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USAID/UGANDA BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

Quarterly Report: January – March 2015

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USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program

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Implementing Partners

The following organizations comprise the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program implementation team:

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF): AWF is the prime leader of the implementation team. It is an international non-governmental organization committed to conserving Africa's natural resources while leveraging the continent's tremendous natural endowment for economic growth and improved livelihoods for its people. AWF was founded in 1961 to improve the capacity of African institutions and individuals to manage wildlife and other natural resources. AWF's program has evolved and today is based on an integrated landscape-scale approach that conserves critical habitats, enables sustainable natural resource management, and improves livelihoods. AWF's mission is to *work with the people of Africa to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa endure forever*. With over 53 years of experience in conservation and enterprise development in Africa, AWF brings relevant and needed lessons learned to the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program.

AWF's work in Uganda has also entailed over two decades of support to Uganda Wildlife Authority especially through support to Lake Mburo, Bwindi Impenetrable, and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks, in partnership with USAID. Since 2002, AWF and USAID/Uganda partnership explicitly yielded the conception and creation of the Visitor Center at the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and the world-class Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge at Nkuringo outside of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. AWF has supported the improvement in ecological monitoring and patrolling in the gorilla parks, including support to the 2003 and 2011 gorilla censuses, and has built capacity and supported alternative livelihoods projects in Uganda.

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI): Founded in 1977, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) continues Dr. Goodall's pioneering research on chimpanzee behavior – research that transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals. JGI's work in Uganda focuses on four major forested areas that are home to more than 75% of the country's estimated population of 5,000 chimpanzees: Budongo Central Forest Reserve, Bugoma Forest Reserve, Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve, and Kibale National Park.

USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program also works with the following partner institutions:

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA): UWA is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to manage 10 National Parks, 12 Wildlife Reserves, and 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries. It also provides guidance to the management of 5 Community Wildlife Areas. UWA's mission is to conserve and sustainably manage the wildlife in and outside protected areas of Uganda in partnership with neighboring communities and stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community. It is

committed to adhere to the international conventions and protocols to which Uganda is a party.

National Forestry Authority (NFA): NFA manages the central forest reserves on a sustainable basis to supply high quality forestry-related products to government, local communities and the private sector. NFA mission is to ensure a *sufficiently forested, ecologically stable and economically prosperous Uganda*. Its policy is to broaden the NFA revenue base in terms of new products, services, development assistance and other innovative sources of funding, as well as better marketing strategies of the already existing products as a way forward to addressing some of the challenges of capacity and limited funding.

Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities: The mandate of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) is “to formulate and implement policies, strategies, plans and programs that promote tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage conservation for socio-economic development and transformation of the country.” The **Vision** is to have “sustainable tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage, contributing to the transformation of the Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous one” and the **Mission** is “to develop and promote tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage resources for enhancement of Uganda as a preferred tourist destination, with accelerated sector contribution to the national economy.”

Ministry of Water and Environment: The ministry is responsible for setting national policies and standards, managing and regulating the environment and natural resources, and supervises the autonomous agencies like the National Forestry Authority (NFA), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), National Water and Sewage Corporation (NWSC) and the Climate Change Unit (CCU).

Acronyms

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CFM	Community Forest Management
GMP	General Management Plans (UWA)
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTWA	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
NECPA	North East Chili Producers' Association
NFA	National Forest Authority (Uganda)
NPs	National Parks
PA	Protected Area
PMP	Performance Management Plan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

Target High Biodiversity Areas (National Parks and Forest Reserves)

MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
KVNP	Kidepo Valley National Park
LMNP	Lake Mburo National Park
BCFR	Budongo Central Forest Reserve
KCFR	Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve

Summary

This quarter saw the implementation of activities as per revised application, following the approval of the 2014/2015 work plan in January 2015. Apart from implementation of activities, the program Performance Management Plan (PMP) was revised and submitted to USAID for approval. The revised PMP now also provides for the program Collaboration Learning and Adopting plan. A number of new activities focusing on non-tourism enterprises and creation of awareness about conservation especially around Lake Mburo and River Rwizi were introduced; it necessitated undertaking additional baseline survey to fill data gaps that were identified as a result of the changes. This activity has been completed.

Other activities implemented this quarter include the rebranding of the Program, completion of installation of signage in Lake Mburo, starting of chili nurseries in selected parishes neighboring both Kidepo Valley and Murchison Falls National Parks, negotiating partnership with media, the private sector, district authority, and Mbarara University of Science and Technology in conservation awareness activities in Lake Mburo.

A study tour to Kenya for UWA and community representatives to learn how conservancy development has been undertaken was also concluded this quarter and the participants have shared their experiences with the wider community in their areas. In Lake Mburo, a draft conservancy constitution was developed and agreed on by the Planning Committee and will be presented for approval to the general community of Rurambira parish. The approvals of the land use plan in Kidepo has been delayed due to some of the community leaders desire to first discuss with central government regarding the boundary of the Karenga Community Wildlife Area. The case has been referred to the President's office which is yet to pronounce itself on the matter.

During the visit of the AWF Director Land Conservation, agreement was reached with UWA and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities on development of guidelines for conservancy development in Uganda. The Vice President Conservation Programs also paid an administrative visit to Uganda, visiting some of the project sites and also discussed program implementation and management. He meant with UWA team and program partners in lake Mburo Park, and Kalinzu forest reserve.

In Kalinzu and Budongo forests, training for the ODK has been completed and data collection is being undertaken as required. Training of NFA staff and CFM group members on maintenance of trails in Budongo CFR commenced and will continue in the next quarter. Training of communities in honey production is ongoing including the supply of 400 Kenya Top Bar beehives (200 each for Kalinzu and Budongo CFRs). To ensure sustainability, quality production, ready marketing, value addition, the program is partnering with Malaika Honey, a private honey production and exporting company, to support marketing value chain from

start of project. The identified groups are in the process of negotiating and signing a partnership agreement (with Program support) with Malaika Honey.

AWF is also working on raising funds to support districts near in Kidepo in construction of primary schools that will support conservation education. A due diligence to determine the need and issues was undertaken this quarter.

A table summarizing achievements for the quarter is provided below.

