TSAVONE CONSULTING

PUBLICATION

PUB-002

PUBLICATIONS

Nature and Climate Practice Prospectus

Field-verified evidence on biodiversity, climate risk and the energy transition

GROUND → DATA → INSIGHT → DECISION

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> **This prospectus explains what Tsavone Consulting's nature and biodiversity and climate and energy transition practices do together, who they serve and how they work. It sets out the problems we help with, our services, methods and deliverables, typical assignment types and how to engage us.**

About this publication

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Patrick Engoru

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1. About this prospectus

Tsavone Consulting is a Ugandan consulting firm that gathers reliable evidence on the ground and turns it into sound decisions, designs and systems. Two of our deep practices, nature and biodiversity, and climate and energy transition, work as one team because the questions our clients face rarely respect the boundary between them. A wetland is a biodiversity asset, a flood defence, a carbon store and a livelihood all at once.

This prospectus is for organisations that fund, regulate, finance, build on or depend on Uganda's ecosystems and climate. It describes the kinds of work we do and how we do it. It does not list past projects. Case studies with referees are available on request, and every proposal names the team for that assignment with CVs.

1.1 The practice at a glance

What we do	Biodiversity baselines and BioBlitz surveys; wetland and catchment assessments; biodiversity monitoring for infrastructure and energy projects; environmental and social impact assessment support; climate risk and vulnerability assessment; adaptation planning; nature-based solutions design; carbon and biodiversity credit feasibility; nature and climate disclosure support; clean energy market studies and verification
Who we serve	Development partners, climate and conservation funds, ministries, agencies and local governments, conservation and community NGOs, infrastructure, energy, oil, gas and mining companies and their lenders, carbon and restoration developers, clean cooking, solar and mini-grid companies

Where	All regions of Uganda, including the Albertine Rift and Lake Albert basin, the south-western wetlands and catchments, the cattle corridor, the Mount Elgon and Rwenzori landscapes and the north; East Africa and the Great Lakes; international work by arrangement
How	Field surveys with trained teams, GIS and remote sensing, community-level participatory methods, transparent analysis and practical management tools

2. The problems we help with

Uganda's ecosystems carry high biodiversity value, from the Albertine Rift forests to its extensive wetlands and savannas, and they support the farming, fishing, tourism and water supply on which most households depend. They also face pressure from land conversion, a growing population, infrastructure and energy development, and a changing climate. Our clients usually come to us with one of the following problems.

2.1 Projects that need credible biodiversity evidence

Infrastructure, energy and extractive projects must understand and manage their effects on habitats and species, often to lender standards such as IFC Performance Standard 6 (2012) or the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESS6). Conservation programmes need baselines they can monitor against. Too often the evidence is a desk list of species, collected once, in one season, with no method a reviewer can check. We design and run surveys that a lender's adviser or a scientific reviewer can follow and repeat.

2.2 Climate risk that is understood in general but not locally

National and global climate assessments describe the direction of change. Districts, programmes, utilities and companies need to know what it means for a particular catchment, value chain, asset or community, and what to do about it. We combine climate information, exposure data and field evidence on sensitivity and adaptive capacity into assessments that lead to specific, costed actions.

2.3 New rules for carbon markets and benefit-sharing

Uganda's National Climate Change Act 2021 and the National Climate Change (Climate Change Mechanisms) Regulations, 2025, launched in May 2025, set rules for carbon projects, including staged project approval, registers of approved projects and benefit-sharing plans. Developers, investors and communities need to know whether a proposed carbon or biodiversity credit project is credible, lawful, fair and viable before anyone signs. We test those questions independently.

2.4 Disclosure and lender expectations

Companies and financial institutions face growing expectations to identify, assess and disclose nature- and climate-related risks, for example under the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD, 2023) and IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures (2023). Ugandan businesses and their lenders need practical, site-level evidence to support these disclosures, not generic statements.

2.5 Clean energy markets that are hard to read

Clean cooking, solar and mini-grid businesses, and the programmes that support them, need reliable data on demand, willingness and ability to pay, distribution channels and actual use after purchase. Results-

based finance schemes need independent verification that products were sold and are in use. We provide both.

