

## School Woodlot Project, Uganda

The Kabale Agroforestry Network (KAN), in partnership with the organisations Beyond Subsistence and Global Landcare, is spearheading an exciting new initiative under the Schools Plantation Grant Program. This collaborative project, which began in 2022, aims to establish timber woodlots in 10 schools across Uganda. The partnership between Beyond Subsistence and their corporate sponsor, Porta, has been instrumental in kickstarting this two-year endeavor.



Each of these woodlots covers an area ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 hectares, providing the participating schools with a valuable source of firewood and construction poles after just 4 to 5 years of growth. The income generated from harvesting the timber enables the schools to invest in much-needed educational materials and equipment, empowering them to enhance the learning experience for their students. But the benefits of this project extend far beyond just the financial rewards - it also instills in the young learners an appreciation for the value of growing and maintaining trees.

As the students witness the woodlots flourish, they gain firsthand knowledge of the many advantages trees can provide, from their cooling shade to the overall aesthetic appeal they bring to the school grounds. Importantly, the trees are not simply clear-cut after the initial harvest; rather, they are allowed to re-shoot, forming a new crop that can be sustainably harvested again in the future. This cyclical approach not only ensures a continuous supply of timber for the schools but also promotes environmental stewardship and long-term thinking among the students. Through this innovative agroforestry initiative, KAN, Beyond Subsistence, and Global Landcare are empowering Uganda's youth to become active guardians of their local ecosystems while also bolstering their educational resources and opportunities.

You can see the wonderful work they do here:

<https://beyonddsubsistence.org.au/#welcome-section>

