

Strengthening of Higher Education, Research and Community Outreach
in Agro-Ecology in the Rwenzori Region in Western Uganda | AER

A partnership between Uganda and Austria

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Despite the rich natural endowments, the Rwenzori Region in Western Uganda faces enormous challenges: over exploitation of its natural resources, high population growth rates and poverty among the majority of the smallholder households. There is high demand for research and education to address these challenges and to elaborate solutions collaboratively with local stakeholders enabling an agro-ecological and socio-cultural sound development based on a sustainable and economic use of regional resources.

The AER project is designed as a continuous mutual exchange process of skills, knowledge and experiences in theory and practices primarily between BOKU and the Mountains of the Moon University (MMU), also including smallholder communities with the main objective to build capacities in higher education, research and community outreach in the field of agro-ecology.

The project gears up for:

- Staff training in agro-ecological principles including the socio-cultural dimension, systemic understanding and transdisciplinarity.
- Establishment of a participatory action research framework between MMU and the stakeholder communities to enable knowledge exchange and innovations.
- Development and implementation of a stakeholder-driven, regionally embedded Master's curriculum in agro-ecology at MMU to form alumni who are capable in decisively contributing to the prevalent challenges in the Rwenzori Region.

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