> **We are useful when a decision about land, water, nature or climate depends on what is actually on the ground, and when the evidence must satisfy a regulator, a lender, a fund or a community.**

3. Our services

Service line	What it covers	Typical clients
Biodiversity baselines and monitoring	Habitat mapping, multi-taxa field surveys, BioBlitz events, critical habitat screening support, biodiversity action and monitoring plans, repeat monitoring rounds	Infrastructure and energy companies, lenders, conservation NGOs, protected area managers
Wetland and catchment assessment	Wetland condition and use assessments, catchment management planning support, land-use and land-cover change analysis, community resource mapping	Government agencies, NGOs, catchment programmes, water utilities
Environmental and social impact assessment support	Baseline studies, impact assessment inputs, environmental and social management plans, monitoring frameworks, stakeholder engagement, grievance mechanisms (with certified environmental practitioners where national law requires)	Project developers, contractors, lenders
Resettlement and livelihood restoration	Socio-economic baselines, asset inventories support, livelihood restoration planning and monitoring, completion audits support	Infrastructure and energy projects, lenders
Community conservation and human-wildlife conflict	Community-based natural resource management assessments, human-wildlife conflict studies, conservation livelihood programme design and evaluation	Conservation NGOs, wildlife authorities, donors
Climate risk and vulnerability assessment	Hazard, exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity analysis at community, district, value-chain or asset level; adaptation option appraisal; adaptation planning	Local governments, programmes, utilities, companies
Nature-based solutions and climate finance preparation	NbS design and appraisal against the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (2020); climate-fund concept notes and feasibility studies; theories of change and results frameworks	Climate funds' accredited entities, NGOs, government
Carbon and biodiversity credit feasibility	Legal and policy review, land and carbon rights, community consent and benefit-sharing design, additionality and permanence risks, indicative financial viability	Developers, investors, communities, NGOs
Nature and climate disclosure support	Nature-risk screening, site-level evidence for TNFD-aligned and climate disclosures, ESG data verification	Companies, banks, impact investors
Energy access and clean cooking	Market and demand studies, willingness-to-pay surveys, distribution channel analysis, usage and results verification for results-based finance	Clean energy companies, programmes, funds

Service line	What it covers	Typical clients
Natural resource governance and policy review	Reviews of policies, laws, institutions and programmes for forests, wetlands, wildlife, water and climate; political economy analysis	Ministries, development partners, civil society

3.1 Training

We train government, NGO and company staff in biodiversity monitoring, environmental and social safeguards, climate risk assessment and community consent processes for carbon projects. See our Training Catalogue, available at www.tsavone.com/publications.

3.2 What we do not do

- We do not develop, own or sell carbon or biodiversity credits, and we take no share of credit revenue. This keeps our feasibility and benefit-sharing advice independent.
- We are not a validation and verification body under any carbon standard. We prepare and review; accredited bodies validate and verify.
- We do not sign environmental impact statements as lead practitioner unless the assignment team includes an environmental practitioner certified and registered under Uganda's national environment law; where needed, we team with certified practitioners.
- We never monitor or verify a project we helped design or deliver for the same client.

4. Methods and tools

4.1 Biodiversity field survey

Surveys follow standard, repeatable protocols chosen for the taxa and habitats in question: transects and point counts for birds, plot-based vegetation sampling, camera trapping, acoustic recording and targeted searches for species of concern. Specialists identify species to recognised taxonomies and record coordinates, effort and conditions so the survey can be repeated. Where the question needs it, surveys cover more than one season. BioBlitz events add rapid, intensive coverage and involve local naturalists and communities.

4.2 Geospatial analysis

Our written geospatial analysis procedure governs land-cover mapping, change detection, habitat mapping, catchment delineation and the analysis of satellite imagery and public datasets. All maps state their data sources, dates, resolution and accuracy limits. Spatial layers are handed over in open formats.

4.3 Climate risk and vulnerability

Our approach combines climate projections and historical records from recognised sources with local evidence: community hazard histories, seasonal calendars, household surveys on losses and coping, and asset or value-chain exposure analysis. We present uncertainty honestly and rank adaptation options on effectiveness, cost, feasibility and equity.

4.4 Nature-based solutions appraisal

NbS designs are tested against the eight criteria of the IUCN Global Standard: the societal challenge addressed, design at scale, biodiversity net gain, economic feasibility, inclusive governance, trade-offs, adaptive management and sustainability. We say plainly where a proposed intervention does not meet the standard.

4.5 Carbon and biodiversity credit feasibility

Feasibility work tests five questions in order: is it lawful under Ugandan law and the relevant standard; are land, tree and carbon rights clear; do affected communities give free, prior and informed consent on fair terms; is the climate or biodiversity benefit real, additional and durable; and is the project financially viable after benefit-sharing. A project that fails an early test does not proceed to the later ones.

