



Use Solar, Save Lives : Kenya

Alleviating poverty through renewable energy technologies

Project description

The “Use Solar, Save Lives” initiative involves the design, production and distribution of solar-powered lanterns known as “MwangaBora”. The lanterns are distributed particularly to poor rural households without electricity. The initiative also helps communities to set up environmentally sound economic ventures with the money that would otherwise be spent on kerosene.



Business model

Sustainable Development for All-Kenya (SDFA-Kenya) seeks out communities living below the poverty line with limited access to electricity and provides them with solar lanterns, working with women's groups in the villages. It then helps people to use the funds that would otherwise be spent on kerosene to set up economic ventures.

SDFA-Kenya is not directly involved in setting up the economic ventures, but provides guidance on how likely particular ventures are to succeed and how to best go about establishing and managing them.



Scaling up activities in 2012

- Involve 6,000 more households in the initiative by 2013
- Train more young people in the production of solar-powered lanterns and encourage communities to embrace other sources of renewable energy
- Implement the initiative's programmes
- Help set up at least ten more environmentally sound economic ventures in communities
- Expand into other African countries by 2013, starting with pilot projects in Uganda and Sudan

Immediate needs

- Financial support so the initiative can reach out to more villages, providing them with lanterns and setting up income-generating activities
- Links to social investors in the field of renewable energy technologies
- Links to partner organisations to reduce operating costs and allow exchange of knowledge and experience
- Material donations, such as honey harvesting equipment, to help the communities succeed in their income-generating ventures



SEED Awards 2011

for entrepreneurship in sustainable development

WINNER

Partnership

- ❶ **Sustainable Development for All-Kenya (SDfA-Kenya)** makes and distributes the solar lanterns and helps communities to set up alternative income-generating activities
- ❷ **Mumashi Women's Group** and **Sitian Women's Group** coordinate field activities and identify target households
- ❸ **The International Institute for Rural Reconstruction** runs a programme in shepherding. SDfA-Kenya provides solar-powered lanterns to facilitate learning by trainee shepherds, who cannot go to school during the day
- ❹ **UN Habitat** has provided a grant for a youth resource centre in Kisumu where solar-powered lanterns and other products are made



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: The initiative creates job opportunities and provides training in business skills to young people, women in rural areas and disadvantaged groups. It protects the local culture of weaving and strengthens community engagement in development projects.

Environmental impact: The initiative helps to reduce carbon emissions from kerosene, thereby helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. Replacing

kerosene lamps with solar technology cuts household pollution, which improves air quality.

Economic impact: The initiative helps to improve the living standards of rural households by enabling women's groups to generate increased amounts of stable income.

Contact

Evans Muchika Wadongo

Email: info@sdfa-kenya.org

Web: www.sdfa-kenya.org, <http://justonelamp.com>

SEED Partners

SEED's founding partners are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and SEED is hosted by UNEP-WCMC. Other current partners are the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; the European Union; Conservation International; and SEED's corporate partner, Hisense.

About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

SEED Secretariat

info@seedinit.org

