

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE UGANDA WILDLIFE POLICY

*To conserve in perpetuity the rich biological
diversity and natural habitats of Uganda
in a manner that accommodates
the development needs of the nation
and the well-being of its
people and the global community.*

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

JUNE, 1999

ACRONYMS

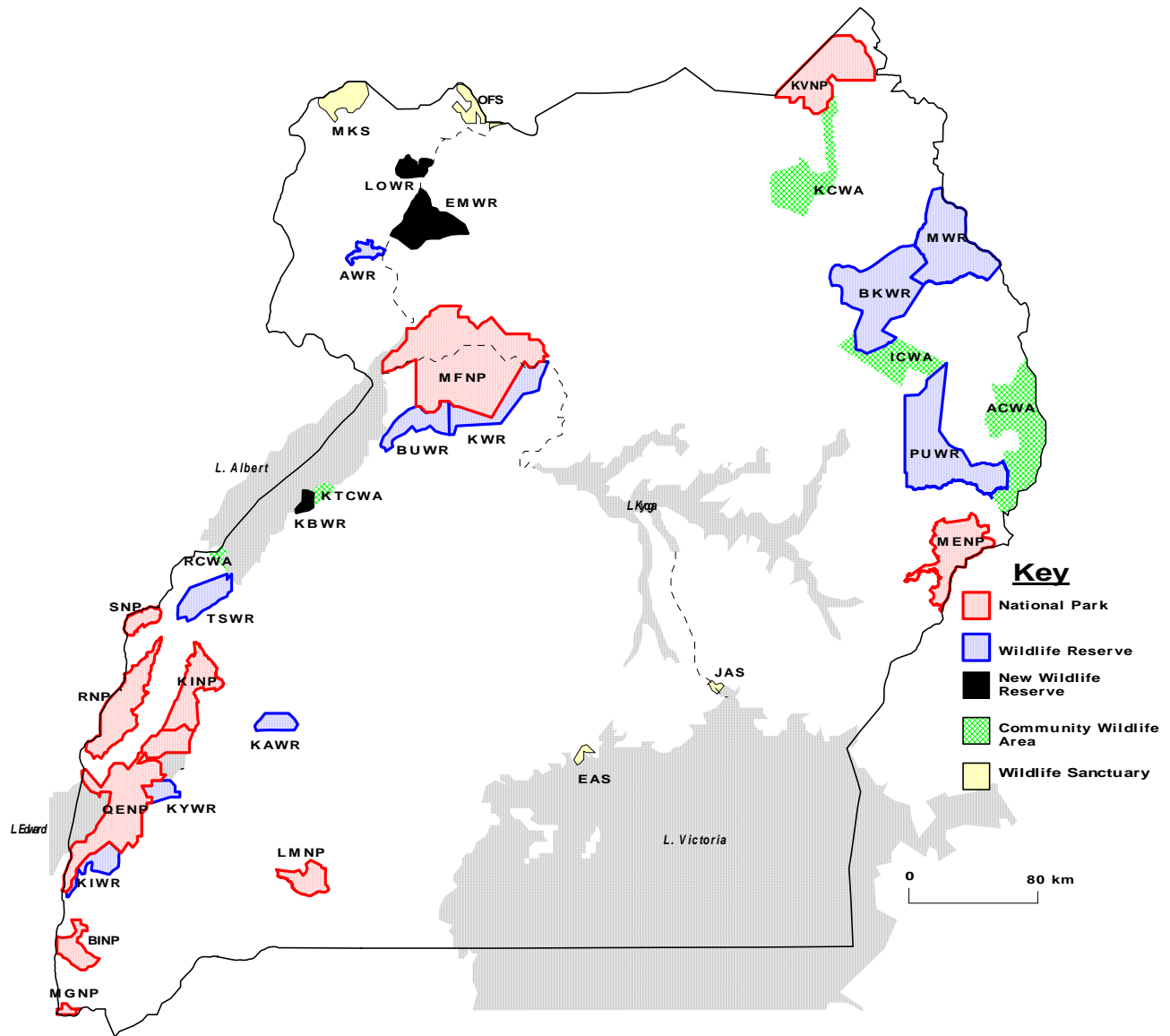
CBO	Community Based Organization
CHA	Controlled Hunting Area
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CM	Collaborative Management
CWA	Community Wildlife Area
EAC	East African Co-operation
GDP	Growth Domestic Product
ITFC	Institute for Tropical Forest Conservation (Mbarara University)
IUCN	World Conservation Union
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTTI	Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry
MUIENR	Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWMP	National Wetlands Management Programme
PA	Protected Area
PAA	Protected Area Assessment
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WP	Wildlife Policy

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National Parks		Wildlife Reserves		Community Wildlife Areas		Wildlife Sanctuaries	
1. BINP	Bwindi Impenetrable	AWR	Ajais's	ACWA	Amudat	EAS	Entebbe
2. KINP	Kibale	BKWR	Bokora Corridor	ICWA	Irimi	JAS	Jinja
3. KVNP	Kidepo Valley	BUWR	Bugungu	KCWA	Karenga	MKS	Mt. Kei
4. LMNP	Lake Mburo	EMWR	East Madi	KTCWA	Kaiso-Tonya	OFS	Otze Forest
5. MENP	Mt. Elgon	KAWR	Katonga	RCWA	Rwengara	Sanctuaries in QENP/Kyambura	
MFNP	Murchison Falls	KBWR	Kabwoya				Kahendero
QENP	Queen Elizabeth	KWR	Karuma				Kashaka
RNP	Rwenzori	KIWR	Kigezi				Kayanja
SNP	Semuliki	KYWR	Kyambura				Kazinga
MGNP	Mgahinga Gorilla	LOWR	Lomunga				Kisenyi
		MWR	Matheniko				Rwenshama
		PUWR	Pian-Upe				
		TSWR	Toro -Semliki				

* Former , incl. Kilak CHA

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

1.1 THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF UGANDA

Uganda is a country of exceptional diversity, encompassing a zone of overlap between the savannahs of East Africa and the West African rain forests. Often referred to as the *Pearl of Africa*, Uganda is endowed with a vast array of landscapes of incredible aesthetic beauty.

Uganda's geographic features range from glacier-topped mountains, rain forests, and dry deciduous acacia bushland to wetlands and swamps. These, along with a wide variation in climate and soils, combine to give the country an impressive range of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

The country's varied habitats support a range of plant and animal species, making Uganda rank among the top ten countries in the world in terms of animal and plant diversity, and specifically, diversity of mammalian species. Uganda has more than 11% of the world's species of birds and half of the remaining mountain gorillas. There are thirty species of antelope, nineteen species of primates, and more than five thousand species of plants.

The country's immense biological diversity is important both nationally and internationally, and offers good opportunities for cost-effective multiple species conservation. Despite the great diversity, most of Uganda's flora and fauna also occur in the neighbouring countries, and the country's endemic species are primarily associated with high mountains, forests, and the major Pleistocene refugium of the Albertine Rift Valley.

Among the larger mammalian species, Uganda is endowed with relatively large and stable populations of buffalo, elephant, eland, hartebeest, waterbuck, reedbuck, zebra, hippopotamus and Uganda kob. Other species such as the Bright's gazelle, roan antelope, giraffe, oryx, cheetah and hunting dog have all declined steeply and are now seriously threatened.

1.2 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN UGANDA

Wildlife is one of Uganda's most significant biological resources. Over the years, a number of different types of protected areas have been established in Uganda to help conserve the country's wildlife and forested areas, and to encourage the sustainable utilisation of its natural resources.