4.6 Social and community methods

Nature and climate work affects people. We use household surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews, participatory mapping and stakeholder analysis to understand resource use, rights, livelihoods and grievances. Community entry follows local protocols and respects indigenous and local knowledge. Free, prior and informed consent processes are documented step by step.

4.7 Environmental and social baselines

For impact assessments and lender reviews, we collect physical, biological and socio-economic baseline data to the standard the applicable framework requires, including peat and wetland screening where relevant. We align with the National Environment Act 2019, IFC Performance Standards and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework as the client's financing requires.

4.8 Market and verification methods for clean energy

Demand studies combine representative household and enterprise surveys with willingness-to-pay methods, retailer and distributor interviews and supply-chain mapping. Results verification samples sales records, visits households to confirm the product is present and in use, and reports error rates against the scheme's rules.

5. What clients get

Deliverable	What it contains
Inception report	Final questions, survey protocols, sampling, seasonal timing, permits and ethics arrangements, workplan and risks
Baseline or assessment report	Methods, findings as found, strength of evidence, maps and figures, implications and recommendations ranked by priority
Species lists and datasets	Georeferenced records with effort data, conservation status and identification confidence, in a format suitable for repeat monitoring and, where agreed, for sharing with national biodiversity databases
Spatial products	Habitat, land-cover and change maps, catchment and resource maps, in open GIS formats with metadata
Management and monitoring plans	Biodiversity action plans, environmental and social management plans, adaptation plans or monitoring frameworks with indicators, responsibilities, frequencies and costs
Feasibility or appraisal report	A clear go, conditional go or no-go judgement with the reasons, risks and conditions
Briefs and validation	A summary for decision-makers and a facilitated validation workshop with stakeholders

Every map, figure and species record states where it came from. A reviewer should be able to trace any finding back to the data.

6. How we work

1. **Listen and scope.** We agree questions, deliverables, seasons, permits and assumptions in writing before work starts.
2. **Go to the ground.** Specialists survey in the field, with trained local assistants and documented protocols.
3. **Analyse honestly.** We report findings as found, including the absence of evidence, and state the limits of each survey.
4. **Build for use.** Plans and monitoring frameworks are designed for the people who will run them, with costs and responsibilities.
5. **Stay accountable.** We follow up after delivery and support repeat monitoring where the client wants it.

6.1 Permits, access and research approval

We plan early for the permissions nature and climate work often needs: research approval from the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and an accredited research ethics committee where human participants are involved, Uganda Wildlife Authority permission for work in protected areas, National Forestry Authority permission in central forest reserves, and district and community entry. Timelines in our proposals include realistic time for these approvals.

6.2 Safety in the field

Field teams work under our Health, Safety, Security and Wellbeing Policy, with route and site risk assessments, wildlife and water safety briefings, check-in procedures and first-aid provision. We do not send teams into areas where the risk cannot be managed.

6.3 Environmental responsibility

We minimise the footprint of our own fieldwork, follow leave-no-trace practice in sensitive habitats and handle specimens only where permits allow.

7. Sample assignment types

These are illustrations of the work this practice is set up to deliver, not records of past projects.

Assignment type	Typical question	How we would approach it	Typical duration
Biodiversity baseline for a linear infrastructure project	Which habitats and species of concern lie along the route, and where are the sensitive sections?	Habitat mapping from imagery, two-season field surveys at sampled points, critical habitat screening inputs, baseline report and monitoring design	4 to 9 months including seasons
Wetland condition and use assessment	What condition is this wetland in, who uses it and how, and what are the main threats?	Land-cover change analysis, field condition scoring, resource-user survey, FGDs, management recommendations	8 to 12 weeks

Assignment type	Typical question	How we would approach it	Typical duration
District climate vulnerability assessment	Which communities, sectors and assets are most at risk, and which adaptation actions should come first?	Climate data review, hazard mapping, household survey, community workshops, option ranking, costed adaptation actions	10 to 14 weeks
Carbon project feasibility and benefit-sharing review	Is the proposed project lawful, fair and viable, and is the benefit-sharing arrangement sound?	Legal review, land and carbon rights analysis, FPIC process review with communities, risk analysis, indicative model	6 to 12 weeks
Nature-risk screening for a lender's portfolio	Which clients or sites in the portfolio have material nature-related dependencies and impacts?	Spatial screening against protected and key biodiversity areas, sector dependency analysis, site visits for priority cases	6 to 10 weeks
Clean cooking market study	Who will buy improved stoves or fuels, at what price, through which channels?	Household and retailer survey, willingness-to-pay module, channel mapping, market sizing with stated assumptions	8 to 12 weeks
Results verification for a results-based finance scheme	Were the reported sales real, and are products in use?	Random sample of claimed sales, household visits, record checks, error-rate reporting by round	Ongoing, by round
Human-wildlife conflict study	Where, when and why do conflicts occur, and what responses work?	Incident records, household survey, participatory mapping, review of mitigation measures, recommendations	8 to 12 weeks
Evaluation of a conservation livelihoods programme	Did the programme improve both conservation outcomes and livelihoods, and were there trade-offs?	Mixed-methods evaluation with ecological and socio-economic indicators, contribution analysis	10 to 16 weeks