Summary of the progress of implementation of activities for the quarter

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
General									
Develop revised application for the Biodiversity Program as per USAID guidelines	Complete revision and seek approval from USAID for the Biodiversity Program application	✓				Draft application reviewed based on comments from USAID and approval received.	100	Modified contract signed based on approved revision of the application	
Develop 2014 – 2015 work plan based on approved revised application	Work plan for 2014 – 2015 developed, submitted to USAID and approval received	✓	✓			Work plan approved and being implemented	100		
Revise performance management plan based on changed priorities	PMP revised, submitted to USAID and approved	✓	✓			PMP revised, new indicators selected and old ones revised to reflect current program thinking	95	PMP submitted to USAID for approval	✓
	Undertake program baseline survey to fill gaps resulting from the refocusing of program activities	✓	✓			A consultant was procured and conducted the survey in February 2015. Final report received and approved by end of March 2015	100		
Drafting the program learning plan	Learning plan used in collaboration, learning and adopting to ensure Program objectives are effectively met	✓	✓			A plan has been drafted and included in the program performance management plan	100		✓

¹ Percentage refers to how much of the whole activity is completed. In many cases the activities are planned for more than one quarter.

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Hold program meetings to discuss the PMP, set targets and review the data collection tools.	Program consensus on the PMP, the targets and the program data collection tools	✓	✓			Tools for data collection discussed with staff. PMP submitted to USAID for approval	100	PMP to be submitted to USAID for approval.	
Development of various maps for the program	Develop and print maps	✓	✓			Nine different maps for LMNP and KVNP developed, printed and distributed	100	Additional maps to be developed as and when necessary, based on activities needs and reporting	✓
Undertake rebranding of the program to reflect programmatic changes	Install new signage and branding	✓	✓			Completed with new signage, letterheads, car stickers	100		
Model I: Ecological Monitoring Capacity Development									
Training of UWA and NFA staff in collection and analysis of ecological data:	Complete training of NFA staff and selected community members in the use of Open Data Kit in collecting ecological and threat monitoring data in Budongo CFR	✓	✓			ODK training is complete with a total of 20 personnel from NFA and 3 CFM groups of Budongo Good Neighbors Conservation Association (BUNCA), Kapeeka Integrated Community Development Association (KICODA) and North Budongo Forest Community Association (NOBUFOCA) having been trained in using mobile technologies to collect ecological data.	100		
	Support data collection in Budongo CFR		✓			Ongoing – NFA team in Budongo CFR currently using ODK as the primary data collection methodology both in the forest to monitor illegalities and at Kaniyo Pabidi to monitor tourism	100	Required monitoring this quarter fully done	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Complete training of NFA staff and selected community members in the use of Open Data Kit in collecting ecological and threat monitoring data in Kalinzu CFR	✓	✓			ODK training is complete with a total of 23 personnel from NFA and CFM groups having been trained in using mobile technologies to collect ecological data.	100	Data collection will continue throughout the program implementation. Program will continue to support data collection through regular field visits and addressing of any hiccups	✓
	Train UWA staff in the ecological monitoring using SMART and Cyber Tracker		✓			Held discussions with UWA, WCS and IGCP on UWA-wide training of all monitoring personnel. Training dates set for April 16 – 22, 2015 while equipment for use in monitoring being procured too.	30	Training to continue throughout the quarter, including support to data collection	✓
Support UWA in the acquisition of monitoring equipment to enhance monitoring and reduce human wildlife conflicts	Support UWA acquire ecological monitoring equipment	✓	✓			Quotes for 3 laptops for data analysis and 50 tablets for data collection received and evaluation completed	80	The numbers of each type of equipment revised based on UWA needs and available budget	✓
Develop guidelines for chimpanzee conservation in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve	Develop guidelines for chimpanzee conservation in Kalinzu CFR		✓			First draft of guidelines has been produced and awaiting comments and input from stakeholders.	20	Japanese researchers, key participants in the review process, were out of the country and only just returned	✓
Complete establishment of monitoring trails in LMNP, KVNP, BCFR and KCFR started under USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program	Develop signage and trail facilities on the 15 km trails established in KVNP	✓	✓			Adverts for installation made. Awaiting closure of bidding to evaluate	40	Installation will start next quarter	✓
	Install 3 telescopes for monitoring in KVNP	✓	✓			Designs developed. Awaiting contractor to install	50	Installation starts next quarter	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Develop and install facilities, signage and interpretation to support monitoring along the 15km (4 trails) in LMNP	✓				Bids received, evaluated and contract negotiated and to be signed.	40	Work starts next quarter.	✓
	Install directional signage along monitoring tracks within and outside LMNP: (145 signage)	✓				Completed. A total of 104 signs installed. 2 signs awaiting UWA clearance with KCCA & Entebbe Municipal Council. 1 sign for interpretation center awaits construction of a new center.	100	38 signs in excess of requirements (13 dish drains; 25 speed limits). To be taken to another Program site	
	Support NFA to install toilets, rest sheds and interpretative signage along the trail 57-kilometer monitoring trail, in Budongo CFR	✓	✓			Construction of outposts at Hanga and Busingiro has commence	10	Work expected to conclude by end of next quarter	✓
	Provide communication and trail support structures along the trails in Budongo CFR	✓	✓			Radio communications system procured.	85	Currently being installed.	✓
	Procure and supply handheld radios and field gear for Kalinzu CFR		✓			Radio communication handsets procured.	75	Currently being installed	✓
	Develop a system and build capacity for NFA and the communities in forest trail maintenance for Budongo CFR		✓			The CFM groups, Kapeeka Integrated Community Development Association (KICODA) with 220 members (75 females – 34%) and Budongo Good Neighbors Conservation Association (BUNCA) with 270 members (80 females – 29.6%), were identified and trained in forest patrol trail maintenance.	50	These groups support and complement NFA forest management efforts.	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Procure and supply trail maintenance tools and field gear and equipment for Budongo CFR	✓	✓			Procurement process complete including panga (12 pieces), hoe (24 pieces), slasher (24 pieces), measuring tape (9 pieces), gumboots (24 pieces) and rain gear (24 pieces), spades (12 pieces), rake (12), wheelbarrow (6 pieces) and nylon strings (9 pieces)	100		
	Reopen the out-of-use forest patrol trails and map existing ones	✓	✓			Started this quarter	75	Currently ongoing	✓
	Provide trail maintenance training to forest patrol rangers	✓	✓	✓		ODK training is complete with a total of 23 personnel from NFA and CFM groups having been trained in using mobile technologies to collect ecological data.	100	Data collected by these groups is integrated into NFA systems	X
Procure road equipment for UWA to support the opening and maintenance of roads for natural resource management and monitoring	Specifications and MoU agreed on with UWA and USAID	✓	✓			MoU document prepared, comments sought from USAID.	60	Awaiting USAID approval of draft MoU; Specifications included in bidding document	✓
	Work with UWA to develop bidding document, Seek approval from USAID		✓			Bidding document prepared, comments sought from USAID and approval received in March 2015	100	Adverts to be placed in New Vision, Daily Monitor, The East African and Observer newspapers in April	
Model II: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation									