During colonial times, the protection of species was based on evidence of declining populations, leading to, among other things, the gazettement of wildlife protected areas. The first were Animal Sanctuaries and Controlled Hunting areas, which were established to protect specific wildlife species, rather than the actual habitat those species needed for their continued existence. Later, when the effects of threats to wildlife habitats on the conservation of species became discernible, Game Reserves were established, followed by the gazettement of the country's first National Park in 1952.

From that time, through the end of 1960s, a number of additional wildlife protected and management areas were gazetted. Presently, there are ten National Parks, ten Wildlife Reserves, six Wildlife Sanctuaries and thirteen Controlled Hunting Areas (see *Figure 1* at the beginning of this Chapter). Apart from the National Parks, the conservation importance of these areas varies greatly. A summary of their international, national and local values is provided in *Table 1-1*.

Today, the value of wildlife conservation is recognised not only in traditional utilitarian terms but also for its intrinsic and strategic value. For example, wildlife and nature tourism ranked third in foreign exchange earnings between 1967 and 1972. As the security situation continues to stabilise, and infrastructure is improved, tourism should once again become a leading economic activity.

1.3 WILDLIFE RESOURCES: STATUS AND THREATS

Uganda has a long history of civil strife, which has led to many of the country's protected areas becoming encroached upon, and their habitats altered and degraded. Wildlife populations have been severely reduced, many to virtual extinction. However, by the mid-1980's, Government, in recognition of the seriousness of the problem, began to actively promote the conservation of the country's wildlife and the environment. This is reflected by the number of conservation and habitat restoration projects initiated during that period, and the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1993, and subsequent adoption of the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) in 1994.

However, despite the national and global importance attached to the country's wildlife resources, and the renewed Government efforts to improve their management, there remain a number of serious challenges. Social issues such as population pressure and poverty have led to land use conflicts, poaching, and encroachment into protected areas. These issues, along with lack of public awareness and inadequate financial support, constitute major threats to the long term conservation and sustainable management of the country's biological resources.

Table 1-1: Conservation Significance of Uganda's Wildlife Protected Areas

PROTECTED AREA	IMPORTANCE FOR CONSERVATION	REMARKS
National Parks		
Queen Elizabeth	International importance (Category A)	Man and Biosphere Reserve; Ramsar Site
Bwindi Impenetrable	International importance (Category A)	World Heritage Site, for conservation of montane forest and mountain gorillas
Rwenzori Mountains	International importance (Category A)	World Heritage Site; many restricted range species and endemics
Murchison Falls	International importance (Category B)	Conservation importance recognised by IUCN and others
Kidepo Valley	Regional importance	Diverse large mammal and plant communities
Semuliki	Regional importance	Diverse fauna characteristic of eastern and central Africa
Mt Elgon	Regional importance	Important montane forest and water catchment area
Kibale	Regional importance	Medium altitude forest, diverse primate populations
Mgahinga Gorilla	Regional importance	Adjoins mountain gorilla areas in Rwanda and Congo
Lake Mburo	National importance	Uganda's impala population is confined to this park
Wildlife Reserves		
Toro/Semliki	National importance	High scenic value, and significant and diverse wildlife population
Pian Upe	National importance	Significant large mammal populations, including roan and eland; important catchment area (Napak)
Kigezi	National importance	Important area of medium altitude forest
Kyambura	National importance	High scenic values, and the main site for flamingoes in Uganda
Bugungu	National importance	High scenic values; overlaps with Budongo Forest
Bokora Corridor	National importance	Important area for Bright's gazelle
Matheniko	National importance	Important plant communities, and area important for Bright's gazelle
Katonga	Supplementary importance	Supplements QENP for species and habitat conservation
Karuma	Supplementary importance	Most attributes common with Murchison Falls NP
Ajai's	Supplementary importance (District level)	Wildlife populations hunted out, but important wetland area
Sanctuaries		
Mt Kei	Regional importance	Important conservation site for <i>Butyrospermum</i> savannas
Otze	National importance	Adequately protected as a Forest Reserve
Entebbe	Limited conservation significance	Settled (Entebbe town) but remains an important bird area
Jinja	Limited conservation significance	Settled, but high scenic values (e.g Bujagali Falls)
Dufile	No conservation significance	Wildlife hunted out and area settled
Malawa	No conservation significance	Area settled
Controlled Hunting Areas		
Semuliki Flats	National importance	One of the most important wetlands in Uganda
Sebei	National importance	Varied landscapes and vegetation, important area for wildlife
East Madi	National importance	High scenic values, Albert Nile scarp and wetlands
South Karamoja	National importance (CWA potential)	Diverse plant communities; important area for kudu, hartebeest and buffalo
North Karamoja	Supplementary importance (CWA potential)	High scenic values, diverse plant communities
Lipan	Supplementary importance (District level)	Area important for conservation of <i>Butyrospermum</i> woodland and <i>Borassus</i> palm savanna
West Madi	Supplementary importance (District level)	Wildlife hunted out, but habitat is intact and there is now strong local support for conservation
Kaiso Tonya	Supplementary importance (District level)	High scenic values, remnant wildlife population
East Teso	Little conservation significance	Wildlife hunted out, but <i>Butyrospermum</i> woodlands intact
Napak	No conservation significance	Area is settled, and wildlife has been hunted out
Katonga	No conservation significance	Human settlement increasing rapidly, area mostly settled
Karuma Falls	No conservation significance	Area mostly settled
Buhuka	No conservation significance	Area is settled, and wildlife has been hunted out

Source: Modified from the Wildlife Protected Area System Plan for Uganda, Vol. 1, 1999

Having recognised that past approaches have not adequately protected the country's wildlife and other natural resources, Government began to re-assess the status of the country's wildlife protected areas and their management, and the need to take full account the social and economic development needs of the country. This included an initial review of Uganda's wildlife policy in 1995, and the preparation and enactment of the Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996. An assessment and rationalisation of those bodies responsible for wildlife and protected area management was also completed, leading to the restructuring of the country's wildlife and parks management authorities, and the creation of the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

Government also commissioned an assessment of all protected areas, in order to ascertain their current status and to ensure that important species and ecosystems were given adequate protection. As a result of this assessment, and other preparatory work, Government established a new protected area system, based on the following two broad classifications of the country's wildlife conservation areas:

- Wildlife Protected Areas - includes National Parks and Wildlife Reserves, which are legally gazetted and managed under the primary jurisdiction of the Uganda Wildlife Authority.
- Wildlife Management Areas – includes Wildlife Sanctuaries and Community Wildlife Areas, in which Central Government is one of several agencies with power to control land resource use.

The different protected and management area categories that fall within the above general classifications are provided as *Table 1-2*

The nation-wide wildlife and protected area assessment, along with extensive community consultation, led to the recent completion of the Uganda Wildlife Protected Area System Plan. There is now a need to implement this plan, and to encourage communities and other stakeholders to participate in the sustainable management of the country's wildlife resources. This policy document expands upon these themes and, along with the System Plan, provides a framework through which such initiatives can be initiated.

It is important to note, however, that neither the Wildlife Policy nor the System Plan can remain static. They are the result of many years of practical experience, and extensive consultations with government and non-government representatives. While this has helped ensure that the views of stakeholders at all levels have been heard and acted upon, while taking full account of global conservation commitments, the process must continue to evolve as more experience is gained, and to accommodate new challenges and change.

