



# Handbook on Community Engagement for Conserving Wildlife in Uganda

2021





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## Disclaimer

This Handbook is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Uganda Combating Wildlife Crime Activity implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The contents of this Handbook are the responsibility of Uganda Wildlife Authority, a beneficiary of the aforementioned activity, and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the United States government or WCS.

# Foreword

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Uganda is endowed with diverse wildlife resources. However, with increasing human population, the increasing pressure on natural resources and biodiversity conservation. This calls for increased public awareness and community participation. Some individuals have indicated a desire to access information on the available wildlife benefits and opportunities, policies and legal provisions so that they can actively participate in controlling all forms of wildlife crime.

By and large, protected area encroachment, poaching, illicit trade and trafficking of wildlife and its products, as well as human-wildlife conflicts, leading to retaliatory killing of problem animals, remain the major threats to wildlife conservation in the country. As a result of this, several arrests and prosecution of offenders have been made. For instance, between 2010 and 2019, UWA successfully prosecuted 2,903 while 2,248 were successfully convicted.

This handbook provides basic information on many aspects of wildlife conservation. No doubt, the successful dissemination of this booklet will significantly contribute to improved understanding of wildlife conservation issues, enhance harnessing of wildlife-related benefits and opportunities, reduce human-wildlife conflicts, improve community relations and attract support for wildlife conservation.

On behalf of UWA, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to USAID/Uganda Combating Wildlife Crime Activity implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and specifically appreciate Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN) that led to the development of this handbook

*Conserving for Generations*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Mwandha', written in a cursive style.

Sam Mwandha  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# Acknowledgment

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This publication titled “Handbook on Community Engagement for Conserving Wildlife in Uganda” was made possible by the generous support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the USAID/Uganda Combating Wildlife Crime Activity (CWC) implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society and its partners Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN).

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) sincerely appreciates NRCN in particular for spearheading the development process of this handbook in conjunction with WCS, WCU, MTWA, WildAid, AWF, RUSI, ODPP, and Judiciary. Without such concerted efforts the exercise would not have yielded a valuable document to contribute to the knowledge base of the diverse material on community engagement.



## List of acronyms

<b>AWF</b>	African Wildlife Foundation
<b>CEE</b>	Crocodile Exclusion Enclosures
<b>CWC</b>	Combating Wildlife Crime
<b>IWT</b>	Illegal Wildlife Trade
<b>MTWA</b>	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environmental Management Authority
<b>NFA</b>	National Forest Authority
<b>NRCN</b>	Natural Resource Conservation Network
<b>ODPP</b>	Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution
<b>RUSI</b>	Royal United Services Institute
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>UWA</b>	Uganda Wildlife Authority
<b>UWEC</b>	Uganda Wildlife Education Centre
<b>WCS</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>WCU</b>	Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
<b>WMS</b>	Wildlife Management Stations



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Mountain Gorilla in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Photo by Wasafiri Adventures and Tours)

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Uganda is endowed with a high density and rich diversity of both animal and plant species. Over 18,783 species of fauna and flora have been recorded in Uganda (NEMA,2009). The high density of species is found both inside and outside protected areas. However, all these are under threat from poaching, encroachment, habitat degradation and loss, human-wildlife conflicts, climate change, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking among others. These challenges are caused by rapid human population growth, increasing demand for agriculture, human settlement and poverty.

The Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 establishes the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) with a mandate to manage wildlife in and outside protected areas. The terms Wildlife Protected Area “includes an area which is designated for as a National park or wildlife reserve as provided for in the Wildlife Act.” The mission of Uganda Wildlife Authority is to “conserve, economically develop and sustainably manage the wildlife and protected areas of Uganda in partnership with neighboring communities and stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda at the global community.”

Uganda Wildlife Authority has carried out

several conservation programs to fulfill its mandate in supporting sustainable wildlife conservation. This involves interaction with local communities living adjacent to protected areas which is necessary in promoting peaceful co-existence of local communities and wildlife by minimizing conflicts, creating awareness, enhancing benefits and attaining appreciation and support for conservation.

## **1.1 Justification for community engagement.**

Conservationists have long known that most efforts, however well-intentioned, to save endangered wildlife species are bound to fail unless members of local communities are enlisted for those efforts.