Print and disseminate educational and informational materials produced under the Tourism for Biodiversity program in support of conservation education and awareness.	Create awareness of protected areas and their attractions and biodiversity importance.	✓	✓			Printed books received in January 2015. 4,700 books so far distributed to UWA (Headquarters and Parks), UWEC, Mbarara university, Makerere University, Uganda scouts Association	95	Balance to be distributed in the next quarter to various schools and educational institutions neighboring program sites	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Mobilize communities (youth from colleges and universities, schools and general public) around LMNP and Mbarara Municipality to conserve River Rwizi basin a source of lake Mbuoro waters used by wildlife and ranchers	Mobilize the public through different platforms to carry out conservation projects in the lake/river basin	✓	✓			Met with possible partners, including Mbarara University Guild, Nile Breweries, Coca Cola and Radio West. Spearheaded the NTV story on challenges facing River Rwizi. Also organized visit to Lake Mbuoro NP and trail re-opening activity for Mbarara University students	80	High interest generated among the Mbarara University students to implement conservation projects around the River Rwizi/Lake Mbuoro ecosystem. They have committed to plant one million trees.	✓
Lake Mbuoro National Park awareness campaign – “for Uganda to thrive, wildlife must survive”	Design messages intended to educate and mobilize the public to be friends of the park and lobby both national and local government and the judiciary to formulate and implement responsible conservation policies.	✓	✓			Commitment from Radio West to be part of the campaign received Mbarara University students visited Lake Mbuoro NP and participated in park activities with UWA support	50	Commitment from university, Radio West and LMNP to support program activities.	✓
Equip LMNP community education center to rejuvenate UWA conservation education programs.	Procure and install: 1 computer, 1 flip chart stand, 1 white board, 1 projector and projector screen to support community education and awareness activities for LMNP community education center	✓	✓			Specifications developed and agreed upon with UWA.	40	Procurement to be completed in the next quarter	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation Awareness-building Conservation Gender Specialist Working Group Advocacy and Mentoring Mentoring Program	Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation through a mentoring program	✓	✓			Program explored partnership with the five senior women leaders and their organizations regarding the mentoring program and initiated this with Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT). CSWCT has secured for one of the trainees an exchange scholarship at Disney World, USA. Program is working with UWEC to support education programs around target parks.	60	Action plan for mentors developed.	✓
Model III: Conservation Enterprise Development									
Support the communities around MFNP and KVNP to increase red chili production for increased household income and problem animal control	Identify and develop MoU with chili producers and businesses who will provide technical expertise to scouts and farmers	✓				Identified North East Chili Producers' Association for technical expertise as well as marketing of chili for the groups in KVNP and MFNP.	100	MoU developed and signed with the association and training of farmers started with KVNP groups	
	Engage farmers and community groups in chili growing for human wildlife mitigation and improved livelihoods in Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties (KVNP)	✓	✓			The two nurseries set up last quarter have been maintained and seedlings ready for transplanting (working with two groups of 21 people)	70	Farmers attitudes a challenges as they need constant follow up to work	✓
	Work with UWA to engage farmers and wildlife scouts in Koch Goma MFNP in the growing of chili for human wildlife conflict mitigation and income generation	✓	✓			Training for nursery set up undertaken in January. Though only two groups were planned for, due to farmers enthusiasm, 10 groups of 235 individuals were trained and 10 nurseries have been set up in 10 parishes	80	A lot of enthusiasm in this area. Most seedlings ready for transplanting	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Support CFM groups of Budongo and Kalinzu to increase honey production in order increase their household income	Support selected bee keeping farmers/groups neighboring Kalinzu CFR to improve honey production through training and equipment provision	✓	✓			Three community groups: Swazi Banyanjuki, Swazi Bataka and Rwenyamihondo groups, with a total membership of 75 people (30% females), selected and trained. Umbrella group formed, <i>Kyamuhunga Banyanjuki Turihamwe</i> , for ease of mobilization and support. An initial set of 200 modern bee hives (KTB) were procured for distribution in addition to an assortment of honey harvesting equipment that includes Full honey harvesting suit (10 pieces), Bee harvesting gloves (10 pairs), Gum boots (10 pairs), Bee brush (10 pieces), Smokers (10 pieces), Re-sealable 20 liter buckets (20 pieces) and Beekeeping Guide Books (10 pieces).	75	The hives and equipment distribution as well as follow-up training will continue throughout the quarter.	✓
	Link local communities honey production groups neighboring Kalinzu CFR to private sector partners for marketing and value addition		✓	✓		Malaika Honey a private honey production and exporting company has been identified and linked to the community groups from start of project.	75	The identified groups are in the process of negotiating and signing a partnership agreement with Malaika Honey	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Support farmers around Lake Mburu National Park to improve productivity of their economic activities	Support selected bee keeping farmers/groups neighboring Budongo CFR to improve honey production through training and equipment provision		✓			Initial group selection and training commenced targeting 101 beneficiaries (32 females) and initial set of equipment have been procured including 200 modern – Kenyan Top Bar –beehives, most preferred for their quicker colonization and easy handling by farmers. Harvesting gear including Full honey harvesting suit (10 pieces), Bee harvesting gloves (10 pairs), Gum boots (10 pairs), Hive tools (10 pieces), Bee brush (10 pieces), Smokers (10 pieces), Re-sealable 20 liter buckets (20 pieces) and Beekeeping Guide books (10 pieces) have been procured.	60	The hives and equipment distribution as well as follow-up training will continue throughout the quarter.	✓
	Engage the district and sub county administrations and the private sector to provide extension services to improve livestock enterprises and productivity to the communities around LMNP Provide support vet services and de-silting of dams		✓			Through farmer planning meetings, the community needs have been identified and the two priority areas are protecting their gardens from damage by wildlife and provision of water for livestock and domestic use during the dry season. Working with the Kiruhura district veterinary and water office, a plan is being developed of working with the farmers to fence some gardens and rehabilitate communally used water points in Rurambira parish.	20	A cost-sharing model is planned for these interventions	✓
Organize refresher and new training for wildlife scouts in MFNP and KVNP	Refresher training for MFNP undertaken; scouts for KVNP selected and first training conducted		✓			List of equipment for use by scouts agreed on. Procurement process initiated	20	Training postponed to next quarter to provide time for preparing nurseries for chili.	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Model IV: Management of wildlife outside protected areas									
Work with the local government in Kaabong district to approve the implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan	Work with the sub county and district local government in Kaabong district to approve implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan	✓	✓			Presentation of land use plan made to a cross section of stakeholders in February. Issue of boundary of the Karenga Community Wildlife Area ² was raised with the President's office.	55	This has stalled the processes because of president's office involvement. We are working with UWA and district officials to develop new strategies.	✓
Support establishment of a 30km ² conservancy on ranches neighboring LMNP	Conservancy planning activities undertaken	✓	✓			Draft constitution developed by selected subcommittee. Planning committee reviewed draft constitution and recommended presentation to general community for final discussion and approval	50	Approval will be sought next quarter	✓
	Support cultural activities of the Ankole Cow Cultural Conservation Association (ACCA) that enhance community appreciation of biodiversity and conservation activities of LMNP	✓	✓			Discussions were held on priority activities that the Program would support. ACCA with the support of FFI are developing a strategy that would include support to conservancy development.	25	Program will support activities that will reduce human wildlife conflict e.g., improving water points (water dams), provision of drugs and vaccinations	✓
Build capacity of UWA and communities to develop conservancies in Uganda	Organize and undertake study tour to Kenya for selected UWA and community members	✓				Study tour comprising of 7 community members and 5 UWA staff from LMNP, KVNP and Headquarters toured Amboseli, OI Lentile and OI Pejeta conservancies. Lessons learned continue to be disseminated to the communities and with UWA	100		✓

