



Photo by Dawn Flandermeyer

Many of Uganda's natural ecosystems are undergoing conversion, degradation and declination in a completely unplanned and uncontrolled manner. With over eighty percent of the Ugandan workforce involved in agriculture, it is not surprising that soil erosion and declining soil fertility are significantly impacting the ability of the poor to meet nutritional needs. This is resulting in an increase in deforestation and encroachment on ecologically sensitive areas (such as wetlands), as poor people attempt to secure alternative income sources in the face of growing food insecurity. The country's current population of 22 million people is set to double by the end of the next decade. The environmental pressures are bound to be insurmountable without sustainable action at both national and local levels.

Through partnerships with grassroots non-governmental organizations in the Mbale district, FSD works to educate and promote easily integrated solutions that provide immediate returns and still protect natural capital. Simple, alternative technologies and methods are used to encourage organic/sustainable agricultural practices, improve crop efficiency, decrease deforestation, increase reforestation, and build environmentally friendly income-generating projects. FSD welcomes interns and volunteers to support existing environmental methods and to bring innovation to our partner organizations in a variety of capacities.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in environment in Uganda include:

- Support training of farmers in sustainable agriculture activities such as appropriate irrigation techniques, soil regeneration, tree planting, mushroom farming, and fisheries management. Farmers are comprehensively educated so they may independently implement sustainable methods into their work.
- Assist trainings and workshops for community members about beekeeping, poultry management, tree planting, coffee and banana management, and environmental conservation.
- Participate in the development and implementation of small sustainable energy projects such as fuel saving cooking stoves and biogas usage.
- Conduct field visits to various villages and educate locals about HIV/AIDS and modern agriculture techniques. Help create model gardens and distribute seeds to community members.
- Teach community members about soil/water conservation and local environmental issues.
- Educate communities about water, sanitation management, and personal/environmental hygiene, while encouraging the development of sustainable agricultural practices.
- Help to expand livestock program for young, single mothers - goats are given to these mothers for income generation. Provide training to volunteers and young mothers in goat raising, goat health monitoring, etc.

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