



The environment is an increasingly important issue in development in Kenya. Those living below the poverty line rely directly on the water and land resources surrounding their communities. With seventy five percent of its workforce engaged in agriculture, Kenyan farmers face growing problems of soil erosion, deforestation, water pollution, and desertification. The recent drought – the most severe in independent Kenya’s history – devastated the country, leaving 3.5 million people with scarcely enough food to survive. Meanwhile, in Northern Kenya, pastoralists have lost their herds to starvation and conflicting tensions are mounting over scarce water resources.

While global warming may be responsible for Kenya’s severe droughts, current farming practices are also leading to the growth of environmental problems. Rampant pesticide use contaminates water resources while food production is declining due to soil erosion. Farming and daily life are also complicated by sharing the land with abundant wildlife. Both Kenya’s natural ecosystem and its well-known tourism industry will be greatly endangered if wildlife conservation is not made a high priority.

Sustainable agriculture, water and waste management, environmental conservation, and environmental education are just a few areas in which FSD partner organizations work. By contributing technical expertise, new ideas and creative solutions, FSD interns and volunteers are able to partake in a crucial aspect of Kenya’s sustainable development.

### Internship/Volunteer opportunities in environment in Kenya include:

- Research various environmental issues affecting marginalized communities such as the effects of genetically modified organisms or the cultivation of alternative recycling methods that may be effectively integrated with existing systems.
  - Teach community members how to cultivate gardens at their homes to ensure proper nutrition for their families.
  - Develop methods for rural communities to access clean water and/or manage waste disposal. Research effective local systems and support the design/implementation of infrastructure.
  - Work to protect the Kakamega forest – Kenya’s only mid altitude rainforest and home to many rare species of birds, reptiles, insects, and monkeys. Educate farmers on how to co-exist with the forest; offer lessons to local schools on ecology, agroforestry, beekeeping, and/or horticulture; take students on nature walks through the forest.
- Support the education of local farmers in using alternative agricultural methods to sustainably reap better yields.
- Support the development of an elephant sanctuary that generates revenue for contributing farmers, reduces human-elephant conflict, and protects plant species. Cultivate information for eco-tourists about the sanctuary and the plants and animals it holds; support marketing efforts geared toward travelers; and/or develop ways to enhance the sanctuary.

For more opportunities in environment in Kenya visit our website or contact us directly.