² Communities want the area reduced. President desires the area to remain as gazette but stopped short of making the declaration. He promised to return and give his declaration soon but to date has not.

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (March 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Support UWA to develop guidelines for management of community wildlife areas (conservancy)	Support UWA to develop guidelines for management of community wildlife areas (conservancy)	✓	✓			Initial discussions with UWA and AWF Director for land conservation on process and programming for development of guidelines held during his visit to Uganda	30	Agreement reached between UWA, AWF and MTWA on development of the guidelines	✓

1 Preamble

This report covers the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program activities for the period January to March 2015. It covers the first full quarter for implementation of the redesigned program. The program has now gained momentum and several activities were implemented over this period. The activities fell into the four sustainable conservation models for UWA and NFA being piloted during the remaining program period (up to August 2016). The four models are: a) Model 1: Ecological Monitoring Capacity Development; b) Model 2: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation; c) Model 3: Conservation Enterprise Development; and d) Model 4: Management of Wildlife outside Protected Areas. The lessons and skills gained from this process are expected to be transferred and institutionalized in the two organizations.

The rest of the report is organized under the Models except for the first section labeled "General" which focuses on the general programmatic activities such as developing of work plans and PMP.

2 General activities

2.1 Development of 2014 - 2015 work plan

In the last quarter ending December 2014, the Program developed and submitted to the USAID Mission a work plan for the period October 2014 to August 2015 which was submitted for approval. After receipt of comments from the Mission, adjustments to the work plan were made and resubmitted for approval, which was received. Implementation then started in earnest, details of which are provided in the rest of this report.

2.2 Revision of the Performance Management Plan (PMP)

Based on the changes in the Program focus, the Program Performance Management Plan (PMP) has undergone revision to ensure it remains current and relevant. A new theory of change has been elaborated in line with the change in focus to non-tourism activities and this has seen changes in the program expected results, and outcomes. The program's new hypothesis is that by: 1) improving the capacity of conservation managers and institutions to effectively implement PA conservation and management strategies; 2) improving access to conservation information through addressing key conservation knowledge gaps and perceptions, and mobilizing political will; and 3) creating opportunities for communities to benefit from biodiversity conservation and other non-tourism wildlife friendly enterprises; will reduce critical threats to Uganda's biodiversity thereby ensuring its survival for generations.

The new expected results for the revised program are; 1) Capacity to effectively manage Uganda's biodiversity improved; 2) Appreciation of the value of Uganda's biodiversity improved; 3) Communities' and landowners' benefits from biodiversity conservation and non-tourism wildlife friendly activities increased.

The change of focus to non-tourism activities and the introduction of a new result area focusing on increasing awareness about Uganda's biodiversity necessitated introduction of new indicators to measure and capture program performance and progress. As a consequence, a total of 10 new indicators were introduced while 12 of the old indicators were dropped. Eight of the old indicators were retained and in some instances modified to ensure continued relevance in light of the new changes introduced in the program work plan. It was also realized that the Program lacked some of data regarding the baseline situation before start of implementation of the new Program activities. This necessitated an additional survey to collect data on those specific gaps to enable completion of the PMP. This was undertaken in February 2015 and a final report received in March 2015

The review of the PMP involved internal consultations within AWF as well as with key USAID staff (M&E and AOR) and the CLA contract. The Program Management Plan has now been finalized and submitted to the Mission for approval.

2.3 Program baseline survey

As a result of the changes to the program focus and implementation strategy, which saw an introduction of new indicators and result areas, a number of data gaps were realized in terms of program baseline information. For instance, the introduction of non-tourism enterprise development activities as a mechanism to increase benefit from biodiversity conservation for communities living in and around target protected areas, required that certain information be available to the program before implementation of such activities. The program anticipates, from a business perspective, that the anticipated community based non-tourism wildlife enterprises will increase benefits accruing to targeted communities from biodiversity conservation, and that this will in the long run reduce economic pressure to exploit natural resources and reduce threats to biodiversity. The program is interested in learning how much revenue such community-based non-tourism enterprises are potentially generating for communities and their households, in order to not only undertake proper planning to reap the best results, but also to measure progress during implementation and performance after implementation. In addition, it was important to establish household income levels and other livelihood variables of the targeted households selected to participate in the enterprises. This would enable the program measure its impact on both household incomes and improvement of livelihoods as a result of this intervention.

It is on this basis that the program commissioned a supplemental baseline survey to fill the baseline data gaps created by the new changes in the program strategy. An invitation for proposals to undertake the survey was sent out in January 2015, and a total of six proposals were received and evaluated by the program. Dr. Ivan Rwomushana's team was selected for the survey which was undertaken between February 9th and 20th. The survey report has been finalized and approved by the Program. Data from the report has been the basis for determination of the baseline figures and targets set in the revised PMP.

2.4 Preparation of the program learning plan

USAID recently introduced a learning initiative, Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA). This initiative is aimed at making organizations more effective. USAID encourages all implementing partners to develop learning plans to ensure that they learn from their implementation, especially about what works and what doesn't, and what needs to be done to ensure that results are maximized. During this quarter, the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program developed a Learning Plan - CLA guidelines.

Under the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity program, learning will involve taking a look at the underlying hypotheses governing the implementation of the program, the existing systems/methodologies and processes, with the aim of identifying key knowledge that is essential for effective programming and implementation. The program will examine whether this knowledge is available and sufficient to facilitate and inform implementation. Where this knowledge is lacking, the program will utilize various methods and tools to acquire the relevant information needed in order to build a credible evidence base of what works for conservation. This process hinges on active project management with constant assessment of activities, and builds on planning strategies that allow the program to adjust in response to new learning or contextual changes. In broad, the objectives of learning within the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program include the following;

1. To generate information that will inform and guide implementation
2. To generate lessons and best practices to guide future conservation programming
3. To provide opportunities for questioning and learning in order to maximize conservation results.