The need for community engagement is



*Community engagement in Nwoya (Photo by NRCN)*

recognized under sections 20(1), 3(1) and 37(1) of the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019.

This has strengthened inter-departmental collaboration especially between law enforcement and community conservation personnel. In fulfilling its mandate, the Uganda Wildlife Authority collaborates with other stakeholders to conserve wildlife through education, awareness and collaborative management.

### **There is need to engage local communities:**

- a) to secure long-term support for wildlife conservation because a number of local council leaders have been arrested, charged and prosecuted thus desire to secure appreciation and support from local communities.
- b) because wildlife has crossed to human settlements leading to crop destruction, property damage, human attacks and death resulting into conflicts. This has negatively impacted on community livelihoods and conservation.
- c) in and around conservation areas and ensure peace, stability and harmonious co-existence between wildlife and people, including equitable revenue sharing, regulated resource access and involvement in management of wildlife resources in line with the Constitution and any other relevant law passed by parliament from time to time.
- d) to educate people about problem animal and vermin management strategies

and ensure coordinated engagement of all stakeholders.

It is against this background that the Natural Resources Conservation Network in partnership with Uganda Wildlife Authority and Wildlife Conservation Society developed a handbook on Community Engagement in Conservation of Wildlife for community leaders and district local governments.

The handbook also serves as a reference guide to help raise awareness of wildlife crime and Human-wildlife conflict. The handbook will act as a community guide in implementing the Uganda wildlife act to spearhead. This in turn will help promote peaceful co-existence of local communities and wildlife by minimizing conflicts, creating awareness, education and human-wildlife conflict management.

## ***1.2 Policy and Legal Framework for wildlife.***

### **National Laws**

#### ***1.2.1 The Constitution of Republic of Uganda 1995***

The 1995 Constitution of Republic of Uganda provides for state protection of important natural resources such as land, water, wetlands, minerals, fauna and flora on behalf of the people of Uganda under objective XXV. Objective XXVII obligates the state to apply rational use of natural resources to minimize depletion risk and enhance protection of Uganda's

biological resources.

Ownership of wildlife is vested in the Government on behalf of and for the benefit of the people of Uganda. (Article 237(2) and section 3(1) of the Uganda Wildlife Act). The Uganda Wildlife Policy 2014 whose main theme is “enhanced wildlife contribution to natural growth, employment and socio-economic transformation” provides for involvement of local communities, private sector, public institutions and other stakeholders in managing of wildlife resources.

The constitution recognises that wildlife resources are only managed in trust by Government and the ultimate owners are the communities and the people of Uganda Article 245 mandates parliament by law to provide for measures to manage the environment for sustainable development. To implement these constitutional provisions, government came up with policies and laws that recognize the role of communities in wildlife conservation.

### **1.2.2 Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019**

Section 3 of the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 vests ownership of all animals and plants found in the wild on the Government on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the people of Uganda. The same act provides for wildlife conservation throughout Uganda so that the abundance and diversity of their species are maintained at optimum levels commensurate with other forms of land use. It also provides for community

involvement in wildlife conservation as the Act establishes community wildlife management areas (Section 26(8)) to facilitate the development of wildlife management programs for the benefit of all local communities. The Community Wildlife Committees (Section 20) are created to be a liaison between the Authority and the community.

### **1.2.3 National Environment Act 2019**

The main aim of the National Environment Act 2019 is to promote sustainable management of the environment. This provides for the protection and sustainable use of wildlife resources and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from biodiversity conservation.

### **1.2.4 Local Governments Act 2019**

Mandates Local Governments to partner with Uganda Wildlife Authority in the control and management of vermin.

## **International Laws**

### **1.2.5 The Convention on Biological Diversity 1992**

The convention was signed by Uganda in 1992 and ratified in 1993. This treaty obliges member states to establish a mechanism of engaging local communities, to share issues arising out of conservation of biological resources and use of indigenous knowledge in the management and conservation of protected areas.

### **1.2.6 Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna. (CITES) 1973**

The treaty was signed by Uganda in 1973 and it obliges member states to regulate international trade in endangered species of fauna and flora through international cooperation. It also obliges parties to ensure that wildlife trade contributes to improved livelihoods of local communities.

### **1.2.7 Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species 1979.**

The convention provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. This was signed and ratified by Uganda. It obliges member states to conserve

migratory species of wildlife across their migratory range. It obliges parties to ensure sharing of benefits that arise out of utilization of migratory species.

