

What impact on poverty has the Kibale Fuel Wood Project's interventions produced?

Fuel efficient cooking methods

Lead to less smoke,
Which leads to less illness,
Which leads to less time & money wasted.

Home grown fuel wood

Leads to less time collecting wood (and fewer associated risks, i.e. illegal encroachment and dangerous animals),
Which leads to more time for schooling, income generating activities, and farming.

Traditional and non-traditional educational opportunities

Lead to excitement for education and conservation,
Which leads to future conservation and employment opportunities.



What interventions has the Kibale Fuel Wood Project used to address poverty?

Community Outreach.

Science Centers: The KFWP has opened four science centers for local communities, displaying artifacts, books, and posters free of charge.



Stove Building: The KFWP promotes fuel efficient stoves made with locally available materials (mud, ash, dung, and bricks). This way anyone can build it, teach a neighbor, and repair it over time.

Nature Films: Outdoor nature films occur every week. The large gathering allow communities to gather together to share ideas, sing and dance, or tell stories before watching the film at night.

Tree Planting: *Sesbania sesban*, an indigenous and nitrogen fixing tree species, can be harvested as fuel wood in just one year.



What are the main factors that have helped the Kibale Fuel Wood Project make an impact?

Community Dynamics: There is a real desire to solve the fuel wood crisis in areas around Kibale. In order to engage the community in the act of creating and implementing the solution, the KFWP employed local citizens to survey their home areas. We asked, “Is it a struggle to get enough firewood” and “What do you suggest to solve this problem?”. Answers were incorporated into the project design, instilling a sense of ownership in local communities.



Governmental Support: The KFWP first met with local politicians (LCs), as well as government authorities (Uganda Wildlife Authority) to secure partnerships before beginning any aspect of the project.

Community Support: Local schools and churches are active partners, which helps to broaden our base of support and make the project’s ideas more universally present in daily life.

Tangible Results that are Easily Replicated: Locally accessible materials, easy planting methods, fast growing trees and homemade stoves.

NGO Partners: C.A.P, K.A.F.R.E.D, and U.N.I.T.E all of which provide their own expertise to support the project’s goals.



What have been the main factors limiting the Kibale Fuel Wood Project's impact?

Grassroots Initiative: By its very definition, a grassroots project is small, works from the ground level and grows and develops over time, rather than imposing huge changes very quickly. Because the KFWP wishes to be viewed as easily replicable, it does not employ large numbers of staff or armadas of transport vehicles. This allows the public to better understand that they do not need a lot of money to carry out the project's methodology. However, the small staff does limit the speed of the work.

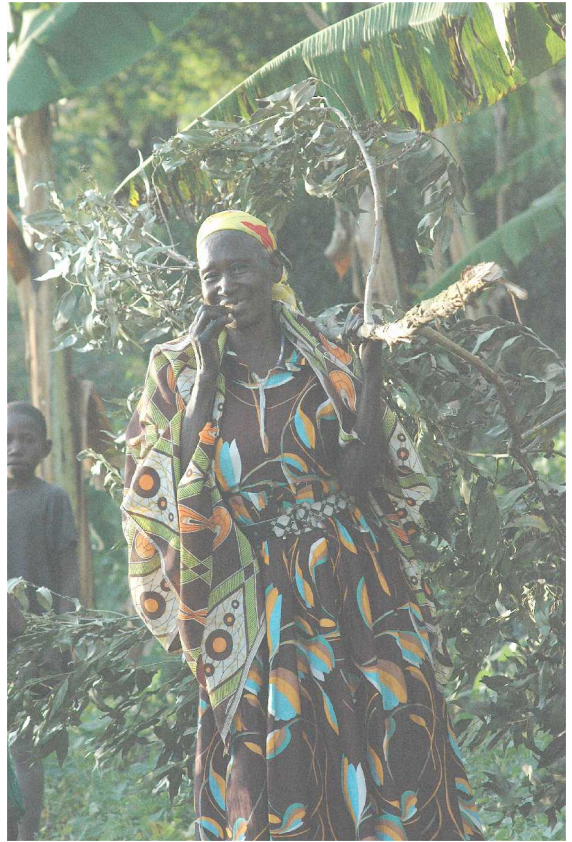


Specific Focus: The project cannot address all the problems faced within a community, which can lead to disappointment or disenchantment.



What changes would facilitate the Kibale Fuel Wood Project making a bigger impact?

Direct Income Generation: The KFWP offers many opportunities for indirect poverty alleviation. More targeted income generating schemes may increase the project's impact, and to that end the KFWP is in the beginning stages of introducing eco-briquettes.



Speed vs. Sustainability – It is worthwhile to evaluate the costs vs. benefits of the small-scale project design. The KFWP's methodology was based on a gradual introduction of skills followed by a handover to local communities. It is possible that a different balance of speed and individual attention could produce better results while still maintaining long-term sustainability.