While issues to be further examined will be identified during the course of implementation, and based especially on feedback from implementation, the program has identified a number of critical knowledge that is deemed important for effective implementation. Some of the knowledge issues we shall be considering include the following:

- Does an increase in benefit from conservation for the communities living in and around the conservation areas translate into better attitude and hence reduced threats to biodiversity?

- Are the selected enterprises reducing human wildlife conflicts in the areas where they are implemented?
- What is the best way of engaging stakeholders in the process of conservancy development in order to secure maximum support and cooperation?
- Are communities fully engaged in the planned activities to ensure benefit and sustainability of program activities?
- Who are the key players in the production and marketing of chili and honey in Uganda and what role can they play in the successful implementation of program activities?

2.5 Re-Branding

Following the program change of name to USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program, AWF undertook a re-branding exercise. This affected especially office signage, cars stickers and document templates. Rebranding was completed in January with the printing and installation of new car stickers and signage at all offices.





2.6 Program meetings to discuss the revised PMP, set targets and review data collection tools

Several meetings have been held to discuss the program revised performance management plan, set targets for the new set of indicators selected in response to the new changes to the program implementation strategy as discussed above, and to review the program data collection tools to ensure that they are still relevant and appropriate to capture data in the context of the new program. A final set of tools has been distributed to the program staff and partners, and training given in their application and use. In addition, a final PMP draft has also been discussed internally and with USAID, especially indicators and their definitions, and submitted to USAID for approval.

3 Model I: Ecological Monitoring Capacity Development

3.1 Training of UWA and NFA staff in collection and analysis of ecological data

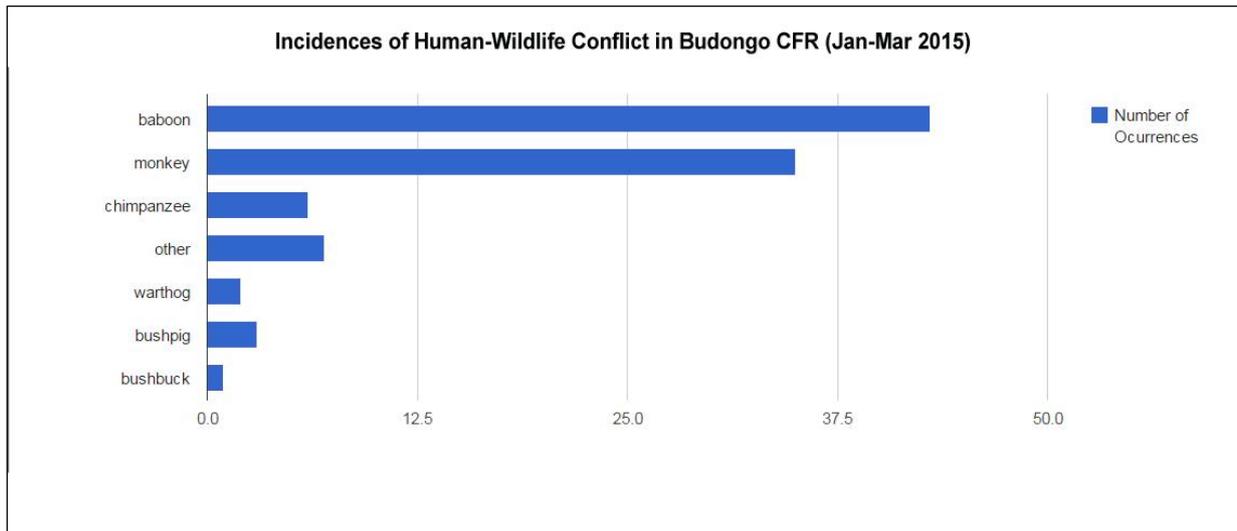
3.1.1 Complete training of NFA staff and selected community members in the use of Open Data Kit in collecting ecological and threat monitoring data

The Open Data Kit (ODK) training was completed through infield follow-up to see how the trainees were using the equipment and tools to collect data. This was done for all the 20 personnel from NFA and 3 CFM groups of Budongo Good Neighbors Conservation Association (BUNCA), Kapeeka Integrated Community Development Association (KICODA) and North Budongo Forest Community Association (NOBUFOCA) for Budongo CFR. It was observed that all those trained are now fully able to handle the data collection with minimal challenges.