### **1.2.8 East African Community Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources 1999.**

This protocol obliges Uganda to sustainably conserve wildlife resources in partnership with local communities. The protocol requires Uganda to cooperate in managing transboundary wildlife resources, promoting of social and economic incentives for conservation and to conclude agreements aimed at conserving transboundary resources.



*Rhinos in Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary (Photo by Wasafiri Adventures and Tours)*

## 2.0 WHERE IS WILDLIFE CONSERVED IN UGANDA?

Wildlife in Uganda is found in and outside wildlife conservation areas. Almost 50% of these wild animals live outside protected areas. There is wildlife on communal and private land. Though they live outside protected areas, they are still under the responsibility of Uganda Wildlife Authority. Under section 9(a) the Uganda Wildlife Act 2019, the board is the trustee for wild animals in and outside protected areas in Uganda.

Wild animals in Uganda can be found in National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuary and Community Wildlife Management Areas. There are ten National Parks in Uganda which include: Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth, Bwindi

Impenetrable, Mgahinga Gorrilla, Kidepo Valley, Mt. Elgon, Rwenzori, Lake Mburo, Semuliki and Kibaale.

Wildlife Reserves include: Toro Semiliki, Matheniko, Katunga, Ajai, Kigezi, Bugungu, Kyambura, Pian-Upe, Kabwoya, Bookrack and Karuma.

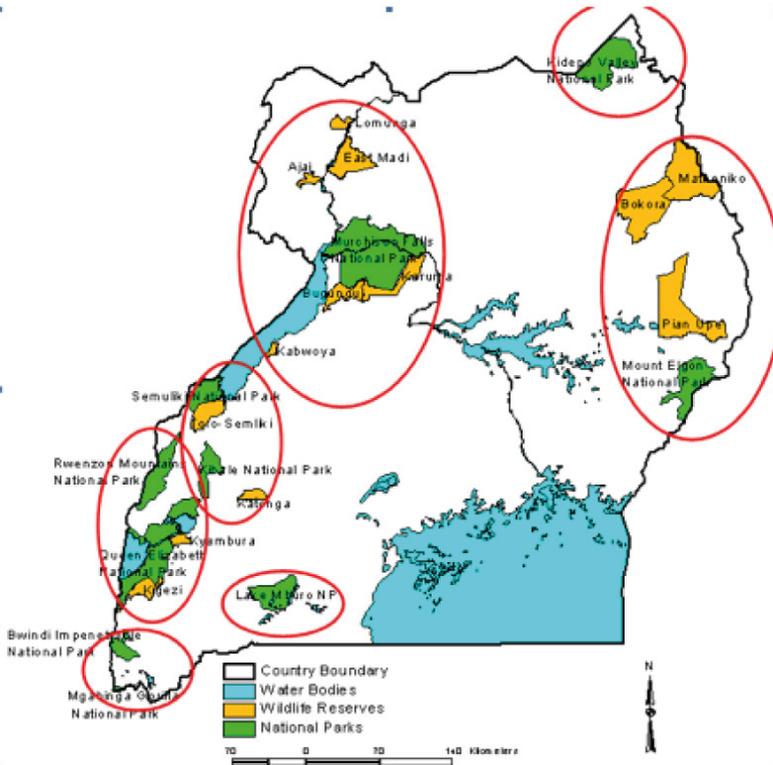
Community Wildlife Management Areas include Nakaseke, Kyankwanzi, Karenga and kyotera etc.

Wildlife Sanctuaries include: Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary and others.



*Buffaloes in Kidepo Valley National Park (Photo by Wasafiri Adventures and Tours)*

Apart from conservation areas, wildlife is also found in captive breeding on private land like the Zoo at Entebbe (Uganda wildlife Education Centre), Uganda Crocs Ltd breeding crocodiles and other areas.



Map of Protected Areas in Uganda



Jackson's hartebeest in Kidepo NP (Photo by Wasafiri Adventures and Tours)



Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable NP (Photo by Wasafiri Adventures and Tours)

# 3.0 HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

## 3.1 Human-wildlife Conflict

Human-wildlife Conflict is said to occur when the needs of wildlife impact negatively on the goals of humans and vice versa.