Table 1-2: Categories of Wildlife Conservation Areas in Uganda

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	DESCRIPTION	PERMITTED ACTIVITIES
<u>A. Wildlife Protected Areas</u>			
1. National Park (NP)	Central Government (UWA)	Of national/international importance for nature and landscape conservation. Ecologically viable unit	Biodiversity conservation, recreation, scientific research. Restricted harvesting of selected resources through special authorisation.
2. Wildlife Reserve (WR)	Central Government (UWA) and District Authorities	Important for wildlife preservation, utilisation and management. Viable size for management of wildlife population.	Wildlife and biodiversity conservation, recreation, research. Sustainable consumptive utilisation permissible.
<u>B. Wildlife Management Areas</u>			
1. Wildlife Sanctuaries	Varied	Area designated for a specific conservation purpose, including preservation of critical species. Varied size but often small.	Depending upon designation purpose
2. Community Wildlife Areas (CWA)	Communities, Cooperatives, or Local Council	Jointly managed with local communities or other bodies, in order to receive direct benefits from utilisation of resources, tourism, etc.	Alternative land-use and consumptive utilisation permissible when compatible with the conservation objectives of the CWA.
Wildlife Use Rights Area	Private Land Owners	Area of land containing wildlife, owned either privately or collectively, for which use rights have been granted to the landowner(s).	Landowners may be authorised to use non-endangered wildlife species, based on a management plan, for profit.

CHAPTER 2: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The general trend in managing of Uganda's conservation areas has been to generate revenue to help support operations while contributing to national development. This has included the extractive use of natural resources for example timber harvesting and the country's fishing industry, both of which significantly contribute to national development in economic terms.

With respect to the wildlife sector, tourism remains the largest single source of revenue. In 1993/94 the national parks generated over \$850,000 from park entrance fees and concessions. Such revenue should increase dramatically once the tourism market develops. At the national level foreign exchange earnings resulting from tourism during the same period were estimated to be in excess of US \$25 million, according to the Integrated Tourism Master Plan, which has also projected significant annual growth rates.

Whereas the promotion of tourism was previously the domain of National Parks, the Forest Department has recently initiated its own ecotourism activities in line with a new emphasis on multiple use management of Forest Reserves. Hunting, which used to be a major economic activity, is currently banned, primarily because game populations are at such low levels. However, hunting may be permitted on a case by case basis in selected areas as an incentive to encourage landowners to become involved in the sustainable management of wildlife on their land.

2.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF WILDLIFE

Wildlife and other biological resources make a number of contributions to the well being of humanity and, as such, there is a moral obligation for those who control important renewable natural resources to ensure their wise use.

Although not quantified, bush meat and fish constitute a large percentage of the animal protein diet of many rural communities in Uganda. Wildlife and plants also contribute in terms of medicine, energy, shelter, and a number of social values. In spite of these significant contributions, the sustainable conservation of wildlife resources does not enjoy wide support, both because of the high level of poverty in Uganda and the need for more education and economic incentives.

While difficult to quantify, the contribution of protected areas to environmental values is well known. A clear example is the water catchment value of the forested national parks, such as Bwindi, Rwenzori Mountains, Semuliki and Mount Elgon.

Traditionally, the contribution of wildlife resources to the economy of a country is based on monetary considerations, which largely come from tourism. The contributions are to GDP, net foreign exchange earnings, and generation of local income, direct and indirect employment, and the augmentation of Government revenue. Consequently, the cumulative economic impacts of tourism for Uganda can be immense, once the industry is revitalised.

2.2 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

The Government has since 1989 been restructuring the public sector with a view of increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Government is aware of the need to strengthen national land use planning, and has taken steps to remedy this situation by developing a National Environment Action Plan (NEAP). The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), in collaboration with designated government implementing institutions and other stakeholders, is responsible for putting the NEAP into practice.

A feature of the NEAP is the extent to which both land-use planning and natural resource management are devolved to district level and lower Local Government Councils. District Environment Committees, each served by a District Environment Officer, should become the main vehicles for this work. It is expected that wildlife and related issues will become, in many areas of the country, an important aspect of the work of such committees.

The ownership of land and its management has profound implications for wildlife conservation. Species extinction has been shown to depend on property rights regimes (ownership). These regimes are typically; open access, common property, single private owner, or single state owner. National parks and game reserves are single state ownership; while community wildlife areas represent common property regimes. Private ownership of land has important implications for the successful implementation of wildlife use rights, and the 1998 Land Act provides for four forms of land tenure or property regime: freehold, leasehold, customary, and *mailo* (another form of freehold).

In the process of the revitalisation of the economy, Government has undertaken a number of reform decisions, the most pertinent of which has been the restructuring of the civil service. This has led to strong pressure for Departments to reduce in size, both through redeployment to the district level as part of the decentralisation policy, and by an absolute reduction in numbers. In support of this type of economic reform, Government is also promoting increased economic and financial freedom for parastatal organisations such as the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

2.3 THE DECENTRALISATION PROCESS

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda under Article 237(2) vests all wildlife in the Government and Local Government. The 1996 Wildlife Statute re-affirms this position. Subsequently, Parliament enacted The Local Government Act, 1997, which provides for the decentralisation of a wide range of the functions of Government to district level.

The Local Governments Act, 1997, provides for Local Councils to be involved in decision making for, and management of local wildlife resources. The management of vermin and non-endangered problem animals has been decentralised to the districts, while the management of National Parks and core Wildlife Reserves remain the responsibility of Central Government. Those management functions that have been decentralised will require technical assistance from the National Authorities, international conservation partners, NGOs and CBOs.

Although most wildlife protected areas will remain under national management, this in no way lessens Government and UWA's obligation to work closely with district authorities and communities in the management of these areas, and in support of their long-term sustainability. Approaches to be developed include collaborative management arrangements and, in some cases, the actual transfer of management to district authority.

The overall thrust of the Government approach is to give the people of Uganda a much clearer voice in resolving the development issues that most directly affect them, and to take responsibility for the management of their own resources.

2.4 A NEW APPROACH TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Government, being fully cognisant of the deteriorating status of wildlife and their habitat, has embarked on a major initiative to ascertain how they can be better managed. The results of ecological and sociological surveys of the nation's wildlife estate, undertaken from 1995 through 1998, are now being used to address existing management challenges.

There is, without question, a need to better cater for the co-existence of wildlife and human populations, but this must be done in a manner in which the primary objective of conserving the nation's biological diversity is not lost. Through the protected area assessment process, which has now been completed, recommendations have been made for the enhancement of the conservation status of some important areas and the downgrading or degazetting of others that no longer merit their current status.

Survey findings have also revealed that there are some non-protected areas where sustainable

wildlife management could well become an economically viable activity, possibly in combination with other forms of land use. These types of approaches could significantly contribute to national efforts to conserve biodiversity while meeting the development needs of the people.

It has also become clear that Government alone is not able to conserve Uganda's wildlife. There are important roles that different stakeholders can take to help conserve and manage the country's wildlife resources. There is a recognised need to bring in a number of players outside of Central Government, including local communities, landowners, the private sector, and both national and international organisations.

Strategies such as those outlined above, including renewed approaches to collaborative management, wildlife use rights and other participatory initiatives should help promote new and innovative approaches, and lasting partnerships in conserving the nation's wildlife and biological resources. In this way Government can better meet its responsibility to the people of Uganda - to improve their quality of life in a sustainable, environmentally friendly manner.

