

Uganda, Reforestation in Kibale National Park

<p>Location</p>	<p>Uganda: Kibale National Park, Fort Portal, Western Uganda.</p>
<p>Overview</p>	<p>Kibale was made a Forest Reserve in 1932 and a National Park in 1993. It covers 79,500 hectares and sits at the edge of the Congo Basin which is one of the most ecologically diverse regions of Africa. The lowest parts are open savannah rising up to lush rainforest.</p> <p>Over the years much of the Park was logged and used for agriculture, particularly during the rule of Idi Amin. In the early 1990s the Ugandan government decided that people would not be allowed to settle in the Parks any more. In Kibale the majority of people were able to return to their original home areas.</p>
<p>Project description</p> 	<p>When people left the areas were invaded by <i>miscanthus</i>, a grass that grows a metre a month – shielding out the light and preventing the trees from regenerating.</p> <p>The project cuts the grass down and plants indigenous trees in its place. The grass has to be cut regularly for the first five years whilst the trees become established.</p> <p>About 10 different species have been selected for initial planting, as these grow quickly (pioneer species), shading out the grass within about 5 years. The seeds and seedlings are collected locally. Very soon birds and animals bring seeds into the area and the intermediate and climax species regenerate naturally.</p> <p>The project provides employment for about 400 people locally, particularly in the peak planting season. As with all National Parks in Uganda people living around the park have managed access to its resources. For example they are allowed to collect fallen wood, reeds for thatching and water but not to cut living trees.</p>
<p>Baseline</p>	<p>The baseline for the project is the grass land – with the forest sequestering carbon over its lifecycle.</p>
<p>Additionality</p>	<p>Carbon finance is provided at the start of the project where the majority of the costs are found. The project started in 1996 as a collaboration between the Uganda</p>

	Wildlife Authority and the FACE Foundation of the Netherlands. We are pleased to have supported it since we started in 1998.
Emissions	Over 100 years each hectare of forest sequesters 400 tonnes of CO ₂ . This is a very conservative figure and does not include CO ₂ sequestered in the roots under the ground or in the soil. 50% of the CO ₂ is sequestered over 25 years and 80% over 50 years.
Validation & Verification	When this project started there were no recognised standards for forestry projects. SGS, the independent certification organisation, certified the project to its own standard and updated the figures every five years. Our areas are being re-visited by SGS during the second part of 2008.
Current Status	Our support to date has resulted in 415 hectares of forest being planted.
Communication	The project is rehabilitating a diverse ecosystem in an area that is home to 13 species of primates including chimpanzees. Thanks to the dedication of the UWA staff the project has been a real success and it is inspirational to see the forest that is now ten years old – and to look at the original forest and see that we are well on track to produce a similar ecosystem.
Social, economic, environmental	Social: provides employment for local communities. Economic: The employment brings cash to an area where there are few opportunities for earning. Environmental: rehabilitates an area of rainforest that had been cut down and would not regenerate naturally.