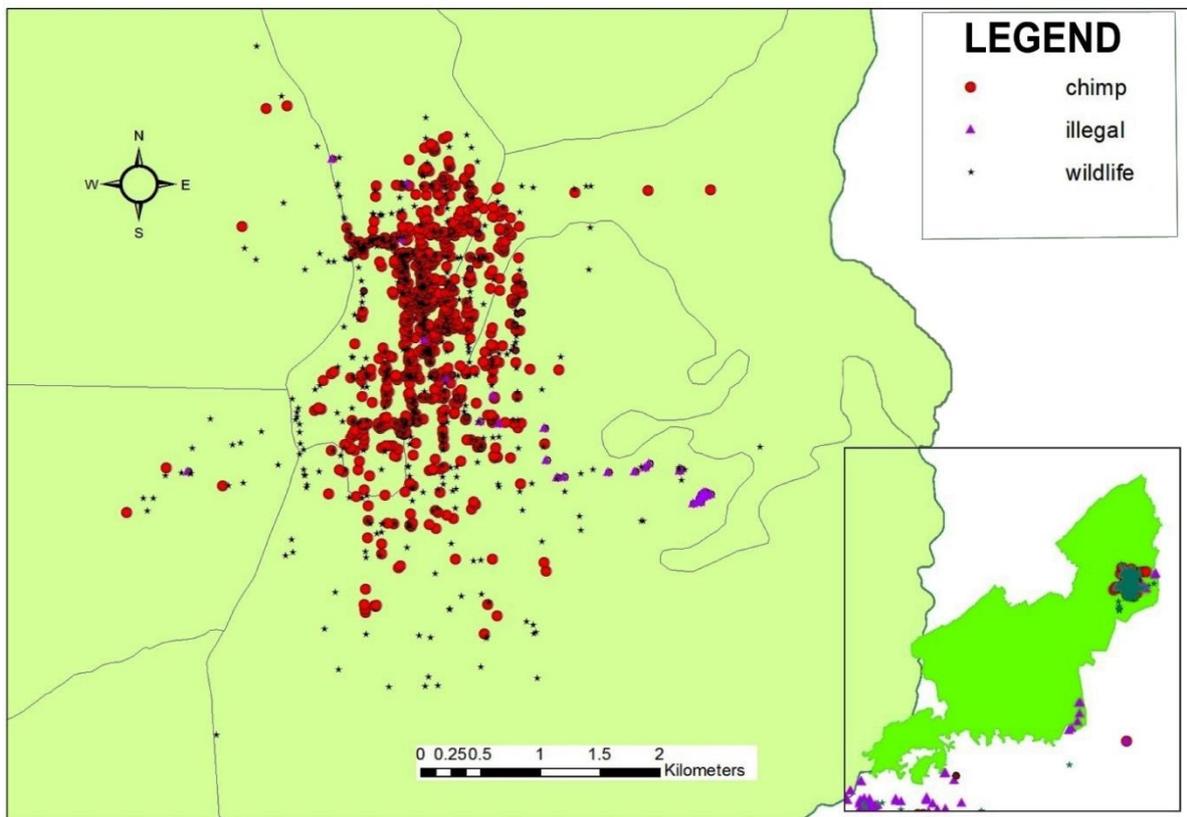


In Kalinzu CFR a total of 23 personnel from NFA and CFM groups having been trained in using mobile technologies (ODK) to collect ecological data were followed up during this quarter and found to be comfortable with the equipment and tools.

The NFA teams in Budongo and Kalinzu CFRs are currently using ODK as the primary data collection methodology/tool both in the forest to monitor illegalities and at Kaniyo Pabidi to monitor tourism.



WILDLIFE AND THREAT ENCOUNTERS AT KANIYO PABIDI TOURIST STATION



3.1.2 Training of UWA staff in ecological monitoring

The training originally scheduled for this quarter was postponed to mid-April and May 2015. This was necessitated due to UWA's desire to ensure all their staffs from all protected areas participate in the training. To this end, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP) were engaged and have agreed to co-sponsor the training. A total of 47 staff will participate in the five day training. AWF will

directly support 22 UWA staff for this training (MFNP, 7; KVNP 5; LMNP, 5; Headquarters 5). The first batch of training is scheduled for April 16 to 21, 2015 and will focus on the use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool) in the analysis of data collected during patrols (both routine and systematic). The training will also be used to improve the data collection tools used in the MIST (Management Information SysTem). The SMART system is an improvement of and will replace MIST that has been in use in UWA since 2000.

Relatedly plans are being finalized to undertake site specific training for UWA monitoring staff in the collection of data using Cyber Tracker, which then feed in SMART. This training is scheduled for next quarter.

Equipment for both collections and analysis and storage of data has also been ordered and will include 3 laptop computers (for data analysis) and 50 CAT B15Q phones (for data collection) to be distributed between the three sites.

3.2 Support UWA in the acquisition of ecological monitoring equipment

In the previous quarter, details (types, numbers specifications) of the equipment required by UWA for ecological monitoring were agreed on and procurement process initiated. However at the start of this quarter, on further consultation with all stakeholders involved in monitoring, UWA resolved to change the type of monitoring equipment. The Program had therefore to cancel the previous procurement process and start afresh. Three laptop computers for data storage and analysis as well as 50 the CAT B15Q phones are to be purchased. The equipment is expected to be delivered in next quarter.

3.3 Develop guidelines for chimpanzee conservation in Kalinzu CFR

There was a delay in developing the guidelines for chimpanzee conservation in Kalinzu due to some of the stakeholders (Japanese researchers) being away from the county. However on return, a draft of the guidelines has been produced and will be reviewed in the next quarter.

3.4 Complete establishment of monitoring trails in LMNP, KVNP, BCFR and KCFR

3.4.1 Monitoring trails in Kidepo Valley National Park

A review of the designs agreed on in the last quarter was undertaken by UWA and bidding documents developed and approved by the KVNP Procurement Committee. Request for bids have been sent out to seven of the pre-qualified contactors for similar works and bids are expected in April. Program staff will be involved in the evaluation and award of the contract to install signage, sheds and toilets along the 15 km trail.

3.4.2 Installation of 3 telescopes for monitoring along the trails in KVNP

The three locations for the installation of telescopes have been agreed on. They are Kakine Kopje near Kakine campsite, Nagusokopire Kopje near Nagusokopire campsite and a site at Apoka. The selection was based on the need to maximize the use of the telescopes for ecological monitoring.

On agreement between UWA and AWF on the sites for location of the telescopes, the design for the installation has been developed and agreed on. A technician is now being sought to undertake the installation and provide interpretative panels that will aid in monitoring of the wildlife species observed at each of the locations.

3.4.3 Monitoring trails in LMNP

Bids for the installation of monitoring trail infrastructure were received in January 2015 (call for bids in last quarter). A combined LMNP and AWF team undertook the evaluation and selected Cream General and Technical Services Ltd of Mbarara to undertake the installation. A contract has been negotiated and will be signed in the first week of April with this company to undertake the work, expected to start mid-April and completed in June 2015. The work will include the installation of a rest shed, benches and a toilet along the monitoring trail.

3.4.4 Installation of signage in LMNP

USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program has supported Uganda Wildlife Authority to install of direction and information signage in Lake Mburo National Park. One hundred and four highway and park directional signs were produced and installed as a way of increasing awareness about Lake Mburo Conservation Area. The signage which includes national park rules and regulations at all the four (4) park gates is key to provision of relevant park information to over 20,000 people that visit the park annually and reduce on abuses like littering, over speeding and driving off-track. Sign Care (U) Ltd was hired to produce and install the signage. Signage inside the park was installed cairns with concrete class of 20:20 (1:2:4) blend with the environment and for durability. All the sign posts were produced on high quality metal with reflective paint finishing that enable day and night visibility.



During the installation, it was observed that 'dish drains' and 'speed limits' were overestimated by UWA. The excess (13 for dish drains and 25 for speed limit) will be offered to KVNP for their use. One sign for interpretation center also remained uninstalled as the old center was demolished and a new one is yet to be built. Meanwhile 2 signs, one for Busega (KCCA) and another for Entebbe are awaiting UWA clearance with the responsible authorities before being erected.

3.4.5 Support NFA to install support infrastructure along the monitoring trails in Budongo CFR

The Procurement process for installation of trail infrastructure along the 57 km trail has concluded and local purchase order issued this quarter. The contractor is on the ground and has started work with the construction of outposts at Hanga and Busingiro. Work is expected to be concluded by end of quarter three.

3.4.6 Reopening the selected monitoring trails in Kalinzu CFR

The reopening of the monitoring trails in Kalinzu CFR commenced and is expected to lead to 23 km of trail available for regular ecological monitoring work. Communities neighboring the forest reserve have been engaged and 75% of the work has been completed by the end of the quarter.