CHAPTER 3: THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE POLICY FRAMEWORK

The overall aim of the Uganda Wildlife Policy is to promote the long term conservation of the country's wildlife and biodiversity in a cost effective manner which maximises the benefits to the people of Uganda. A classic example is of wildlife utilisation as a sustainable resource, which can contribute to the well being of both present and future generations. In support of this goal Government will encourage a range of participatory approaches such as empowering the people to participate in the conservation and management of the country's natural resources, and related decision making processes that affect their livelihoods.

This wildlife policy document, along with the 1996 Wildlife Statute, provides the framework which should enable the country to better address the following national challenges:

NATIONAL CHALLENGES

- 1) Protection of areas with high levels of biological diversity that are representative of the major habitats of Uganda
- 2) Sustained management of Uganda's wildlife and the protection of threatened and endangered species
- 3) Inclusion of the private sector, communities, NGOs, and others in policy implementation and the management of the country's natural resources
- 4) Provision of a framework for the management of wildlife outside protected areas, with district authorities and rural communities playing a central role
- 5) Management of wildlife conservation areas according to a comprehensive national strategy, and approved management plans
- 6) Establishment of wildlife-related monitoring and research which directly contributes to wildlife management and conservation

3.1 SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Uganda is internationally renowned for its scenic beauty and vast array of wildlife. However, over the past several decades there has been a steady decline in wildlife numbers and species, a trend that unfortunately still continues throughout much of the country (see *Table 3.1*). Several important mammalian species have been driven to extinction, including the Oryx, the Okapi, and both the Black and White Rhino.

Table 3-1: Population Trends of Selected Mammals in Uganda (1960-1998)

PERIOD	1960S	1982/3	1995-8	CURRENT STATUS
Elephant	30,000	2,000	1,900	Population low but stable
Black rhino	400	150?	0	Extinct in Uganda
White rhino	300	20?	0	Extinct in Uganda
Burchell's zebra	10,000	5,500	3,200	Population declining
Hippopotamus	26,000	13,000	4,500	Population declining
Rothschild's giraffe	2,500	350	200	Population low but stable
Buffalo	60,000	25,000	18,000	Population declining
Hartebeest	25,000	18,000	2,600	Population declining
Topi	15,000	6,000	600	Population declining
Impala	12,000	12,000	2,000	Population decreasing
Waterbuck	10,000	8,000	3,500	Population stable
Uganda kob	70,000	40,000	30,000	Population stable
Bright's gazelle	1,800	1,400	100	Very rare, precarious
Roan	700	300	8	Very rare, precarious
Oryx	2,000	200	0	Extinct in Uganda
Eland	4,500	1,500	500	Population declining
Derby's eland	300	?	0	Extinct in Uganda

Source: Aerial Surveys and early Uganda Game Department reports

Uganda, however, remains the home of a large number of critically important plant and animal species, including the highly endangered mountain gorilla. This wildlife policy provides a framework from which programmes can be developed which should contribute to the survival of all wildlife species, and the protection of those that are threatened or endangered. The policy should also provide the structure to restore populations of those

species that are at dangerously low levels, or extinct.

SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Objective:

To promote and maintain viable and representative wildlife populations in Uganda, both within and outside protected areas.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Critical wildlife habitats and ecosystems should be identified and protected.
- ❖ Important wildlife populations should be monitored and protected.
- ❖ Re-introduction or translocation of wildlife should follow internationally acceptable procedures and guidelines.
- ❖ Rare species, such as the mountain gorilla, should be managed for both their conservation value and as a national resource.
- ❖ *Ex-situ* species conservation is needed to assist *in-situ* conservation measures.

Strategies are to:

- i) Collaborate on an ecosystem or trans-boundary basis to harmonise management approaches to the conservation of wildlife species.
- ii) Develop systems that provide continuous information on the status of important wildlife populations, and institute remedial measures as required.
- iii) Ensure that appropriate policies and guidelines for wildlife shipment, translocation and re-introduction are put in place and followed.
- iv) Prepare guidelines for the protection, propagation and promotion of indigenous genetic resources, including *ex-situ* conservation measures.

3.2 CONSERVING WILDLIFE IN PROTECTED AREAS

Uganda's protected areas generally encompass biologically rich habitats which contain most of the country's remaining wildlife. The challenges of conserving wildlife in protected areas relate to: instituting scientifically sound management procedures based on the findings of research and

monitoring; improving relationships with local communities and district officials; effecting appropriate control over physical development and their management; resolving land-use conflicts and improving law enforcement.

In certain cases it is desirable to establish collaborative arrangements for the management of wildlife conservation areas. Such strategic partnerships should be negotiated so that they are mutually beneficial and fully meet wildlife conservation objectives. In the case of National Parks and centrally managed Wildlife Reserves, management authority may be delegated, but the ultimate management responsibility can not be surrendered.

The ultimate aim of collaborative management arrangements are to improve management efficiency and cost-effectiveness, to better address legitimate rights and claims to the area's resources, and to enhance the community's commitment to wildlife conservation. Commonly used approaches include revenue and benefit sharing, extractive utilisation, and restricted access into the protected area.

Objective:

To ensure that the biological diversity of Uganda is conserved within the country's protected area system, and is managed on sound conservation principles.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ A Protected Area System Plan, which includes adequate representation of important habitat types and species within the country, should be developed.
- ❖ All wildlife protected areas should be managed in accordance to the System Plan, and approved management plans
- ❖ Protected areas should be operated in a cost effective manner, and potential revenue sources exploited in a sustainable manner
- ❖ Collaborative management arrangements, if well designed and clearly defined, can contribute to improved wildlife conservation

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Guiding Principles (cont):

- ❖ Well-targeted local community incentive measures that recognise stakeholder rights are powerful tools for encouraging or promoting wildlife conservation.
- ❖ Land-use conflicts should be resolved in a manner which is both realistic and in the best interest of conservation, while taking full account of basic human rights.

Strategies for Monitoring and Research are to:

- i) Ensure that the wildlife and other resources are surveyed at a frequency, which enables their status to be adequately monitored.
- ii) Promote research that is relevant to defined conservation needs, and directly contributes to protected area conservation and management.
- iii) In areas where extractive utilisation is permissible, ensure that an assessment of acceptable (sustainable) off-take levels has been completed, and a continuous monitoring system is in place.
- iv) Ensure that degraded wildlife protected areas are restored in accordance with approval management plans.

Strategies for Developments within Protected Areas are to:

- i) Ensure that all developments and interventions within protected areas are subjected to appropriate environmental assessments.
- ii) Ensure that all physical developments (such as buildings and roads) in Wildlife Protected Areas follow general management plan guidelines.
- iii) Apply architectural design and construction practices that are of high quality and appropriate to protected areas to ensure conformity with the aesthetics of the area.
- iv) Exclude industrial and agricultural development activities within National Parks and centrally managed Wildlife Reserves, including mineral exploration or extraction, quarrying for stones, and crop production.
- v) Undertake or commission environmental impact assessments for all proposed developments and environmental audits of all existing facilities, and impose necessary restraints based on their findings.

Strategies on Law Enforcement are to:

- i) Ensure that all protected areas boundaries are surveyed, marked and secured.
- ii) Enforce relevant laws, bye-laws and regulations in a manner that is consistent both with the need to protect wildlife and with the maintenance of positive, mutually beneficial relations with neighbouring communities.
- iii) Formulate and enforce the necessary bye-laws for protected area management, including control of pedestrian and vehicle traffic and rights of way.
- iv) Establish linkages with other regulatory agencies (e.g. NEMA, Forest Department) to improve law enforcement and the realisation of conservation objectives.
- v) Collaborate on law enforcement in those aspects for which authority to enforce the law has not been granted to district authorities.