Durations are indicative. Biodiversity work that must cover wet and dry seasons takes longer; we will say so at the start rather than compress the survey.

8. Who does the work

Role	What they bring
Practice lead and team leader	Long experience leading conservation, natural resource and climate programmes in Uganda, with international NGOs, research centres, bilateral agencies, government and the private sector. Leads scoping, design and client relationship.
Senior associates	Independent specialists in ecology and biodiversity (birds, mammals, plants, herpetofauna, freshwater systems), climate risk, environmental and social safeguards, resettlement, GIS and remote sensing, carbon and natural resource law, energy access

Role	What they bring
Associates and analysts	Spatial analysis, data management, statistics, socio-economic analysis and report production
Field assistants and enumerators	Trained local assistants, parataxonomists and enumerators who know the landscape and speak local languages
Partner firms and institutions	Certified environmental practitioners, specialist laboratories, universities and research institutions where an assignment needs them, under written teaming agreements

All associates are vetted for our roster, briefed on each assignment and bound by our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Safeguarding Policy.

9. Why Tsavone

Reason	What it means in practice
Nature, climate and people in one team	Ecologists, climate specialists, social scientists and agricultural economists work together, so a biodiversity survey can carry its livelihood implications and a carbon feasibility study can carry its community consent analysis.
Ready for the new rules	We work with Uganda's carbon-market regulations, lender performance standards and emerging disclosure frameworks, and translate them into site-level evidence.
Independent	We do not own, develop or sell credits, and we never verify our own work. Our judgements are not tied to a deal.
Field first	Specialists go to the site, in the right season, with protocols a reviewer can check and repeat.
Local roots, global standards	We know Uganda's landscapes, institutions and communities, and we deliver to international scientific and safeguard standards.
Built to be used	Plans and monitoring frameworks come with costs, responsibilities and simple tools that site teams can run.

10. How to engage

Most assignments start with a short conversation. Tell us the decision you need to make, the timetable and any funder rules that apply. We will reply with how we would approach it, the team and a timeline.

10.1 Ways to work with us

Arrangement	Best for	How it is priced
Fixed-scope assignment	A defined study, evaluation, assessment or design with clear deliverables	Lump sum against deliverables, or time-based against an agreed day budget

Arrangement	Best for	How it is priced
Framework or long-term agreement	UN agencies, development partners and companies with recurring needs	Pre-agreed day rates and call-off orders under the framework
Retainer	A part-time MEL, research or advisory function	A set number of days each month, reviewed quarterly
Subcontract or local partnership	International firms and research institutes delivering in Uganda and the region	Field and expert inputs priced per day, per completed interview or per deliverable
Consortium or joint bid	Larger tenders needing several firms	Roles, work share and fees set in a written teaming agreement
Purchase order	Short, well-defined tasks such as a data collection round, a training or a validation workshop	Fixed price per task

10.2 From first contact to contract

Step	What happens	Typical timing
1. Enquiry	You email info@tsavone.com or send terms of reference. Share the site or landscape, any lender or funder standard that applies, and the timing of decisions or financial close.	We reply promptly, in writing
2. Scoping call	The Nature and Climate Practice Lead discusses the question, users of the evidence, timing, budget envelope and constraints.	At a time that suits you
3. Fit and independence check	We screen for conflicts of interest, reputational risk and our own capacity before we commit.	Before any proposal
4. Proposal	A technical and financial proposal with named team, method, workplan, risks and a value-for-money statement.	To your timetable or the tender deadline
5. Contract and inception	We agree terms in writing, then deliver an inception report that fixes the method, tools and schedule before fieldwork.	Inception timing agreed in the contract

10.3 Fees

We quote transparent day rates for named people, itemised field costs and clear assumptions. We do not charge for scoping calls or for preparing a proposal in response to terms of reference. Where a client's budget cannot support the method a question needs, we will explain the trade-off and offer a smaller, honest design rather than a large design done thinly.

