

Knowledge, Advocacy & Lobbying

for the Benefits of Renewable Energy

and Climate Change Mitigation in Uganda



Energy-saving stoves

Plant trees

Sun Energy

Solar lamps

Advocacy

Renewable energy

Lobbying

Prevention of Climate Change

Rules and follow up

Enterprising
Set in motion





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for the Benefits of Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation in Uganda

**Joint Energy and Environment Projects
Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy**

November 2017



UGANDA

Capital: Kampala

Total area: 241,038 km²

Population: 41.49 million (2016)



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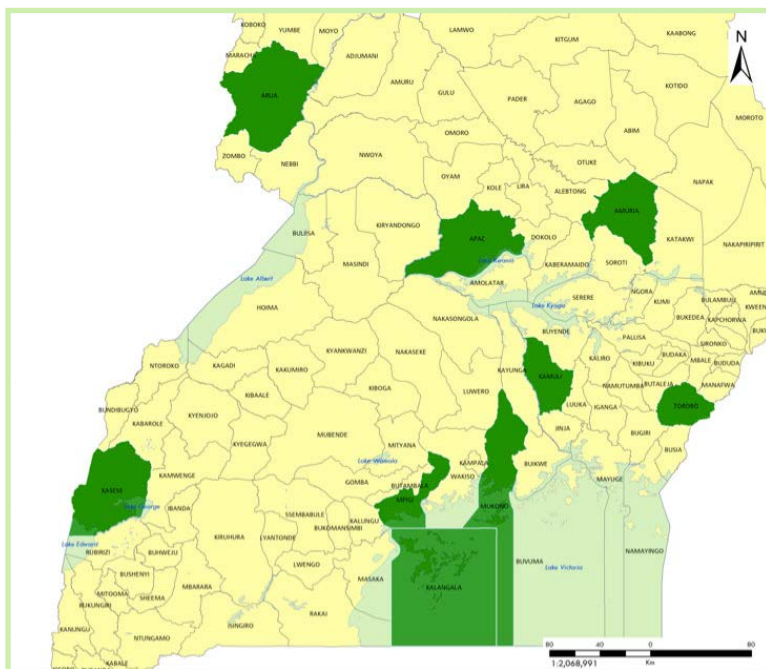
OBJECTIVES

Development objective

The development objective was to create high public awareness and knowledge of benefits of renewable energy and climate change mitigation in all levels of society in order to increase the level of sustainable rural communities through implementation of environmental conservation practices.

The immediate objectives

1. Increasing knowledge of community leaders – 9 districts were selected: Amuria, Apac, Arua, Kalangala, Kamuli, Kasese, Mpigi, Mukono, Tororo
2. Increasing knowledge in communities
3. Promotion of green enterprise benefits



OBJECTIVE 1

Increasing knowledge of community leaders

The project has emphasized the leaders' participation in educating the masses, policy formation and enforcement while the communities encouraged conserving the environment by using appropriate technologies and abiding by the policies put in place.

Some of the leaders' comments on KAL

A Community Development Officer in Kitwamba Sub County, Kasese District, said: *"If KAL project was not started, advocating for environmental issues, especially sections to be funded, had not been started. I personally sensitized community members on benefits of renewable energy technologies like solar and energy saving stoves and have helped them get tree seedlings from the district and sub county for free."*



School Head Teacher's Testimonies

A school head teacher of Bujumba Primary School, Kalangala District informed JEEP that *"Because of KAL project, I came to know the economic, health and environmental benefits of energy saving stoves in schools and I wanted to have one at my school. However we did not have money to acquire it at that time.*

We requested JEEP for financial support, but instead I was given an advice of lobby from any person that comes our way, I started lobbying from all corners and after four months we got the support we wanted. We now use an energy saving stove. JEEP opened our eyes and we are grateful for the advice.

As a school leader, whenever we have meetings with parents, I am now used to sensitizing them on the environment and I do sensitize people on planting trees and use of energy saving stoves".



Head teacher inspecting what is being cooked

OBJECTIVE 2

Increasing knowledge of communities

Communities Members' Testimonies

Maureen Azuba in Arua district testifies how KAL project has transformed her life.

"Nowadays my children use solar lamps and they read for a long time. I also share it with my friends especially when they come for village saving group meetings".



Maureen Azuba with one of her sons and her solar lamp

Ms Apio Mary, a 54 year old, who lives in Kisoko Village, Kisoko Sub County in Tororo District and practices farming to earn a living, used to spend Shs500 on Kerosene and Shs 500 to charge her phone daily and a reasonable amount on firewood for cooking. By doing this, she risked acquiring illnesses linked to indoor pollution. But things changed when JEEP sought measures of enabling rural communities' access cleaner energy without hurting the environment.