Strategies for Relationships with Local Communities are to:

- i) Promote protected areas as a focus of local community involvement, pride, ownership and commitment and, where appropriate, a source of socio-economic benefit.
- ii) Ensure that protected area managers actively participate in Local Government environment decision making, and other activities impacting wildlife management.
- iii) In collaboration with local authorities, define and implement clear guidelines, on protected area management and local community relationships.
- iv) Where appropriate, allow people from the neighbouring communities controlled and access for the sustainable harvest of products of traditional value such as medicinal plants, bamboo, thatch, and honey.
- v) Ensure that livestock and other domestic species are not allowed into National Parks, and restrict livestock access in Wildlife Reserves

Strategies for Collaborative Management and Benefit Sharing are to:

- i) Identify, in collaboration with local communities and government authorities, suitable areas for collaborative management initiatives.
- ii) Assess the various options for collaborative management, and determine the most appropriate interventions.

- iii) Develop guidelines, agreements and specify optimum quotas for extractive resource utilisation, based on rigorous environmental assessment and ecological sustainability.
- iv) Involve local communities in monitoring wildlife resource use and off-take in protected areas as part of the collaborative management responsibilities.
- v) Objectively monitor and continuously assess all collaborative management endeavours.

3.3 POLICIES ON PEOPLE OCCUPYING PROTECTED AREAS

Many of Uganda's National Parks and Reserves have suffered serious degradation from human settlement. Settlements within protected areas are a sensitive and complicated matter. To reverse, or even stabilise the situation requires a combination of actions, and strong political support. Decisions will need to be based on protected area conservation significance, the extent of degradation of the areas, the nature of the settlements, and basic human rights.

PEOPLE OCCUPYING PROTECTED AREAS

Objective:

To protect the country's national parks and wildlife reserves from human settlement and adverse activities.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Conservation significance and principles must guide all decisions related to human settlements within protected areas.
- ❖ Continuous dialogue and negotiation with the local communities within and bordering protected area, and with Local Governments is important in resolving settlement conflicts.

Basic principles in respect to human rights must be followed.

Strategies are to:

- i) Establish clear and easily recognisable boundary markers, which are monitored and controlled.
- ii) Where appropriate and justified, legally designate community enclaves within National Parks and Wildlife Reserves.
- iii) Evict illegal settlers from national parks and wildlife reserves.

3.4 CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS

Wildlife is often found on private or communally owned land, outside the protected area system. However, the State still 'owns' wildlife on private land. Consequently, the landowners or land users generally do not benefit from wildlife inhabiting their land, thus do not take responsibility for their management or protection. This has contributed to the decline in the numbers and population levels of many wildlife species, mainly as a result of poaching and change in land use.

It is therefore important to devise new measures that will encourage landowners and communities to protect and conserve wildlife outside the protected areas. One approach is the establishment of Community Wildlife Areas, and another, the granting of wildlife use rights. Both approaches allow a person, community or organisation direct and indirect use of wildlife resources.

CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS

Objectives:

To encourage the protection and conservation of wildlife outside protected areas and create an enabling environment for communities and the private sector to participate in different forms of sustainable wildlife utilisation and conservation.

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Guiding Principles:

- ❖ The protection and conservation of wildlife outside protected areas can contribute to species conservation.
- ❖ Wildlife can be effectively and profitably be managed and conserved by the landowners and users themselves.
- ❖ Wildlife use rights can become an important mechanism through which communities, landowners and others can directly benefit from

Strategies are to:

- i) Provide guidelines on the conservation and protection of wildlife outside protected areas, and promote the implementation of such approaches.
- ii) Where appropriate, promote the establishment of Community Wildlife Areas and provide technical input into the preparation and implementation of CWA management plans.
- iii) Delegate responsibilities for managing wildlife outside protected areas to other institutions such as district authorities, community associations, government departments, NGOs and others.
- iv) Create an enabling environment which promotes sustainable wildlife schemes which directly benefit local communities, and encourage private sector investment.
- v) Encourage ranchers and farmers operating on privately owned or leased land to adopt wildlife management principles.

3.4.1 Wildlife Use Rights

Wildlife use rights are intended to promote the sustainable management of wildlife resources within an approved management plan, with the incentive to manage the wildlife coming from the viability of the enterprise.

Most forms of wildlife use, other than tourism, involve the killing or removal of live species or harvesting their parts (extractive utilisation). If not regulated, this can lead to a reduction in numbers and populations of target species, which can negatively impact wildlife based industries. However, if properly controlled and managed, such activities can be economically viable and contribute the long term conservation of those species of economic interest.

There is a need to establish appropriate mechanisms to regulate wildlife utilisation both within and outside-protected areas. The 1996 legislation accommodates the following forms of extractive utilisation:

- **Wildlife Ranching:** Wildlife ranching generally refers to the maintenance and propagation of wildlife in a natural setting on large tracts of land that have been set aside for that purpose. Most wildlife ranching schemes involves some form of extractive utilisation.
- **Hunting:** Sport hunting may be for food, trophies, leisure or economic gain. Although currently banned, sport hunting can operate as a form of wildlife use rights. The granting of such use rights will depend on viable population of target species and appropriate monitoring and enforcement systems.
- **Wildlife Farming:** Farming of wild species involves wildlife being kept under a controlled environment. Wildlife farming requires the grant of wildlife use rights, and a sufficiently large land unit to accommodate the proposed plan.
- **Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products:** At present trade in wildlife species or their products (taken from the wild) is not generally allowed, because of low population numbers. However, trade in wildlife species, bred in a controlled environment, is permitted under licence.

WILDLIFE USE RIGHTS

Objective:

To promote sustainable extractive utilisation of wildlife by facilitating the involvement of landowners and users in managing wildlife on private land.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Sustainable extractive utilisation of wildlife can provide socio-economic benefits at the local, district and national levels.
- ❖ The consumption of wildlife resources could contribute significantly to food security in rural areas, if managed in a sustainable manner.
- ❖ Profit motive and leisure factors are important in encouraging private sector and community involvement in extractive wildlife utilisation.
- ❖ The uses of selected wildlife resources are important in some social, cultural and customary matters.

Strategies are to:

- i) Promote the legal and sustainable use of wildlife and its products.
- ii) Identify and prioritise potential wildlife use rights areas.
- iii) Prepare guidelines, standards, regulations, procedures and fee structures for the sustainable management of wildlife under various wildlife use rights regimes.
- iv) Encourage Ugandans and others to become involved in various forms of sustainable wildlife utilisation.

3.4.2 Problem Animal Control

Problem animals, including vermin, may cause damage to crops and livestock, and injury to human beings. Land use changes and the consequences of population pressure have led to a decrease in land and other resources available for wildlife, resulting in an increase in wildlife-human conflicts. At present there is inadequate capacity at the districts level to manage problem animals and vermin species.

PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL

Objective:

To control wild animals that pose a threat or cause injury to human life, or which cause damage to property.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Problem animals/vermin are widespread and, in general the best approach in respect to control is to minimise the damage they cause.
- ❖ A long-term conservation aim should be to develop the capacity and interest among the rural farmers and the districts to control and manage problem animals.
- ❖ There should be consistency between policies on wildlife use rights and policies on problem animals.
- ❖ Where problem animals/vermin have an economic value, the realisation of that value (and therefore sustainable use) should be encouraged.