Human-wildlife Conflict are evident in areas surrounding conservation areas. This is as a result of costs and losses largely emanating from crop destruction, property damage, human attacks and deaths. This challenge worsens as human populations increase but also leads to significant loss of wildlife and habitats. Akin to this are problem animals and vermin.



*Olive Baboons in Kibale Forest National Park(Photo by UWA)*

Some selected animal species, for example the Vervet Monkeys, Olive Baboons and Bush Pigs were declared vermin under the General notice no. 74 of 2001. Under the Wildlife Act, the Local Government is responsible for managing vermin in partnership with Uganda Wildlife

Authority. The Authority is mandated to build capacity of Local governments to manage vermin (section 6(ii)) and the Executive Director is mandated to advise the Local Government on the value of vermin and recommend the appropriate methods for managing it. The Authority is also mandated to monitor and control problem animals.

## 3.2. How is Human-wildlife Conflict Managed?

Uganda Wildlife Authority, working closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, developed a National Strategy to guide implementation of the interventions as found appropriate in the different localities where they occur. Uganda wildlife Authority in partnership with communities and other stake holders have implemented various interventions including scare shooting, trench construction, chili plantation, electric fence, beehives, direct capture and translocation, crocodile enclosures, Hippo deterrent fence and promotion of non-palatable crops. Collaborative engagements are important in so far as they facilitate local communities to access selected wildlife resources within and outside protected areas.

These help in generating benefits and improve protection and management such as:-

### **a) Community Resource Access**

This allows communities to access selected protected area resources through a negotiation process and signing of the Resource Access Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding.

Resource access is provided for under section 35(1)(8) of the Wildlife Act, 2019. The agreement helps communities access resources such as fish, medicinal plants, water, grass, poles, bamboo shoots, reeds, water, beehive placement sites and others. The access is in respect to non-threatened species of wildlife for the benefit of adjacent communities. The Resource Access Agreements are entered into by Association in return for access, members promise to protect the park by managing their own activities so as not to endanger animals by reporting unauthorized persons inside the park and helping sensitize the other community members about conserving the park. It is intended to ensure that the parties clearly understand their roles and responsibilities in management of resource access zones. An example includes keeping beehives and fishing in Kibale national Park. The agreement is signed by communities through Resource Use Committees but some of those have been so inactive and not abiding by their roles and have had their agreements cancelled because of poaching incidents being identified in some of the protected areas and thus posing risks to wildlife.

### **b) Private Sector engagement.**

In 2001 Uganda Wildlife Authority signed a collaborative agreement with a private sector company (Game Trails (U) Ltd) to improve management of wildlife outside Lake Mburo National Park on a pilot basis. The lessons learnt led to the expansion of the program to cover the entire country. The private sector is now actively involved in wildlife management including supporting infrastructure development, management of Human-wildlife Conflicts, promoting tourism developments, undertaking community sensitization as well as promoting wildlife utilization through sport hunting which has led to improved law enforcement, increased wildlife numbers, employment, improved infrastructure amongst others.



*Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi impenetrable NP  
(Photo by UWA)*

**c) Revenue Sharing** programme is meant to strengthen partnerships between local communities, local governments and management of wildlife areas leading to sustainable management of wildlife resources in protected areas.

Over 3 billion shillings has been given to the neighbouring communities in Revenue share alone for the last three years. Apart from revenue however, there other

collaborative programs where communities benefit directly from the National Park.

These include resource access such as fuel wood, grass, water, fish, bee keeping etc. Such resource off take from the park is valued at over 400million shillings per annum.

**d)** In a bid to achieve effective management of wildlife outside protected areas and address HWC, UWA has established four (4) Wildlife Management Stations (WMS) at Kakuto (Rakai), Kyankwanzi, Nakaseke,



*Using Beekeeping to Address Human-Wildlife Conflict and Improve Community Livelihoods (Photo by WCS)*

Agago and Muhorro (Kagadi). These have been highly efficient in raising awareness, addressing poaching and HWC.

#### **e) Compensation**

A person or his or her legal representative can make a claim to the wildlife compensation verification committee

where he or she:-

- Suffers bodily injury or is killed by an elephant, lion, leopard, crocodile, buffalo, hyena, hippopotamus, Gorilla and Chimpanzee.
- Suffers damage to his or her property caused by an elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, hippopotamus, baboon, chimpanzee and bush pigs.