3.5 Support UWA procure equipment for opening and maintenance of roads for natural resource management and monitoring

As indicated in the previous report, AWF worked with UWA to prepare a MoU which would govern the management of road equipment to be procured with USAID funding. In January 2015 when agreement on the MoU had been reached, the draft was submitted to USAID for approval. AWF is waiting for comments and/or approval of the draft MoU.

Meanwhile a draft bidding document jointly prepared by UWA and AWF was finalized and submitted to USAID for approval. After incorporating the comments from the Mission, the revised bidding document was re-submitted and approval received towards the end of March. Adverts are now being prepared for placement in New Vision, Daily Monitor, Observer and the East African newspapers. The Adverts will also be placed on the UWA, AWF, New Vision and Daily Monitor Newspapers websites.

An evaluation committee has been set up comprising of the following:

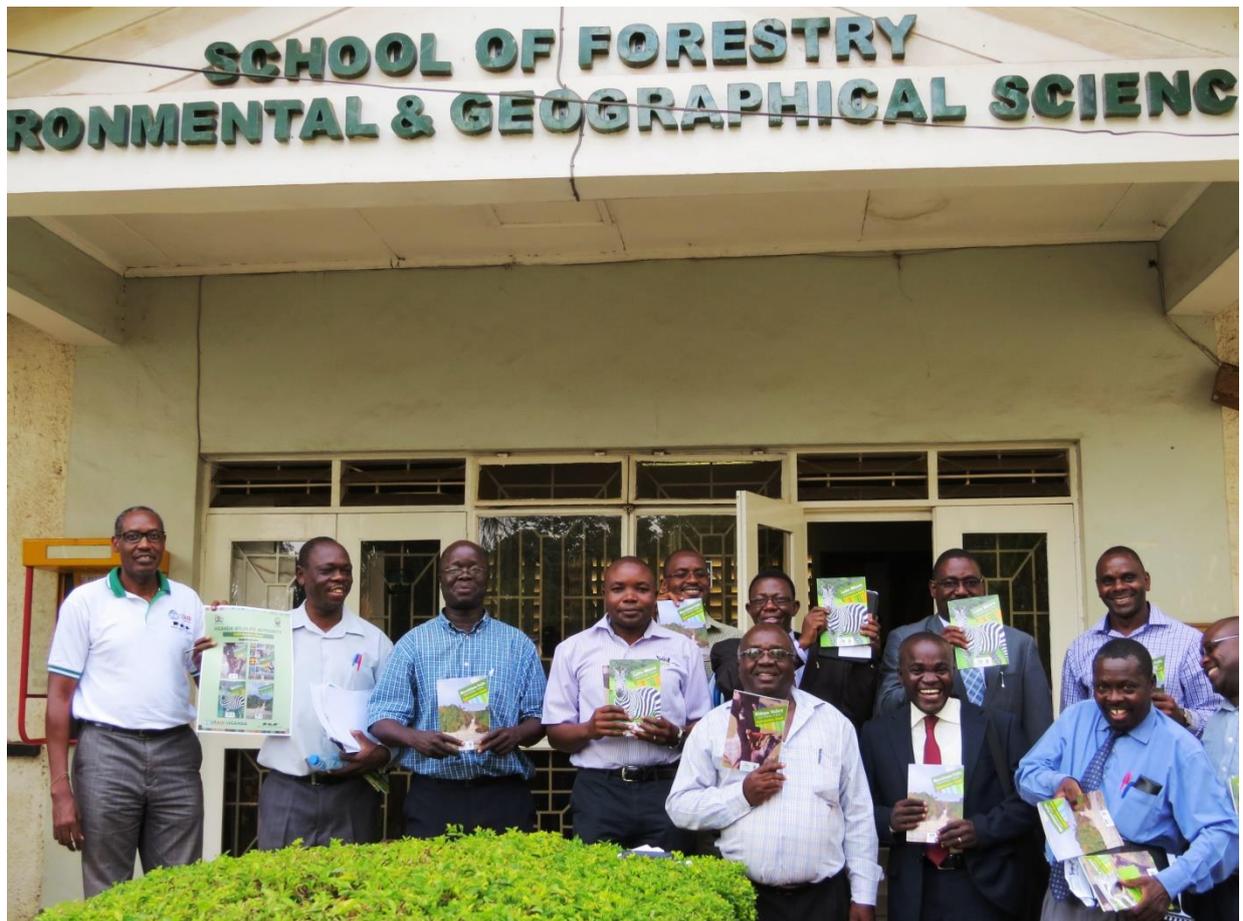
1. John Wachira, Manager Finance in charge of Procurement – AWF Headquarters
2. Charles Tumwesigye, Deputy Director Conservation, UWA
3. Milton Kasaija, Engineer, UWA
4. Sam Mwandha, Senior Program Officer, AWF Uganda

4 Model II: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation

4.1 Disseminate educational and informational materials in support of conservation education and awareness.

To successfully raise awareness, the program printed informational materials for LMNP, MFNP and KVNP. The full color and quality materials include informational/guide books for each park (LMNP 3150 copies, MFNP 1500 copies and KVNP 1500 copies) and a children's conservation book for LMNP (3000 copies) were delivered in January 2015. Over 2000 copies of books have been donated to students' libraries at Makerere University, School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences; Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre. Another 2700 have been handed over to UWA which has made them available in the three program sites and at the headquarters.

While receiving the books, Prof Mnason Tweheyo, the Dean of The School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences, Makerere University, said that this was the first time the school was receiving such important local conservation information which will help in strengthening knowledge of over 8,000 students trained by the school in environment, forestry, tourism and conservation management.



The Executive Director of Uganda Wildlife Education Center while receiving 1000 copies said that the materials would be handy in imparting conservation knowledge to almost 70,000 school children who visit the center annually. He added that the kids' book was a much needed resource for the young visitors. He also requested for more support to facilitate education programs the center is carrying out especially the kid's school camps and climate change debates.



In company of UWA Executive Director, 300 books were given to Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). They were received by the University Dean of Students who appreciated the timely partnership as the university was considering to include environment lessons for every course, saying that the university appreciates that environment and nature conservation are multi-disciplinary and cannot be limited to only environmentalists and forestry students.



During the distribution of the books several media houses captured the stories. Two links of such stories are provided below to illustrate the conservation information disseminated during this process. The informational materials are now available in several libraries of key education institutions which provide support to conservation education and awareness.

<http://www.observer.ug/business/38-business/36517-usaid-gifts-tourism-with-information-guidebooks>

<https://wolfgangthome.wordpress.com/2015/03/26/new-guidebooks-for-ugandas-parks-help-promote-the-countrys-attractions/>

The rest of the books (about 4,400 copies) will be distributed to secondary and primary schools around the program target protected areas in the next quarter to provide useful information about the parks and create awareness of their attractions and biodiversity importance to over 20,000 people.