10.4 Contact

Email	info@tsavone.com
Web	www.tsavone.com

Main office	Martyrs Way, Ntinda, Kampala, Uganda
Registered office	Patiko Road, Iriaga Laliya, Iriaga Parish, Laroo-Pece Division, Gulu City
Postal address	P.O. Box 16113, Wandegeya, Kampala, Uganda
Confidential reporting	safeguarding@tsavone.com and integrity@tsavone.com

11. Our standards and related publications

Commitment	What it means for you
Findings as found	We report what the evidence shows, including results the client hoped not to see. Weak evidence is labelled as weak.
Independence	We never evaluate or verify work we helped design or deliver for the same client, and we declare conflicts before we accept work.
Data protection	Personal data is collected on a stated lawful basis and handled under the Data Protection and Privacy Act 2019.
Research ethics	Ethics screening, required clearances and informed consent are settled before data collection starts.
Safeguarding	Everyone we field is vetted, trained and bound by our Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct.
Integrity	No facilitation payments, no gifts that could influence an award, no fabricated data. Sanctions and debarment screening of partners.
Quality review	Every major deliverable passes an independent quality review before it reaches you.
Complaints	You can raise a concern at any time and receive a written response.

11.1 Key frameworks we work with

- Ugandan law: National Environment Act 2019; Uganda Wildlife Act 2019; National Climate Change Act 2021 and the National Climate Change (Climate Change Mechanisms) Regulations, 2025; Land Act; Data Protection and Privacy Act 2019
- Lender and funder standards: IFC Performance Standards (2012); World Bank Environmental and Social Framework; Equator Principles where a client's lenders apply them
- International frameworks: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022); Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Paris Agreement; IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (2020); TNFD recommendations (2023); IFRS S2 (2023)

11.2 Related publications

- Agrifood Practice Prospectus: www.tsavone.com/publications
- Humanitarian and Displacement Research Practice Prospectus: www.tsavone.com/publications
- Nature and Climate Risk in Ugandan Business: www.tsavone.com/publications

- All Tsavone publications and insights: www.tsavone.com

Detailed method guides and toolkits are shared with clients on request.

Annex A: Questions to settle before you commission nature or climate work

Question	Why it matters
Which standard must the evidence meet: national law, a lender's standard, a carbon standard, a disclosure framework?	The standard sets the survey scope, the level of detail and who must sign off.
Which seasons must be covered?	Many species and hydrological conditions are seasonal. A single-season survey may not satisfy a reviewer.
What permits and approvals are needed, and who will apply?	Protected-area, forest reserve and research approvals take time and must be in the workplan.
Are there earlier surveys or datasets?	Earlier data can sharpen design and allow change to be measured, if methods are comparable.
Who are the affected communities, and what engagement has happened so far?	Past engagement, grievances and expectations shape how we enter and what consent processes are needed.
Who will use the management or monitoring plan, and with what budget?	A plan the site team cannot afford or run will not be implemented.
Who owns the data, and can species records be shared?	Sensitive species locations may need protecting; data-sharing terms should be settled at contract.

Annex B: Enquiry form

Complete this form, or email the same information to info@tsavone.com. We reply to every enquiry promptly.

Nature and climate practice enquiry

Field	Entry
Organisation name and type	
Contact person, role and email	
Site, landscape or portfolio concerned	
Type of work needed (baseline, assessment, feasibility, plan, verification, other)	
Standard or framework the work must meet	
Decision or milestone the work supports (for example financial close, permit, fund submission)	
Preferred start date and final deadline	
Seasons to be covered, if known	
Budget envelope, if known (UGX or USD)	
Terms of reference attached (yes or no)	
How you heard about Tsavone	

TSAVONE
CONSULTING

Trusted evidence from the field.

Tsavone Consulting is a Ugandan consulting firm built around one capability: trusted field evidence. We reach the people and places a decision is about, collect data to a known quality, say what it shows and how sure we are, and give clients something they can act on.

Our methods work across sectors, with depth in agrifood, nature, climate and energy, youth skills and jobs, and humanitarian and displacement research. Rooted in Uganda, working worldwide.

KAMPALA Martyrs Way, Ntinda · **GULU CITY** Patiko Road, Laroo-Pece Division
P.O. Box 16113, Wandegeya, Kampala, Uganda
info@tsavone.com · www.tsavone.com

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