"They mobilized us in groups, gave us skills on efficient mud stoves and then later they called us for a training in entrepreneurship. I train women groups to construct energy efficient mud stoves to sell to communities at affordable rates to improve their standards of living and stop much using firewood", says Mary.

Mary adds on that she now saves all the money she was spending on kerosene and prepares her meals a little faster than before.



Investing in a lamp and saving money



Energy saving stove

Mr Peter Adiya is as happy as Mary. He has seen his children improve academically from between 30th position to among the best 10. *"Children are now studying better, because they do not strain their eyes while reading. I save quite more money than before and I have my meals on time",* Peter says.

OBJECTIVE 3

Promotion of green enterprise benefits

Community members and entrepreneurs share how solar lamps and energy saving stoves uplifted their lives.

Rose Namugenyi, 60 years in Mpigi district, says she took over entrepreneurship opportunity in solar lamps because she could not earn enough money from farming work. Rose, a farmer and mother of six, says the income she gets from selling solar lamps supplements her income from farming. *“The business is seasonal ie; time for harvest, people buy and when there is famine, people use the money to buy food; time for returning to school, people have to pay school fees,”* says Namugenyi.

She further reports: *“I was particularly inspired by one woman named Nantongo, one of my neighbours, who bought three solar lamps at once for her poultry business, I realised the importance of solar lights as part of the solution for better lighting source.”*



Rose picking her stock of solar lamps from JEEP

In Kalangala District, Mr. Kagwa Charles raised 5,000 seedlings and had sold 2,800 seedlings by 2017 when JEEP visited him. The profits helped him to start up a small shop and also buy a pickup (Toyota double cabin), which will help him to transport fertilizers, and seedling to his tree nursery and establish a small shop.

Mr. Mbago from Kamuli District completed his house from the profits he got from the nursery. He raised 40,000 seedlings in two seasons and so far had sold 30,000 seedlings by the time we visited him.

Mr. Ondyek Walter from Apac bought a car and 2 cows from the profits he got from the nursery. He got the contract from Operation Wealth Creation and sold 50,000 seedlings. The two cows will always provide fertilizers and he uses his car to transport seedlings to his customers.



Activities during the 4 project years

OBJECTIVE 1

After **PLANNING, BASELINE SURVEYS and PRE VISITS MEMBERS of PARLIAMENT** were targeted.

32 MEMBERS (22 male + 10 female) from the 9 districts took part in SEMINARS held at the Parliament and at Imperial Royale Hotel. They were introduced to the project activities, briefed on environment laws, and they also made their commitments.



Meeting at hotel Imperial Royale

251 DISTRICT LEADERS (192 male + 59 female) were enlightened on the project activities, their roles in the project, causes and effects of climate change such as deforestation and poor farming methods. This took place during seminars at district level. They made a lot of commitments during the meetings such as making bye laws and enforcement, sensitization of communities, tree planting and others depending on the local situation.



District leaders

202 Different NGOs and CBOs (157 male + 45 female) were also introduced to the KAL project during SEMINARS. They were asked to integrate some of the climate change activities and renewable technologies in their work plans, and they committed themselves to sensitize and train communities about conservation and to promote renewable energy technologies.

Each district had a selected number of sub counties: Amuria = 10, Apac = 11, Arua = 9, Kalangala = 6, Kamuli = 13, Mpigi = 7, Mukono = 10, Tororo = 10.

At sub county level **1.807 SUB COUNTY LEADERS (1.269 male + 538 female)** participated in the project SEMINARS with a programme much like that of the District Leaders, and the Sub county Leaders also made their commitments according to the local challenges.



Sub County leaders



192 HEAD TEACHERS (143 male + 49 female) were also sensitized. They were all emphasized to encourage students and staff to plant trees around the schools and homes, to educate students about causes of climate change, form environmental clubs in schools and fundraise for renewable technology like solar systems and institutional stoves.

179 HEALTH IN-CHARGES (128 male + 51 female) attended the project SEMINARS. They were encouraged to sensitize their fellow staff and patients about waste management, indoor air pollution and also fundraise for solar systems and refrigerators for their health centers.



During the continuous **FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES** it was noticed that:

- District, sub-county and village leaders have become useful in policy formation and enforcement.
- Monitoring plans to reduce environmental degradation are in place.
- Activities such as restoring degraded wetland and tree planting have been planned in interactive decision making fora in their local and administrative council meetings.
- Leaders have sensitized community members about climate change and use of renewable technology.
- Three districts have organized World Environment Day celebrations – Arua, Mukono and Mpigi.
- Some of the leaders at times requested for financial support so as to fulfill their commitments, which finances JEEP had not planned for.

