



WWF Impact Ventures
Venture Profile
January 2018

Divine Bamboo



Profile

Venture Name	Divine Bamboo Group Ltd
Country	Uganda
Stage	Running Operations
WWF Goal	Forests
UN SDG Impact	7. Affordable and Clean Energy 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth 13. Climate Action
Investment Opportunity	Current Round: CHF 99,000 WWFIV Commitment: CHF 50,000

Business

Divine Bamboo is an innovative forestry and clean energy company, using fast-growing bamboo to produce clean-cooking fuel in the form of briquettes. Bamboo is a native species in Uganda, grows fast (harvest after 4-5 years) and can be sold in the interim in the form of seedlings. Over 90% of Ugandans depend on charcoal and firewood (37 million people) and over 200,000 acres of forest is lost every year. Divine Bamboo has a first mover advantage in Uganda and relationships with strategic partners including; International Network of Bamboo and Rattan, National Forest Authority, as well as Ministries of Energy, Water, Land and Environment.

Impact

Divine Bamboo generates conservation impact through reducing deforestation in Uganda, positive climate impact through carbon sequestration by bamboo plantations, and social impact through creating jobs and reduction of emissions and indoor air pollution. In 10 years the venture will create 600 decent jobs, plant 25,000 acres of bamboo and sequester 91,000 tons of CO₂.

Entrepreneur

Divine Nabaweesi, Founder and CEO of Divine Bamboo is a passionate Ugandan eco-warrior. Growing up in Entebbe, she loved nature from an early age and has fond memories of forest walks and camping trips with her father in the dense tropical jungle. As the years went by, the forest started to disappear until what was left was a dry barren landscape. She then founded "Divine Bamboo" with the mission to stop deforestation in Uganda by manufacturing bamboo briquettes as a sustainable cooking alternative to traditional charcoal and firewood; which over 90% of households still rely on. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Makerere University. She also has over 16 years of experience in various private sector ventures including Information Technology, Security systems and Financial services.