

Kibale National Park

Natural High Forest Rehabilitation Project

VCS Afforestation/Reforestation



Located in southwest Uganda, the Kibale National Park (KNP) is one of the last remaining tropical forest blocks in the country. It harbours the greatest variety and concentration of primates found anywhere in East Africa and is home to at least 350 tree species. Despite the park's ecological value, deforestation and historic consumptive use of the park have contributed to significant deterioration of KNP's forest and its biodiversity over the past 30 years.



Face the Future has been working the Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA) since the early 90's to reforest approximately 10,000 ha inside the park, aiming to protect and restore biodiversity, increase carbon stocks and sustain the park's overall vital ecological functions. So far, 3,500 hectares have been successfully restored.

The carbon benefits of the project are validated and verified against the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), resulting in high quality carbon credits.

Carbon Credits

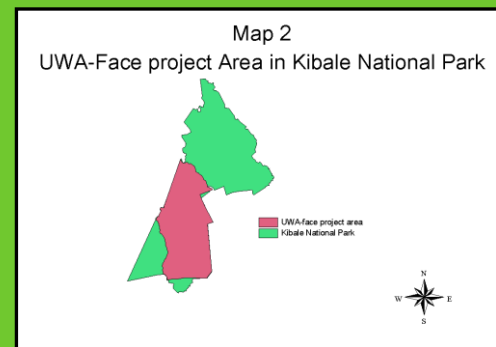
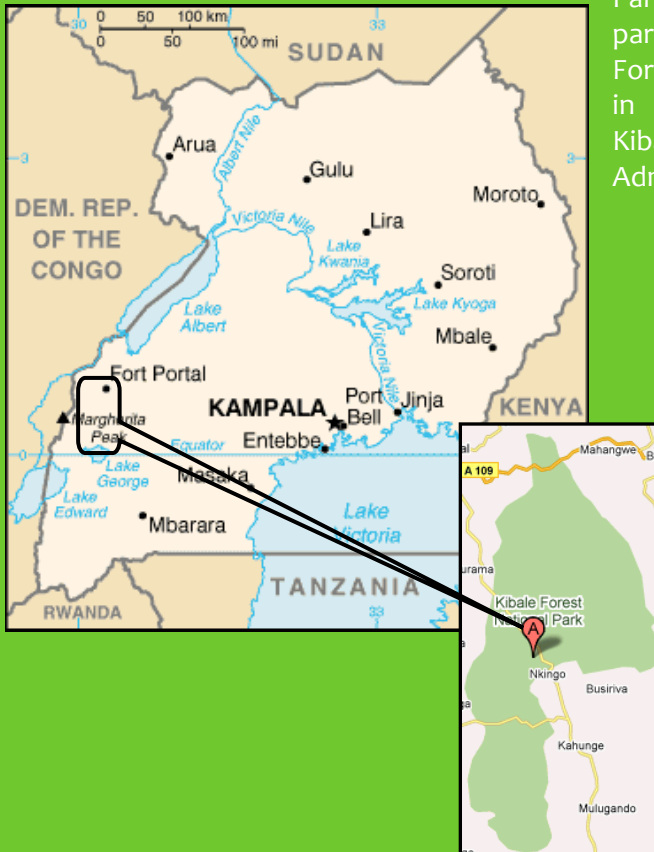
The project is registered under the VCS and the first tranche of appr. 370.000 VCUs has been issued in September 2011, covering a vintage period of 2009-2010.

Project Investment Opportunity

Face the Future seeks investors who are interested in regenerating 2,500 ha of untreated area inside the VCS boundary, which will result in further social, biodiversity and carbon sequestration benefits. Planting can start as early as 2012 and our rehabilitation capacity is 500 ha per year.

Project Location

The 766 sq km Kibale National Park (KNP) lies in southwest Uganda, a short distance southeast of Fort Portal, where it forms a contiguous block with the more southerly Queen Elizabeth National Park. The area was established as a national park in 1993 to protect the extensive Kibale Forest, arguably the largest accessible forest in Uganda. The KNP crosses the Burahya, Kibale and Mwenje counties in the Kabrolo Administrative District.



Background

Prior to being established as a National Park in 1993, Kibale was a Forest Reserve. The northern portion of the park was degraded due to the valuable timber species located there; whilst southern sections were heavily encroached by local inhabitants.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is responsible for the management of Uganda's National Parks. Face the Future, together with UWA, launched a carbon sequestration project in the southern part of the park. The project focuses on the restoration of natural forest using native tree species and fire control methods. The major barrier to the natural regeneration of the forest is the growth of elephant grass, which restricts sapling growth. The elephant grass is therefore first cut manually before planting the saplings. Tending and weeding activities are carried out to establish well-adapted tree plantations in a cost-effective manner.

Project Activities

Face the Future and UWA restore the natural forest through the planting of native tree species. In addition, the project creates a forested zone around the edge of the park to reduce the risk of fire in the interior areas. This, as well as regular weeding, are ongoing to ensure that sufficient seedlings survive to enable the natural regeneration of a self-sustaining forest.