**N:B** Such damage to property, bodily harm or death must have been caused outside the protected area. The Authority is not liable for any such occurrence inside the Conservation Area.



*UWA digs trenches around Murchison Falls National Park (Photo by UWA)*

#### **f) Capture and Translocation**

This intervention mainly applies to crocodiles and pythons.

On average, UWA receives 10 to 15 crocodile and 10 to 17 python cases respectively every year. Since 2004, UWA has captured and relocated over 274 problem crocodiles to wildlife protected areas. The most crocodile affected districts include Namayingo, Jinja, Mukono, Nakasongola, Nakaseke, Buikwe, Kyankwanzi, Buvuma, Rakai while pythons tend to occur in Kiruhura, Rakai, Masaka, Luwero, Kampala, Nakaseke Wakiso and Mukono and handled as they are reported.

- Crocodile Exclusion Enclosures - A total of 23 Crocodile Exclusion Enclosures (CEEs) sometimes referred to as cages have been constructed in crocodile affected areas of Namayingo, Jinja, Mukono and Kasese (5 cages around Queen Elizabeth National Park, 8 around Murchison Falls protected Area and 10 around lakes Victoria and Kyoga). However, due to the rising water levels, it has been difficult for this innovative method to be continued as this would mean that the cages will be flooded and become useless to the community.



*A photo taken from Buvuma as a crocodile was relocated to the Victoria Nile. (Photo by UWA)*

- Government/UWA has excavated over 500 km of trenches along selected park boundaries including Queen Elizabeth, Kibale and Murchison Falls, National Parks. The trenches are 2 metres wide by 2 metres deep and relatively effective against large mammals.

- UWA in partnership with communities has been promoting the planting of the thorny Mauritius hedge/fence. The hedge can deter some animals such as baboons, monkeys, bushpigs and duikers. A total of 172km out of 205km of the entire Bwindi boundary has been planted with the Mauritius hedge. The hedge has also been planted at Queen Elizabeth, Kibale, Semiliki and Murchison Falls among.

- Construction of electric fence - UWA partnered with Space for Giants, to implement an innovative solar-powered electric fence around selected protected areas. So far, 42.3 km at Queen Elizabeth and 17.3 Murchison Falls National Parks have been completed.

- Demo Hippodeterrent fence construction 500 meters in Kanjoki Village, 500 metres Buyamba subcounty, Rakai district and 700 metres along Lake Kyamwiga in Ruburizi District.

- Chili growing has been promoted and supported by Uganda Wildlife Authority in Kidepo Valley National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. A number of groups were trained in chili nursery management and supported to weed their chili gardens.

- More than 11,000 hives have been

procured and distributed to different community groups. The hives have been installed along the protected area boundaries. The stinging and buzzing sound of the bees irritate and scare away

the elephants.

The honey collected from the hives is sold to generate income and enhance community livelihoods.



An electric fence in Queen Elizabeth National Park (Photo by UWA)

*N:B A person may kill or attempt to kill a wild animal in self-defense of another person however such must happen outside a protected area and the liability is on such a person to prove that the act was done in self-defense.*

*It is the duty of such a person to report the incident to a Uganda wildlife officer and it is an offence not to report.*



Fishermen gathered round to look at the Crocodile after it was captured (Photo by UWA)



Chili peppers are helping Uganda's elephants and farmers peacefully coexist (Photo copyright; AWF)

## 4.0 WILDLIFE USE RIGHTS

### 4.1 Use right

No person is allowed to engage in any hunting, farming, ranching, trading, use of wildlife as pets or ornaments, for tourism or recreation or any related activity which involves utilization of wildlife or products without a wildlife use right. If one does so, he or she commits an offence under the Wildlife Act.

A person, community or lead agency may apply to the Uganda Wildlife Authority for one or more use rights to be granted to them.

### 4.2 classes of wildlife use rights

They are classified as:

1. Class A which confers a right to hunt wildlife.
2. Class B which permits farming of wildlife.
3. Class C which permits ranching of wildlife
4. Class D which permits trading in wildlife.
5. Class E which permits using wildlife for educational or scientific purposes including



*Hunting Safaris in Kabwoya Wildlife Reserve (Photo by Achieve Global Safaris)*

medical experiments and developments.

