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GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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**Date: 03rd May, 2021**

## Dear Sir,

**Kamuli Pilot Environmental Protection through Promoting Tree Planting and Safe Forest Saving Stoves**

Referring to the Biomass studies by the National Forestry Authority of 2015 that identified massive deforestation as one of the most critical environmental crises facing Uganda. Uganda’s forest cover across the country tremendously declined from 24% (4,933,271 hectares (Ha)) of land area in the 1990 to less than the current 9% (1,956,664Ha) in 2018.  That Uganda has lost about 3,000,000 ha of forest cover in 25 years is very alarming. To reverse this loss by 2040, Uganda needs to restore at least 136,000 Ha annually.

Forest loss has been driven by illegal logging to meet huge demands for timber, fuel wood including charcoal, carving, unsustainable agricultural practices, urbanization and unregulated livestock grazing. The high rate of deforestation has led to habitat loss and species extinction, and soil degradation resulting in poor crop yield. Deforestation is also contributing to climate change effects and destabilizing water cycle leading to disappearance of local streams, frequent weather and climatic variability including droughts, interruptions of frequency and intensity of rains resulting into floods and landslides in the highland areas. This has affected crop and livestock yields hence livelihoods.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 empowers Government to protect and preserve the environment from abuse, pollution and degradation; to manage the environment for sustainable development; and to promote environmental awareness. The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003 provide for tree planting and growing and also regulate sustainable utilization of forest products.

The National Development Plan II (2015 – 2020) sets a target of restoring the forest cover from 9% to 18% by the year 2020. For this to be achieved, concerted efforts of all stakeholders are required. To reverse deforestation, we must massively and progressively increase tree cover through tree planting and management of existing forests in a way that is sustainable improves community livelihoods and supports income generation with the long-term vision of increased forest and tree cover and conserving the environment.

This program targeting planting 900,000 trees (9,000 Hectares) is geared towards increasing the forest and tree cover in Uganda.

We expect communities, government agencies, corporates and private sector to support us and we plant trees. I request you to support the need for massive tree planting and afforestation across Kamuli to reverse deforestation in fulfillment of Uganda National Development Plan II.

GSCDA is determined to fulfill its mandate of sustainable environment management through promotion of tree planting and forest management across the country. In order to achieve this we are looking for collaboration/funding to work together on this initiative.  We strongly believe this approach will be an entry point for other partners to support approaches aimed at increasing the forest cover and meeting the Vision 2040 afforestation target.

Mugweri Yoweri

Chairman