Strategies are to:

- i) Build the capacity of farmers and district authorities to manage problem animals, and minimise damage to crops, livestock, property and loss of human life.
- ii) Develop and disseminate information and guidelines on problem animal control.
- iii) Identify those species of wildlife that should be classified as vermin on a district by district basis.

- iv) Advise districts as to the best methods of utilising and profiting from problem animals and vermin.
- v) Ensure that those most affected by problem animals are the main beneficiaries of revenue earned from their control.
- vi) Provide districts with awareness, technical assistance and capacity to monitor and conduct problem animal and vermin control activities.

3.5 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Wildlife resources are one of the most important assets for tourism development in Uganda. Visitor numbers to Uganda and the protected areas are, however, still quite low, primarily because of inadequate infrastructure and support services, and security problems within the region.

There is a significant potential to further develop Uganda's wildlife estate for tourism, as provided for in the Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Uganda. Tourism on its own, however, cannot be relied upon, because it is very sensitive to socio-economic and political conditions prevailing at both tourist source and destination countries.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Objective:

To generate revenue from tourism, to support wildlife conservation efforts and the national economy.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ While wildlife offers a natural attraction for tourism activity, the necessary infrastructure and other resources must be put in place before the true potential of tourism can be realised.
- ❖ The tourism industry can play a significant role in creating employment opportunities in rural areas, thereby reducing pressure on wildlife resources.

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Guiding Principles (cont.)

- ❖ Tourism is sensitive to socio-economic and political developments, and therefore should not be exclusively relied upon.
- ❖ There are significant benefits which can be gained from a regional approach to tourism development and promotion.

Strategies are to:

- i) Assess the country's natural attractions and the market potential of development initiatives which fall within wildlife conservation objectives.
- ii) Promote tourist facilities and other management arrangements that minimise pressure on wildlife resources and maximise economic benefits.
- iii) Facilitate and encourage private sector investment in the tourism industry.
- iv) Provide minimum standards and quality control for all tourist services in and around wildlife conservation areas.
- v) Provide interpretative and educational services relating to recreational activities in conservation areas.
- vi) Encourage diversification of the tourism product base to reduce pressure on natural resources.
- vii) Ensure security of the property and life of the tourists.
- viii) Co-operate with Kenya and Tanzania and other neighbouring countries in promoting the region as a single tourist destination.
- ix) Encourage domestic tourism as a means towards appreciation of wildlife conservation values.

3.6 EDUCATION AND EXTENSION SERVICES

The wildlife estate is an important resource for environmental education for people of all ages. An educated population appreciates the usefulness and value of wildlife conservation. A number of institutions have been imparting knowledge to Ugandans on wildlife related matters, but there is need to develop community conservation and outreach programme for

mass education.

Extension services and good neighbourliness between protected area management and rural communities facilitates the identification of wildlife related problems and increases the chance for their solution. Extension services also provide technical guidance to the establishment and management of Community Wildlife Areas and the implementation of other strategies.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION

Objective:

To promote positive attitudes towards wildlife conservation through education and public awareness campaigns.

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Making the youth aware of the benefits of wildlife conservation right from an early age is important.
- ❖ Making adults aware of the benefits of wildlife conservation can bear fruitful results and yield appreciation of wildlife conservation.

Strategies are to:

- i) Establish collaboration mechanisms with relevant institutions to promote wildlife conservation education.
- ii) Co-operate with the Ministry of Education to promote the incorporation of wildlife conservation into school syllabi.
- iii) Create the widest possible understanding and support for wildlife conservation by preparing and distributing information materials.

WILDLIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

Objective:

To promote good neighbourliness and extension services among the local communities and the protected areas.

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Guiding Principles:

- ❖ It is easier to successfully resolve conflicts when all parties are sufficiently informed.
- ❖ Co-operation of communities around protected areas is essential for conservation.

- i) Strategies are to:
- ii) Institutionalise extension services, and provide adequate levels of manpower, funds and equipment.
- iii) Promote communication and collaboration with other sectoral and cross - sectoral extension services.
- iv) Promote or enhance co-operation among protected area management and the local communities through, among others, continuous dialogue.

CHAPTER 4: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Policy implementation will be approached at two levels:

- Supervisory: The responsible Ministry needs to provide the overall supervision, and monitor how the policy is being implemented in relation to other national policies. This should be done with the advice and consultation of UWA, NEMA and other Ministries and parastatals.
- Technical Operations: The Uganda Wildlife Authority is the designated implementing agency for wildlife policies, as stipulated in the Wildlife Statute. The Authority is mandated to conserve the country's wildlife and to protect and maintain the nation's network of wildlife protected areas and other critical wildlife habitats. However, there are a number of other institutions responsible for the implementation of specific sections of the policy (see *Appendix 1* for the roles of the different institutions) that UWA should closely collaborate with.

4.2 RESEARCH AND MONITORING

The successful implementation of policy, and the establishment of effective management systems need to be continuously monitored and evaluated. It is important to collect and analyse appropriate data in order to evaluate the effectiveness of wildlife policy implementation, and to provide information that can contribute to UWA's capacity to better conserve and manage the areas under its control. This includes long term monitoring of various ecological processes and variables, and their assessment.

A comprehensive research approach which addresses overall conservation and management needs should be developed. The wildlife protected areas, under the stewardship of UWA, provide limitless opportunities for scientific research on biodiversity and natural ecosystems, as well as the socio-economics and human impacts of bordering communities and other vested interest groups. Such information provides an important baseline for broader ecological modelling initiatives, and the protected areas themselves can serve as focal points for the study of national, regional or global change in atmospheric pollution, climate, and biodiversity among other topics.

It is critical that wildlife and forested protected area research programmes are developed in full partnership with interested parties, including national and international universities. The Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (MUIENR) and the Mbarara University Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC) already maintain research stations within national parks, where they carry out both basic and applied research. These and similar initiatives should be encouraged, and MoUs should be developed which clearly delineate their collaborative arrangements with UWA, and the responsibility of each party.

4.3 PLANNING

Park planning is an important tool to help ensure that wildlife protected areas are managed in accordance to approved park management plans. The Uganda Wildlife Statute mandates that management plans be developed and followed for all wildlife protected areas. If such management plans are to be effective, it is important that they are developed with the full knowledge and participation of all stakeholders, and in particular those that will be directly impacted. Consequently, the Statute stipulates that UWA must inform the public of its intentions to prepare (or revise) a management plan through the appropriate media, and solicit comments and suggestions through district and public meetings before the plan is submitted to the UWA Board.

It is also important that park management plans take full account of the existing economic and management realities of UWA, as well as the country. Management plans which have little or no chance of being implemented are of little value, and an unnecessary drain on limited resources.

4.4 THE ROLE OF NGOS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Government recognises the important role played by NGOs and the private sector in the management of wildlife. In order to encourage their participation and involvement in the management of protected areas and wildlife resources, and in the establishment of tourism facilities, Government shall provide appropriate incentives and guidelines. Government shall also attempt to minimise beaurocratic procedures, and provide an appropriate forum where the private sector and NGOs can meet with the concerned government institutions to discuss issues of mutual interest or concern.

4.5 REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

International and regional co-operation is an important conservation tool. Uganda is a signatory to and has ratified a number of international and regional wildlife conservation treaties, as summarised in *Appendix 2*. The provisions provided for in the various treaties encourage and often help individual countries meet their respective obligations.