6. Class F which permits community resource access.
7. Class G which permits use of wildlife as pets or ornaments.
8. Class H which permits use of wildlife for Tourism and recreation.

The application is made to the authority and payment of a fee is done. The applicant depending on the nature of the use right applied for may be required to furnish specific information in support of the application.

It is the duty of every use right holder to comply with the conditions in the use right as it is an offense not to comply with any of them. Failure to comply with the use right can lead to revocation of the same or surrender of the use right to the Authority.



*Wildlife educational - (Photo by Galaxy International School Uganda)*

## 5.0 WILDLIFE OFFENCES AND PENALTIES UNDER THE WILDLIFE ACT, 2019

Wildlife Act which is the major legislation governing wildlife matters creates offences for acts committed within and outside protected areas.

### **Offences committed within protected areas include:**

- Hunting, taking, killing, injuring any wild plant, animal or domestic animal.
  - Taking, destroying, damaging, defacing any object of geomorphological, archaeological, historical, cultural or scientific interest, or structure lawfully placed or constructed.
  - Preparing land for cultivation, prospects for minerals or mining or attempting any of them.
  - Driving, conveying, introducing any wild animal into a wildlife conservation area.
  - Willfully driving, conveying, introducing any domestic animal into a national park or negligently permits any domestic animal, of which he or she is for the time being in charge, to stray into a wildlife conservation area.
  - Starting or maintaining a fire without lawful authority.
  - Entering, attempting to enter, residing in, attempting to reside in a wildlife protected area without permission by the Authority.
- In case a person is found guilty of committing an offence within a protected area, he or she is liable to:

1. In case of a first offence, to a fine not

exceeding UGX 3,000,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding ten years or both.

2. In case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding UGX 10,000,000 (Uganda shillings ten million) or to a term not exceeding twenty years or both.

### **Offences committed outside protected areas include:**

- Taking, hunting, molesting or reducing into possession of protected specimen.
- Is found in possession of, sells, buys, transfers or accepts transfer of protected specimen.

The person convicted of committing such offences is liable to pay a fine not exceeding UGX 200,000,000 (Uganda shillings two hundred million) or to life imprisonment or both.

In case it is an offence relating to species that are extinct in the wild, critically endangered or endangered, the person is liable to pay a fine not exceeding UGX 20,000,000,000 (Uganda Shillings twenty billion) or to life imprisonment or to both.

- Importing, exporting or re-exporting or attempt to import, export or re-export any species or specimen without a permit or without passing through a designated customs post or port.

A person convicted of the offense of exporting, re-exporting, importing, attempt to import and attempt to export is liable to a fine not exceeding UGX 200,000,000 (Uganda Shillings two hundred million) or to life imprisonment or both.

In addition to a conviction, a court can order for forfeiture of any domestic animal, fire arm, weapon, trap, net, poison, material, motor vehicle, aircraft, boat or any article taken by or used in connection with commission of any of the above offences to the Uganda Wildlife Authority.



*A hippo in a Protected Area at Murchison Falls National Park ( Photo copyright Flickr by Ashit Desai)*



*Hunting and Killing of Wild Life in Nwoya ( Photo by NRCN archives)*



*Suspects in possession of ivory tusks in Arua ( Photo by NRCN archives)*

## 6.0 WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE TO COMMUNITIES?

Wildlife has so many benefits to communities and this can be characterized as ecological, economic, cultural, educational and scientific. These include:

**1. Ecological benefits** as wildlife is key in maintaining a healthy ecological balance on earth. For instance, hippo waste is a good source of food and nutrients for fish in the water. The pangolins control termites as they feed on them. Elephants are important for clearing forests and the waste a rich source of fertilizer to the soil.

### **2. Economic benefits**

Wildlife is a tourism attraction. Tourism is one of the greatest contributors to Uganda's Gross Domestic Product which creates revenue that is used in provision of social amenities like hospitals, schools, roads and others which the communities enjoy. The tourists pay taxes and fees for enjoying wildlife. For wildlife that is on private land, the hosts collect concession fees from tourism operators who bring tourists on their land. Sport hunting as an activity also contributes revenue as persons pay for sport hunting fees and all other charges.

Wildlife has created employment opportunities to Ugandans in form of rangers, tour guides, taxi jobs, travel agents and much more. Priority is given to residents who live near conservation areas

for any job placements within their villages.

