



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Email Request :

Our ref: ATISN 13716

Date: 19 February 2020

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 13716

Thank you for your requests which I received on 22 and 23 January. The recorded information that you requested is provided at Annex 1.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Or e-mail: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Question	Response
How much has the Welsh Government spent in total on the Mbale Trees Programme?	The Welsh Government grant funds Size of Wales for the management and delivery of the Mbale Trees programme. Payments made to Size of Wales since 2013 account for approx. £1.2 million.
Can the Welsh Government list what organisations have received funding earmarked for the Mbale Trees Programme?	The Welsh Government funds the Mbale Tree Planting Programme through Size of Wales. The programme is then delivered in partnership with the Mount Elgon Tree Growing Enterprise (METGE) a not for profit company registered in Uganda which then funds 4 implementation partners in the Mbale region, Bunkokho Rural Development Centre, Share An Opportunity (Uganda), the Mount Elgon Agroforestry and Coffee Cooperative Enterprise & the SALEM Brotherhood. Before METGE the project was managed in Uganda by the Mbale Coalition Against Poverty
How many hectares has the Welsh Government helped to plant so far through the Mbale Tree Programme?	The Mbale trees programme is a community based agroforestry project. Trees are often planted in the coffee gardens of farmers living on the slopes of Mt Elgon, in school grounds, church property or on the sides of roads. It is not possible, nor would it be beneficial, to measure the tree planting in hectares. Instead we record the number of individual trees and have distributed well over 10 million trees since 2009, of which 2.5 million were distributed within the last year.
Can the Welsh Government list what types of trees have been planted as part of the programme, whether these are native to the region, and how many of the trees planted have survived?	Please see attached spreadsheet (Annex 2) which includes the list of species and origin of the trees planted. It is extremely difficult to measure survival rates over such a wide terrain and time period. Survival rates vary between seasons and differing areas. The project has distributed trees to a large number of people who have wanted the trees. Our partners estimate survival rates to have averaged between 60-80 % over the course of the programme.
What is the average life span of a tree in the Mbale scheme?	Many of the indigenous trees planted have a life span of well over 100 years. There are some non-native trees grown for fuelwood (in order to minimise felling of primary forest), and others which can be cut for building materials. These are cut between 5 and 10 year intervals. The expectation is that these trees are replaced.

<p>How many Welsh Government officials have been to Uganda to monitor the Mbale tree planting scheme?</p>	<p>Monitoring of the project is done by Size of Wales and the Mount Elgon Tree Growing Enterprise (METGE) on behalf of the programme partnership. Over the course of the project 10 different WG staff have visited Uganda, some more than once, and have visited the project during their time in country.</p>
<p>What environment impact assessment has the Welsh Government carried out on the benefits of the Mbale tree planting scheme?</p>	<p>An Environmental Impact Assessment was not deemed appropriate for this project. Trees are distributed by community run projects and planted in a dispersed spatial pattern by the beneficiaries themselves.</p>
<p>Breakdown of costs if WG officials have been sent to Uganda regarding the Mbale Tree Programme, including hotels and transportation?</p>	<p>I have concluded that I am not required to comply with the final part of your request – for a breakdown of the costs of officials visiting the project. I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to comply with this part of your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.</p> <p>In order to locate and extract the information you have requested each individual who has visited the project would need to undertake a search of their files as well as the finance system to identify the costs of each of their visits. As visits to this project would be one of a number of visits undertaken by officials, they would need to identify the actual dates they visited the project and the costs of doing so, separating that from the costs associated with visiting other projects within Uganda.</p>
<p>All correspondence between the Welsh Government and the Government of Uganda regarding the Mbale Tree Programme.</p>	<p>There has been no correspondence between the WG and the Ugandan Government as it is not a government to government partnership.</p>