Uganda is a signatory to the East African Co-operation Treaty (EAC) and actively participates in EAC tourism, wildlife, and environmental committee deliberations. There are a number of opportunities to implement important aspects of the wildlife policy through regional and international co-operation. For example, cross border ecosystem and migratory wildlife population management issues, by their nature, necessitate regional and international co-operation.

The effective monitoring of wildlife trade and the control of poaching also requires regional and international co-operation. Given the limited resources Uganda can commit to wildlife conservation, significant benefits can be realised and effectiveness increased through regional and international initiatives.

4.6 FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The underlying principle of Uganda's financial strategy in respect to wildlife conservation is that adequate and sustainable financing are fundamental to effective wildlife management and conservation. Approaches that shall be taken to promote revenue generation will include tourism development, increased Government core support, research and development grants, collaborative management arrangements, and conservation trusts.

The wildlife sector has, to date, benefited from a number of donor support programmes. There is now a need to distinguish between those core functions, where a service is being provided to the nation (e.g. conservation and management of its natural resource base, provision of educational and scientific opportunities, and law enforcement), and those which promote tourism and other revenue generating activities, or can be viewed as a stand-alone projects. In this way, a clear case can be made to Government on the level of subvention needed to meet core wildlife conservation and management costs.

It is anticipated that districts will begin to play an increasing role in conservation and sustainable management of their wildlife resources. The control of vermin, for example, is now the responsibility of district authorities. This increased level of effort by districts calls for an increased allocation of resources and capacity building in problem animal control.

4.7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Appropriate Monitoring and Evaluation systems are important to measure the impact of the new strategies, ascertain their progress and assess the effectiveness of making additional resources available to UWA and other institutions active in wildlife conservation.

In order to properly assess the impact of the Wildlife Policy, and the effectiveness of those programmes that support its implementation and on the status of conservation of wildlife resources and biodiversity, a constant and progressive monitoring and evaluation must be carried out. This will provide information on the status of the country's wildlife resources, and the effectiveness of new conservation strategies. There is also a need for an internal monitoring and evaluation system to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of UWA, the Wildlife Policy implementing institution.

UGANDA NATIONAL LEGISLATION WITH BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS

In the interpretation and implementation of the Uganda Wildlife Policy and the Wildlife Statute, there is need to take into account other relevant Uganda policies and legislation. Some of these Statutes and Acts are relatively new, while others are out of date.

1. The Game (Preservation and Control) Act – Cap 226

This Act was repealed by the Wildlife Statute and, therefore, is no longer valid. However, section 94(1)(a) of the Wildlife Statute saves the schedules to the Game (Preservation and Control) Act until such a time they are replaced by new Statute schedules, a process which is nearing completion.

2. The Fish and Crocodiles Act – Cap 228

This law has been amended by the Wildlife Statute in that crocodiles were removed from the Act and brought under the management of Uganda Wildlife Authority. Crocodiles therefore now need to be given protection status by including them in Statute's schedule of protected species.

3. The National Environment Statute, 1995

The object of the National Environment Statute is to further the principles of environmental management by facilitating the conservation and enhancement of the environment. The Statute provides for wildlife protection and contains provisions which can be applied to the protection and sustainable use of wildlife. It includes provisions for the conservation of biological resources *in situ*, and the selection and management of protected and buffer areas.

The Statute creates the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) which is charged with the coordination of relevant Ministries, departments and agencies of government. NEMA is empowered to issue guidelines on land use methods which are intended for the conservation of biological diversity.

4. The Forests Act, Cap 246

The Act provides for the protection of forests through the creation of forest reserves in which human activity is strictly controlled. It seeks to control commercial harvesting of forest products through the use of licences.

The Forest Act is quite old and by nature, too narrow in scope and content and to accommodate the current reforms in environmental laws in Uganda.

5. Local Governments Act, 1997

The Local Governments Act provides for the decentralization of a wide range of the functions of Government to District level. When this decentralization process is fully implemented it will be essential that agencies charged with rural development and land management responsibilities (the Uganda Wildlife Authority being one of them) establish proper working relations with Local Government.

6. The Land Act, 1998

The Land Act provides for the tenure, ownership and management of land in Uganda, and amends and consolidates related legislation. The Land Act provides for four forms of land tenure; freehold, leasehold, customary and mailo.

The Act enables government (national or local) to acquire land, for the purpose of wildlife protection. The Act also has provisions which oblige an occupier of land to manage and utilise the land in an environmentally sound manner, and in accordance with provisions of the National Environment Statute, the Forests Act, the Wildlife Statute and other relevant legislation. The provisions of the Act are compatible with the allocation of wildlife use rights on private and community held land.

7. The Plant Protection Act

The Plant Protection Act has provisions to help prevent the introduction and spread of diseases destructive to plants. The Commissioner for Agriculture is charged with the due administration of the Act, and the responsible Minister has power to make rules for the prevention of spread of an introduced pests, etc.

8. The Timber (Export) Act, Cap 247, as Amended by Act 14 of 1970

This Act provides for the control of timber and its inspection, grading, marking and handling in transit. It also empowers the imposition on the quality or type of timber exported. The responsible Minister has power to make regulations for exclusion and restriction, and the Chief Conservation of Forests is empowered to issue certificates of grading and export and to cancel them.

9. The Prohibition of Burning of Grass Decree, 1974

This law prohibits the unauthorised burning of grass except in accordance with the Decree. Enforcement measures are given to the Subcounty Chief who may in writing after consultation with a Veterinary or Agriculture Officer, authorise controlled burning of grass for a specific purpose.

10. The Animal Diseases Act, Cap. 218

This Act provides for the control and prevention of the spread of disease in animals, including wildlife. The administration of the Act is vested in the responsible Minister and the Commissioner of Veterinary Services and Animal Industry.

11. The Animal (Prevention of Cruelty) Act, Cap 220

This Act provides for the prevention of cruelty to animals, which can include wildlife. The responsible Minister is empowered to appoint an authorised officer to carry out the provisions of the Act, and may also grant and revoke licences.

12. The Cattle Grazing Act, Cap 222

This Act makes provisions for the control and regulation of grazing of cattle to prevent overstocking and overgrazing. The administration of this Act is entrusted upon the Commissioner of the Veterinary Services and Animal Industry, under the direction of the responsible Minister. The Minister may by statutory instrument declare an area to be non-grazing area.

13. The Water Statute, 1995

The Water Statute provides for the use, protection and management of water resources and supply. It also provides for the constitution of water and sewerage authorities and seeks to facilitate the devolution of water supply and sewerage undertakings.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS RELATING TO WILDLIFE CONSRVATION IN UGANDA

It is a recognised principle of international law that once a state enters into an international treaty with one or more states or international organisation or body it undertakes to honour the obligations under that treaty. The obligation is both legal and moral.

Uganda is a party to a number of international and regional treaties, agreements and conventions that relate to the convention on biological diversity, some of which still need to be ratified by government. However a treaty, whether ratified or not, generally does not have a binding force in national law. There is therefore a need in some instances to modify existing national legislation in order to implement international and regional treaty obligations.

1. The Biological Diversity Convention, 1992

The Convention on Biological Diversity imposes a duty on its parties to take a number of measures to implement its provisions. The Convention, in particular, requires each nation to:

- ❖ Integrate sustainable utilisation of natural resources into its national strategies and plans and programmes;
- ❖ Promote *in-situ* conservation and in particular protect traditional knowledge about conservation and protection of threatened species;
- ❖ Promote *ex-situ* conservation;
- ❖ Promote sustainable use of biological diversity;
- ❖ Create economically and socially sound incentives for conservation and sustainable utilisation;
- ❖ Promote research, training and public awareness and education;
- ❖ Introduce environmental impact assessment;
- ❖ Govern access to genetic resource and promote transfer and access technology;

- ❖ Promote biosafety;
- ❖ Promote international co-operation in the protection of biological diversity under various provisions.