The project aims to:

- Restore the integrity of the degraded forest ecosystems in the Kibale National Park, thereby enhancing biodiversity conservation
- Sequester carbon dioxide and mitigate the effects of climate change, thereby improving the environment both locally and globally
- Provide employment opportunities to the communities adjacent to the park as a means of reducing pressure on the park resources
- Impart forest management skills and knowledge to the local communities
- Ensure that viable, participatory, and locally-managed systems are in place to enable the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in the area



Project Organisation

The project is a collective effort between Face the Future and UWA to restore the degraded forest at Kibale National Park. Face the Future provides (carbon) funding, forestry knowledge and carbon project development whilst UWA is responsible for the field work and conservation.

The project activities are coordinated from a project office, staff quarters, guest house and nursery established within the project area.



Field management team



Field headquarters

Biodiversity Benefits

Kibale National Park is home to at least 372 bird species, four wild cat species and at least 350 tree species. The park also supports an exceptionally diverse and abundant (67 % of the country's total) primate fauna. A population of almost 1,500 chimpanzees lives in Kibale National Park; and they are increasingly seen in the project area.



Moreover, KNP may contain the only viable population of Red Colobus monkey in Uganda. Many of these have been recently sighted in the project area, outside of the primary forest where they usually reside. Research has demonstrated that the rehabilitation of KNP has resulted in the relatively fast return of animal species to the area, especially Chimpanzees. Additionally, Gibbons and forest elephants are frequently spotted in the project area.

Community Benefits



The project aims to impart forestry skills and knowledge to the local communities to make them environmental ambassadors of the project. Furthermore, the project provides employment opportunities to the communities adjacent to the park. Since the project's start, local entrepreneurs have been establishing nurseries to support the project's demand for native seedlings.

Climate Benefits

The Natural High Kibale National Park project maintains and restores the structural and functional diversity of the park, resulting in ecological and social benefits. Additionally, the project results in the sequestration of carbon dioxide as the rainforest grows back to its natural state. The rehabilitation of natural forest ensures the long-term function of the forest as a carbon sink.

The amount of carbon sequestered is periodically monitored using a combination of remote sensing and ground truthing techniques. Since the start of the project over 200,000 tons of carbon dioxide have been sequestered.



In 2011 the project has been successfully validated and verified according to the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). The project has been awarded the FSC certificate for sustainable forests.



Contact Information

Additional information can be obtained from:

Face the Future

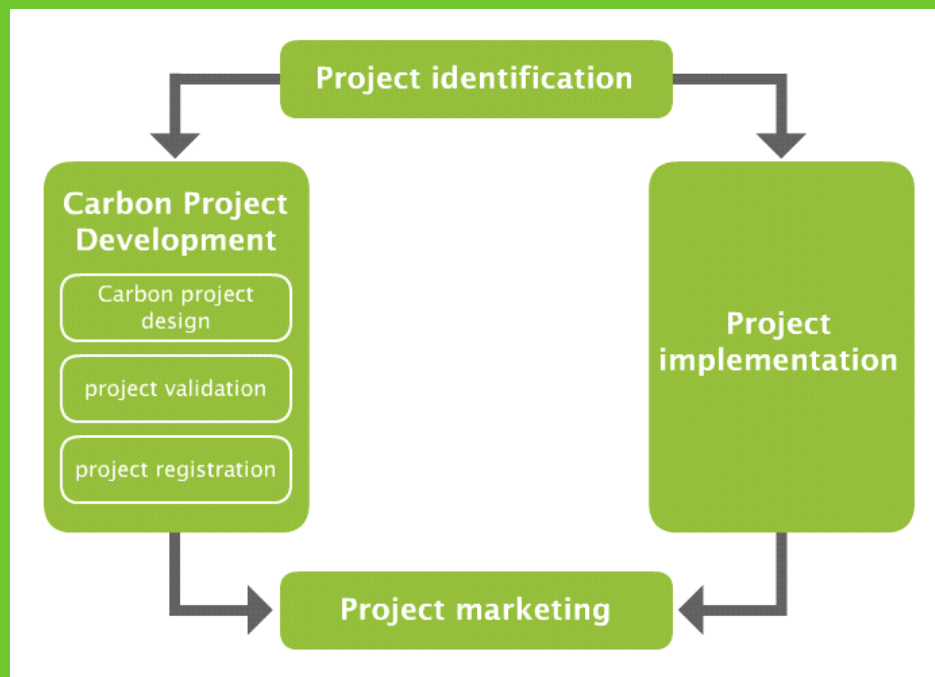
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Services

With over 20 years of forest carbon experience, two registered VCS projects and over 2 million forest carbon credits sold, Face the Future can assist you in reaching your forest carbon objectives.

Project Development

Face the Future employs highly trained professionals with extensive experience in forestry and carbon management. Building on our knowledge and experience, Face the Future can assist you with project identification, CO₂ certification, project implementation as well as forest offset marketing.



REDD+ Readiness

Face the Future actively observes and participates in the international dialogues surrounding the transition of REDD+ from the voluntary market to the compliance market. Based on our practical experience on the level of projects, we are well equipped to provide technical advice to local, provincial or national governments on developing REDD+ readiness strategies.