### **3. Cultural benefits**

Some tribes attach cultural sentiments to wildlife for example Buganda, some wild animals have totem value attached to them by clans, like the "Mbogo" clan has a buffalo as its totem and thus responsible for its wellbeing and conservation to make sure that it is conserved for generations for all to see. Other clans include the 'Mpologoma" which subscribes to the lion, 'Njovu" for elephant and other clans.

### **4. Medicinal and educational benefits.**

Some plants have medicinal value and thus important for communities as they get access to protected areas through resource access agreements. Institutions of higher education have also carried out research in some of these protected areas. Many Ugandans also have visited the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre to learn about the different animals and how



Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (Photo by UWEC)

## 5. Revenue sharing

Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 mandates the Uganda Wildlife Authority to pay 20% of the park entry fees collected as a conditional grant. (Section 65(4) ). UWA has developed guidelines which will be transformed into regulations. Significant amounts of revenue are distributed every year to parks adjacent Local governments to support Human-wildlife Conflict management as well as livelihood projects.

Over UGX 13,012,710,490 was collected

between 2014 and 2018 (Uganda Wildlife Corporate Report 2018). On average UGX 2.5bn is collected under the revenue sharing scheme. However, the same has its own challenges like late disbursements, accountability delays, corruption, in adequate capacity by communities to identify and effectively implement viable projects amongst others. However, the Authority is formulating guidelines in order to curb those challenges in line with the new act.



*Cultural benefits from Wildlife - Karamoja (Photo copyright Kidepo National Park, UWA)*



*Educational benefits as Schools (Photo by Bwindi Junior School)*



*Employment of rangers in Wildlife (Photo by US Embassy in Uganda)*

## 7.0 COMMUNITIES' RESPONSIBILITY IN CONSERVATION

### **1. Proper disposal of products**

This can save wildlife as trash is not just ugly but harmful too. Birds can trap their heads in plastic rings, fish can get stuck in nets. Waste pollutes every ones' natural resources. You can help save a life of an animal if you leave their environment clean.

### **2. Recycle**

Find innovative ways for re-use. For example, Green World Recycling Company in Mukono municipality that buys and sells plastic scrap, crush plastics and sell flakes of all types.

### **3. Restore**

Habitat destruction is the main threat to all threatened and endangered species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It creates a large opportunity for delivering species conservation, increasing bio diversity on farms, delivering genetically diverse restoration that benefits people and wildlife.

### **4. Join**

Whether you are more interested in protecting natural habitats or preventing wildlife trafficking, find an organization

that speaks your passion. If it does not exist, create one. Participate in your community, be part of community wildlife committees and uphold wildlife conservation measures.

### **5. Volunteer**

One way to support an organization is to donate your time. Actually, many offer volunteer placements and thus one can help clean beaches, participate in animal rescue programs and teach community about wildlife habitat conservation

### **6. Speak up**

Share your passion for wildlife conservation with your family. Tell friends and family on how they can help. Tell everyone you know what they can do to help.

### **7. Report**

Report any incidents that are unlawful to the nearest police station or Wildlife Authority for assistance for example; killing of wildlife, damage

# Glossary

**National Park** means an area of international and national importance which due to its diversity, landscape

the protection, maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, management and sustainable use of wildlife and their eco-systems.

**Problem animals** are wild animals that poses a threat to human life or property outside protected areas and has been declared as such under the act.

**Vermin** is a wild animal that is destructive, annoying, or injurious to health and with due regard to its conservation status has been declared as such under the Act.

**Wildlife protected area** includes an area that is provided for as a national park or wildlife reserve as provided for in the act.

**Use right** refers to a right granted to a person, community or organization to use wildlife in accordance with the act.

**Wildlife management area** includes an area which is provided for as a wildlife sanctuary or a community wildlife management area as provided for in the act.

**Wildlife Act** which is the major legislation governing wildlife matters creates offences for acts committed within and outside protected areas.

**Wildlife** means any wild plant or animal species or their derivatives that are indigenous, migrated to or introduced in Uganda.

**Wildlife Conservation Area** includes a wildlife protected area or a community wildlife management area.

**Wildlife conservation** means





Giraffe in Kidepo National Park (Photo by Wasafiri Adventures and Tours)



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