Most of the above provisions are already incorporated in the National Environment Statute, 1995. The Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996 also adheres to the principles of the Convention, and provides for the sustainable management and utilisation of wildlife.

2. The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1968

This Convention is the primary Pan-African legal instrument for the conservation of the environment in general and biological diversity in particular. The Convention adopts an ecosystem approach to environmental management, and provides for measures to ensure conservation, utilisation and development of soil, water flora and fauna resources, in accordance with scientific principles and taking into account the interests of the inhabitants. Parties to the Convention undertake to establish and manage protected (conservation), and to protect certain species.

The Convention obligates the parties to prohibit and regulate trade in specimens and trophies of protected species. States are required to take into account the conservation of and management of the natural environment in their development plans, to promote conservation education and related research. The Uganda Wildlife Statute incorporates the salient provisions of this convention into Uganda's municipal law.

3. The Ramsar Convention, 1987

The Ramsar Convention provides for the protection of biological diversity in wetlands. Wetlands, under the Convention, have a wide coverage and cater for all watercourses and lakes in Uganda.

The principle objective of the Convention is to provide the intergovernmental framework to develop a conducive environment for international co-operation in the conservation and management of wetlands. The Convention requires member states (parties) to include at least one wetland on the list of 'Wetlands of International Importance', and take active conservation measures for those wetlands included in the list. Uganda has already complied with the requirements of the Convention and identified and included Lake George and its surrounding swamplands on the list. There are plans to propose more wetland conservation areas to be added to the list.

Uganda has also put in place a ‘National Policy for the conservation and Management of Wetlands Resources’ (1994), and this policy has been incorporated in the National Environment Statute, 1995, which includes provisions on management of wetlands. Under the Environment Statute, all the development in wetlands is subject to an EIA.

4. The World Heritage Convention, 1972

The principal objective of the World Heritage Convention is to protect objects of cultural and natural heritage, which are of value to the present and future generations. “Natural heritage” includes natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations that are of outstanding universal value from an aesthetic and scientific point of view. The Convention urges parties to integrate the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage into national planning and development programmes.

The Convention has established a ‘World Heritage List’ which includes sites from throughout the world. To date, Uganda has included two sites Rwenzori Mountains National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

5. CITES, 1973

The main objective of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) is to control and regulate international trade in wildlife species through species classification and the use of permits.

The Wildlife Statute, 1996, has specific provisions relating to the preservation of populations of rare, endemic and endangered species of wild plants and animals, and CITES standard forms for permits and certificates are in use. However, there remains a need to put in place subsidiary legislation to specifically provide for the implementation of CITES in Uganda. The Fish Act, the Forest Act and many other statutes in the field of agriculture do not make any specific mention of CITES provisions and, while the obligation created under the convention binds the state, it does not directly bind the citizens of that state.

6. The Stockholm Declaration, 1972

The Stockholm Declaration was adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm in 1972. The Conference increased awareness of the importance of conserving the environment. Conference declarations cover the need to safeguard the natural resources of the earth (including flora and fauna and especially representative samples of specific ecosystems) for the benefits of present and future generations. This is to be accomplished through careful planning and

management, the maintenance of natural resources and, where practicable, their improvement or restoration, and the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

7. The Lusaka Agreement, 1997

The Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wildlife Fauna and Flora, was adopted to provide for co-operation in reducing illegal trade in wildlife fauna and flora, both nationally and internationally.

The Agreement contains provisions for the establishment of a permanent Task Force and a National Bureau. The Agreement has yet to be implemented in Uganda, and still needs to be regularised through Parliament.

8. The Bonn Convention, 1979

The Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wildlife Animals recognises that the conservation and efficient management of migratory species of wild animals requires concerted efforts of all states within their national jurisdiction of which species spend part of their lives. The Uganda Wildlife Statute provides for the protection of migratory species of wild animals which is in line with the Bonn Convention.

DEFINITIONS

Authority (or Management Authority): the Uganda Wildlife Authority

Biodiversity (or Biological Diversity): the variability among living organisms from all sources including ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. Accordingly, biodiversity encompasses three levels: ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity.

Board: Board of Trustees, Uganda Wildlife Authority

Collaborative Management: a process whereby the protected area Authority genuinely shares benefits, decision making authority and responsibility in the management of protected areas or their resources with local people, institutions, the private sector, and others.

Community Wildlife Area: an area in which individuals who have property rights in land may carry out activities for the sustainable management and utilisation wildlife if the activities do not adversely affect wildlife and in which area the state may prescribe land use measures (Wildlife Statute, 1996, Section 19, subsection 8).

Extractive Utilisation: covers the removal of wild animals their products (such as honey), and the harvesting and use of wild plants, as permitted under wildlife use rights (Part VI of Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996).

Government: the Government of Uganda.

Landowners: those with individual or corporate title to land, leaseholders, and those with undisputed individual or collective customary rights to land.

Ministry: the Uganda Ministry responsible for wildlife (presently the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry).

National Park: an area of international and national importance because of its biological diversity, landscape or national heritage and in which the following activities may be permitted: biodiversity conservation, recreation, scenic viewing, scientific research, and any other economic activity (Wildlife Statute, 1996, Section 19, subsection 5).

Partnership: affiliation between the Uganda Wildlife Authority, stakeholders and other individuals or groups for the purpose of conserving or managing some aspect of biodiversity.

Plan: Uganda Wildlife Protected Area System Plan, 1999.

Stakeholders: individuals or groups of individuals having a vested interest in conservation issue relating to a particular area, activity or topic.

Statute: Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996

Sustainable Resource Utilisation: the use of the country's natural resources to in a manner which helps satisfy the needs of the present generation without restricting the access to the same resources by future generations.

Vermin: those animal species that it has been determined should not be given any level of protective status under the Wildlife Statute, and therefore fall beyond the responsibility and control of the Wildlife Management Authority.

Wildlife: means Any wild plant or wild animal of a species native to Uganda, including those wild animals which migrate through Uganda (Wildlife Statute 1996, Section 2).

Wildlife Conservation Area: includes a national park, wildlife reserve, wildlife sanctuary, community wildlife area, or any other area provided for under sections 18 and 19 of the Statute.

Wildlife Management Area: an area which is protected for the sustainable management of wildlife in that area as provided for under Sections 18 and 19 of the Statute.

Wildlife Protected Area: those conservation areas gazetted as protected areas and placed under the authority of the Ministry responsible for wildlife (does not include forest reserves). Wildlife protected area includes an area which is provided for as a national park, wildlife reserve or wildlife sanctuary under sections 18 and 19 of the Statute.

Wildlife Reserve: any area of national or local importance, which because of its biological diversity, landscape, or natural heritage is provided for as a wildlife reserve under sections 18 and 19 of the Statute. A wildlife reserve is an area of importance for wildlife conservation and management and in which selected activities are permitted.

Wildlife Use Rights: various rights granted to stakeholders by the relevant competent authorities, that clearly defines each stakeholders access to direct and indirect use of wildlife resources. Wildlife Use Right means a right granted to a person, community or organization to make some extractive utilization of wildlife in accordance with a grant under Part VI of the Wildlife Statute, 1996.