farming practices that protect soils and strengthen resilience.	Participating farmers and lead farmers.	Throughout
Demonstration and learning sites	Provide practical spaces to observe and adapt restoration and farming practices.	Farmers and community groups.	Throughout
Community restoration activities	Support application of restoration practices on farms and community landscapes.	Participating households and groups.	Seasonal
Monitoring, follow-up and learning	Track participation, adoption, challenges and emerging results.	JCDF and community structures.	Throughout
Documentation and donor reporting	Capture evidence, lessons and results for accountability.	JCDF and partners.	Throughout

Implementation Principle

The project will be implemented as a partnership with communities rather than as a service delivered to them. JCDF will facilitate learning, coordination and technical support while farmers and local leaders remain central to decisions and practical implementation.

7. Target Beneficiaries and Inclusion

The primary beneficiaries are 500 farming households in Pajule and surrounding communities in Pader District. These households depend substantially on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods and are therefore directly affected by land degradation, declining soil fertility and climate variability.

The project will seek inclusive participation of women and youth within participating households and community structures. JCDF will also work with traditional and community leaders because of their role in mobilisation, local governance and stewardship of community resources. Participation will be based on transparent and locally understood criteria, with attention to equitable access to project learning and benefits.

Community Ownership

Ownership will be promoted through early consultation, farmer participation in practical learning, use of locally relevant knowledge and engagement of community leadership. Participating households will be encouraged to take responsibility for maintaining restoration measures on their own land and sharing learning with other farmers.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

JCDF will use practical monitoring tools to track implementation progress and emerging outcomes. Monitoring will focus on participation, training completion, demonstration activities, application of restoration practices and farmer feedback. Where feasible, JCDF will document examples of regenerated vegetation, changes in land management practices and farmer experiences through photographs, field notes and short stories.

Result Area	Illustrative Indicator	Means of Verification
Reach and participation	500 farming households engaged	Participant records and activity reports
Knowledge and skills	Farmers trained and demonstrating increased knowledge	Training records, assessments and field observations
Practice adoption	Participating farmers applying FMNR and climate-smart practices	Field follow-up and observation records
Community engagement	Local leaders and community structures participating	Meeting records and mobilisation reports
Learning and evidence	Documented farmer experiences and project lessons	Case stories, photographs and reports

9. Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

The sustainability strategy is built around practices that communities can continue using after external project funding ends. FMNR and related restoration measures can build on naturally occurring vegetation and farmer knowledge, while climate-smart agriculture practices are intended to strengthen the productive capacity of existing farms. By investing in knowledge, local leadership and community structures, the project seeks to create capabilities that remain within the community.

Over time, restored land and improved farming practices are expected to contribute to increased food production, improved household incomes and greater resilience to climate change. Regenerated trees and healthier soils can support biodiversity and ecosystem functions, while knowledge gained by participating households can spread through farmer networks and community relationships.

Potential Long-Term Impact

The longer-term ambition is for communities to manage land and natural resources in ways that simultaneously support livelihoods and ecological health. If successful, the project can provide a practical model for expanding community-led restoration and climate-smart agriculture beyond the initial 500 households.

10. Organisational Capacity and Partnerships

JCDF is a community-driven organisation working to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing in Northern Uganda. Its programme areas include ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, women and youth empowerment, cultural heritage, governance and human rights, and community capacity building.

JCDF's implementation approach is strengthened through collaboration with community institutions, traditional leaders, local government, civil society and technical and development partners. Partnerships and networks referenced in JCDF's programme work include the FMNR Network Uganda, Climate Action Uganda, IUCN Uganda, ADRA Uganda, Pader District Local Government, Pader NGO Forum, World Vision Uganda, LM International and other community and development actors.

JCDF will apply its organisational commitments to accountability, transparency, community participation and partnership throughout implementation. Donor funds will be managed in accordance with approved budgets and applicable organisational procedures, with project activities documented for reporting and learning.

11. Proposed Project Budget

The proposed fundraising target for Restoring Pader's Land & Livelihoods is US\$25,000. The indicative allocation below is presented for project planning and donor communication. Final line-item amounts should be reconciled with JCDF's approved internal budget before project submission and implementation.

Budget Category	USD	Purpose
Community mobilisation and farmer engagement	\$2,500	Community meetings, mobilisation and participant engagement
FMNR and ecosystem restoration training	\$5,000	Training, facilitation, learning materials and field demonstrations
Climate-smart agriculture training and demonstrations	\$4,500	Practical farmer learning and demonstration support
Restoration and tree regeneration activities	\$3,500	Community restoration support, materials and field activities
Monitoring, follow-up and learning	\$2,500	Field follow-up, documentation, monitoring and learning
Project coordination and administration	\$4,000	Essential coordination, communication, transport and administration
Documentation, communications and donor reporting	\$1,500	Project documentation, photography, reporting and communications
Contingency / operational flexibility	\$1,500	Limited provision for unforeseen implementation needs
TOTAL	\$25,000	

The budget prioritises direct community and programme activities while retaining provision for coordination, monitoring, documentation and accountability. JCDF will maintain records linking expenditure to approved activities and results.

12. Indicative Donor Contribution Levels

Donation	Illustrative Impact
\$10	Supports essential materials and community awareness for land restoration and sustainable farming.
\$25	Supports practical farmer learning on FMNR and climate-smart agricultural practices.
\$50	Supports participation and follow-up for a farming household engaged in restoration and climate-smart farming.
\$100	Supports community restoration activities, including farmer mobilisation and practical FMNR learning.
\$250	Supports a farmer demonstration and learning activity.
\$500	Supports training, mobilisation and technical follow-up for groups of farming households.
\$1,000	Supports coordinated ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture activities in participating communities.
\$2,500	Provides substantial support for coordinated restoration, livelihood, monitoring and community engagement activities.

13. Key Risks and Mitigation

Risk	Potential Effect	Mitigation Approach
Climate variability	Poor crop performance and difficulty implementing some seasonal activities.	Promote climate-smart practices, flexible scheduling and diversified restoration approaches.
Low adoption of practices	Limited project-level change despite training.	Use demonstrations, practical learning, follow-up and farmer-to-farmer exchange.
Limited resources	Reduced reach or delays.	Prioritise core activities, strengthen partnerships and use community ownership.
Competing household priorities	Irregular participation.	Schedule activities around local farming calendars and involve community leaders.
Sustainability challenges	Restoration gains may not be maintained.	Strengthen local ownership, leadership engagement and farmer capacity.

14. Conclusion

Restoring Pader's Land & Livelihoods is designed as a practical investment in both people and the landscapes on which rural households depend. By working with 500 farming households and local leadership, JCDF will connect ecosystem restoration with climate-smart agriculture, community learning and sustainable livelihoods. The project seeks not only to deliver activities but to strengthen knowledge, ownership and local capacity so that restoration can continue beyond donor support.

JCDF welcomes GlobalGiving donors and partners to join this effort to restore degraded land, strengthen farming livelihoods and build resilient communities in Pader District. Support for the project will contribute to practical community action while generating learning that can inform future restoration and sustainable agriculture initiatives.