JEEP had anticipated that the leaders would use their office budgets to meet the meeting costs. Those leaders had failed to understand that the sensitizing of the communities was for the good of their district.

JEEP sensitized health center in-charges who were expected to sensitize patients and others working in the health centers, however, some found it hard to spare some time for passing on the information due to the big number of patients they had to attend to. The same also happened during JEEP's follow up interviews.

CHALLENGES

Transfer of sensitized leaders in the middle of the project. JEEP had to educate new leaders, causing delay in project impact.

Some political leaders were not re-elected in 2016, making it difficult to follow up on commitments.

Absenteeism of some leaders from their offices at follow-up visits, making it costly and difficult to look for them in their homes.

High cost of transport for JEEP in the island district of Kalangala.

OBJECTIVE 2

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE in COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY SEMINARS

12.918 community members (8.448 male and 4.470 female) at sub-county level were sensitized about indoor air pollution, the causes, effects and mitigation measures of climate change as well as briefed on environmental laws. They were encouraged to carry out tree planting and to use alternative energy products.



Community seminars



Tree nursery training

25 TREE NURSERY BED ATTENDANTS (22 male + 3 female) were trained in construction and management of tree nursery beds at JEEP Folkecenter. JEEP staff assisted the nursery attendants in constructing the tree nursery in the districts. They were supplied with timber, hammer, nails, net, wheelbarrow, watering cans, seeds and the first pots. Then it was up to the nursery attendant to manage the nursery bed and sustain it. When JEEP followed up they found that 22 attendants were able to sustain the tree nursery work.

CHALLENGES and SOLUTIONS

Some of the nursery attendants lacked a ready market where to sell the seedlings, and JEEP tried to help by lobby at the sub county headquarters. Some of the districts do not have tree- and seed centres in their areas. JEEP had to help by buying and sending by bus, and a better and more suitable solution has not yet been developed.

Pesticides and potting tubes are also very difficult to access in their districts. Therefore JEEP advised the attendants always to look for recycling plastic bags from drinks.



Stove building

411 STOVE TRAINERS (234 male + 177 female) were trained on location, one district at a time – in 2 types of stoves. Training manuals were given out to participants and stove moulds were supplied to be shared in the communities. Emphasize was on trainees training other community members and also sell the stoves to earn income.

During follow-up JEEP made a registration of **1.277** stoves constructed and **2.492 (774 male + 1.718 female)** who were trained by the stove trainers.



Stove building

CHALLENGES and SOLUTIONS

In Amuria District drought affected people's income, and they did not buy stoves. The concept of paying for a stove was still new in all the districts – so it is still being adopted. Internal conflicts in Kasese District affected adaptation rate of stove construction and use. People had to leave their homes. In some sub counties of Kalangala district they did not have clay, and it took long to find a solution. Lack of access to stove moulds, because of long distances. Every stove trainer should have stove moulds – to be included in future projects.



Business enterprise training at JEEP

20 PARTICIPANTS (12 male + 8 female) were trained at JEEP Folkecenter in GREEN ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SKILLS. They learnt simple book keeping, marketing strategies, customer care, savings and procurement, and were ready to sell seedlings, energy saving stoves, solar lamps, water filters, and all other energy saving products in the nine districts. The entrepreneurs were also linked to suppliers within their locality, which will help to reduce on transport costs, warrant issues and technical problems.

During **JEEP FOLLOW UP** the entrepreneurs were found to have promoted renewable technology products at the local level as they work towards developing their stock, making it available for the households in the communities.

CHALLENGES and SOLUTIONS

Some of the entrepreneurs lack enough capital to sustain their business. Many other players in the market sell poor quality equipment, which is sabotaging the market of the entrepreneurs. Lack of tax exemption on solar products resulted in high cost. As a result some could not buy the products.

Several RADIO TALK SHOWs were held in all the nine districts as part of the KAL activities. This helped the community members to be enlightened in their own languages about climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk management measures and the use of renewable energy technology.



Radio talk show

Climate Change and Millennium Goals

In the four years of this project the key documented impacts of climate change highly recorded in the nine districts are heavy rains, flooding, landslides, drought, disease outbreaks and epidemics like malaria and cholera, as well as lightning strikes. These have had significant and negative implications on local communities in agriculture production, food security in households, and soil and water resources.

According to the *Uganda National Charcoal Survey 2015-2016*, 94% of Ugandans use wood biomass for cooking energy. This translates into an estimated forest loss equivalent to 115 football fields just for cooking every day – either in the form of firewood or charcoal. Experts have warned that the current level of forest destruction, the demand for wood is expected to triple by 2025, posing a grave threat to the economy and biodiversity as well as making people increasingly vulnerable to diseases and poverty.

Statistical analyses done on climate change in Uganda show that the main annual temperatures have increased by 1.3 degrees C since 1960 with a more rapid temperature rise of 0.37 degrees C per decade since 2014.

Some bylaws have been put in place, and many leaders have followed up and sensitized their communities as part of their commitments made at the beginning of the project.

Committee members have managed to adopt the idea and practise of energy saving stoves in order to reduce on consumption of firewood, and the sales of solar equipment has reduced the use of the traditional parafine lamps. Trees have been planted in all the districts.

Because most people in rural areas do not have access to cleaner sources of energy, they depend on firewood and kerosene, in the end destroying forests and compromising their health. Through KAL project, alternatives that can help have been provided.

KAL project has contributed to implementation of the following sustainable development goals: **NO POVERTY (1), GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING (3), AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY (7) and CLIMATE ACTION (13).**



STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

On February 15, 2017 a Stakeholders meeting was held at JEEP Folkecenter and the magazine “Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation” was printed and distributed, with findings and recommendations from the nine districts, and the participating leaders from all levels of the Ugandan civil society shared information with each other as well as with JEEP board and staff.

The meeting had all stakeholders from JEEP members, district officials from Amuria, Apac, Arua, Kalangala, Kamuli, Kasese, Mpigi, Mukono and Tororo. Government agencies like Ministry of Energy and Uganda police. The purpose of the meeting was to present the findings of each district JEEP discover during the project activities. The commitments pledged towards achieving climate change mitigation and promotion of use of renewable energy in Uganda are very promising.

The chief guest was Mr. Søren H. Larsen, first secretary at the Danish Embassy in Kampala, representing the Danish Ambassador to Uganda.



Søren H. Larsen + JEEP staff



JEEP CEO Ruth Kiwanuka



JEEP staff with Little Sun lamps

SEMINAR: “Best Practices – Way Forward” September 16, 2017

Venue: Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy

Final presentation:

“Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation - Findings and Recommendations from nine districts of Uganda – report from a 4 year CISU project” by Ntege Edrisa, JEEP Uganda and project coordinator Lene Høgh, Nordic Folkecenter.



SEMINAR: “Best Practices – Way Forward”. Full programme: www.folkecenter.net

Final evaluation of this CISU, Denmark, funded project (2014–17) on our websites. Final presentation took place November 30, 2017 at JEEP Uganda.

Lessons learnt

- The KAL project has improved JEEP's advocacy capacity.
- Working with leaders builds faster results and acceptability for the success of the project.
- JEEP should educate the communities within their parish and not at Sub County to reduce on the cost of the distance travelled by the people.
- More JEEP contact persons should be selected in the various sub counties for more publicity.
- Field offices need to be established for closer monitoring and follow up. This will need more funds.
- Limited budgets for environmental activities hinder effective law enforcement on environment degradation.
- Startup capital for entrepreneurs enhances the success of their business.

To do this kind of field work you have to be robust:

Though the work was considered thoroughly and planned and always involved local contact people, JEEP staff were several times let in for problems connected to unfavorable weather conditions. In Kalangala the facilitators' clothes and materials to be used for the awareness were drenched with rain fall while they travelled by boat to Kyamuswa Sub County. However, they still held the community awareness meeting!



In Arua and Apac districts the JEEP car got stuck in the mud and fell in the swamp respectively. During the follow-up on stove TOTs JEEP incurred extra costs by paying well-wishers to push/pull the car out of the mud and swamp. The facilitators arrived late to their scheduled appointment!

Way Forward

JEEP comfortably says, the leader's eyes were opened – only need to willingly integrate this into their normal duties. To affect this JEEP should endeavor to encourage them by monitoring them whenever possible. Enterprise is a new subject in many communities.

There is a need to keep in touch and always give the entrepreneurs information on better business practices. In general, JEEP and other stakeholders should advocate for the decentralization of environment good governance country wide where all KAL objectives should be integrated.

With this experience from nine districts JEEP is ready to copy the activities and work on entrepreneurship connected to renewable energy and the environment, with all the needed climate adaptation and climate mitigation, disaster risk reduction, low carbon development and to monitor on climate change implementation – when funds are available.





Joint Energy and Environment Projects

Kyanja, Gayaza Road, 7Miles

P.O.BOX 4264 Kampala, Uganda

Tel: +256 (414) 578-316 | Mobile: +256 772 468 662

info@jeepfolkecenter.org | www.Jeepfolkecenter.org

Facebook: Joint energy and environment projects

Twitter: @jeepenergy



Nordic Folkecenter

for Renewable Energy

Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy

Kammersgaardsvej 16

DK 7760 Hurup Thy, Denmark

Tel: +45 9795 6600

info@folkecenter.dk | www.folkecenter.net

Facebook: Nordisk Folkecenter