4.2 Mobilize communities (youth from colleges and universities, schools and general public) around LMNP and Mbarara Municipality to conserve River Rwizi basin a source of Lake Mburo waters used by wildlife and ranchers

4.2.1 Awareness raising in partnership with NTV

NTV Uganda, a private television station with a viewership of over 5 million Ugandans, in partnership with UWA, the Mbarara District local government, and AWF, recently ran a feature on River Rwizi ecosystem in its weekly news program segment “**Nature Files**” (Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok7uTIuDiwk>). This was a great boost in raising awareness about the challenges of the ecosystem.



4.2.2 Participation in the Rwizi Regional Catchment Management Committee

USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program has also been invited by GiZ and Coca-Cola to partner and participate in developing sustainable strategies for the Rwizi ecosystem in partnership with the Rwizi Regional Catchment Management Committee. The program is already exploring support and facilitation to Mbarara district natural resource office in disseminating district environmental guidelines in the sub-counties of Bugamba and Ndejja where there is high level of degradation of the Kashasha-Kibingo swamp which is the largest pouring into Rwizi River.

4.2.3 Participation in World Wildlife Day 2015

In December 2013, at its 68th General Assembly, the United Nations proclaimed 3rd March every year, the day of the adoption of the Convention of international trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as the World Wildlife Day. USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program was invited by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to

partner with the industry stakeholders and join the rest of the world to celebrate World Wildlife Day under the theme ***“Wildlife Crime is serious; let’s get serious about wildlife crime”*** .

On February 10th Program attended the first meeting that was arranged by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to prepare for World Wildlife Day 2015. The preparatory meeting appointed AWF to the steering committee that was responsible for putting together the event’s program, budget and entire organization. The steering committee that was chaired by the Commissioner for Wildlife Mr. James Lutalo had representatives from IUCN, UWA, Uganda Wildlife Society and UWEC.

On March 2nd the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities franked by Executive Directors of UWA, UWEC and the Ministry’s Permanent Secretary addressed the media at press conference at the Independence Monument which was attended by over 30 journalists from different media houses. The Minister stressed government’s position on wildlife crimes highlighting the new stringent measures proposed in the Wildlife Act under review. After the press conference, the minister flagged-off a march through Kampala to the Uganda Museum which was attended by over 200 members of the public. The day’s program was concluded with a Public Lecture at Uganda Museum where UWA presented a paper on wildlife crime-Uganda’s progress that was later discussed by the participants.

On March 3rd, a Public event was organized at Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC), Entebbe to exhibit wildlife that has been victim of wildlife crime. The event was attended by over 300 people; including students from schools that partner with Uganda Wildlife Education Centre who performed conservation drama skits. USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program was an active participant in partnership with other stakeholders to raise awareness on wildlife crimes, challenges and benefits of wildlife conservation.

4.3 Implement Lake Mbuoro National Park awareness campaign – “for Uganda to thrive, wildlife must survive” – Wildlife in Modern Africa.

4.3.1 Engaging the students of Mbarara University of Science and Technology in the Lake Mbuoro National Park Campaign

The program has gained ground in mobilizing the public to carry out conservation projects to ensure conservation of Lake Mbuoro and the Rwizi river basin. The program has partnered with Mbarara University of Science and Technology (with over four thousand students) as part of the campaign to save the Rwizi ecosystem. Together with UWA, the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program hosted 200 students from the Mbarara University Students’ Guild in Lake Mbuoro National Park on March 6th and 7th .

The students volunteered and were involved in maintenance of two monitoring trails near Lakeside and Rubanga Forest, and learning the importance of the park in relation to river Rwizi and its role as a water catchment system for the region. In addition to the existing nature Uganda club, the university committed to establish a Wildlife club under the Guild office to keep educating students about the importance of wildlife and biodiversity. With support from National Forestry Authority (NFA) and AWF/USAID, the students committed to plant a million trees in effort to restore the degraded parts of the river Rwizi catchment basin.

4.4 Equip LMNP community education center to rejuvenate UWA conservation education programs.

USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program is exploring possible partnership such as Coca cola, and UWEC, with various stakeholders to raise support for the LMNP Conservation Education Center (CEC). Already Coca Cola has expressed interest in a potential partnership to renovate the infrastructure at the center. UWEC too has indicated its desire to support the review and development of educational materials for school groups and communities who visit the center. As planned the Program will procure equipment to be used in conservation education at the CEC. It is planned that these are procured when progress on the partnerships mentioned here are clearer to avoid duplication and make targeted procurement.

4.5 Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation

As a follow up on the previous work with women involved in conservation, the Program continued to work with the five women to implement the action plan that was developed which mainly focuses on mentoring young women (fresh graduates and students on internships). Ms. Lilly Ajarova, (Executive Director, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary), one of the women leaders, has been mentoring Dorothy Basemera (a student) and through this program, Dorothy has a placement at the Disney Cultural Exchange Programme in Florida, USA. Dorothy left for Disney in March 2015 and will be gaining hands-on experiential training for three months before she returns to Uganda and continues her mentorship at the chimpanzee sanctuary.

More young women are expected to be taken on for mentoring during their summer vacation (June – August). The women leaders are already working on selection of potential candidates for the mentorship.

5 Model III: Conservation Enterprise Development

5.1 Support the communities around MFNP and KVNP to increase red chili production for increased household income and problem animal control

5.1.1 *Chili growing activities in areas neighboring MFNP*



In an effort to involve communities in solving the human-wildlife conflict (HWC) around Murchison Falls National park (MFNP), the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program, in partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is supporting conservation enterprises for communities living near protected areas.



It is expected that as the HWCs are addressed, the communities will be more receptive to the calls to protect wildlife. To this end AWF is promoting and building capacity for chili pepper growing and marketing in ten parishes around MFNP under the Community Wildlife Scouts (CWS) program. Crop raiding by elephants and primates is the major cause of human-wildlife conflict due to increasing human population, and the growing numbers of settlements and crop farms close to the protected area.



AWF together with North East Chili Producers' Association headed by Helen Acham organized a theoretical and practical training in chili growing in Murchison Falls program site for wildlife scouts north of MFNP and UWA MFCA staff which was intended to build capacity of UWA and communities in chili nursery establishment and management. Four (4) UWA staff and sixty (60) community wildlife scouts (9 women, 51 men) from 10 parishes neighboring MFNP were trained in chili nursery management and agronomy. A demonstration nursery was established for the African bird eye chili in Kal B village, Kal Parish Koch Goma sub county and the rest of the 9 parishes were given seeds for establishment of nurseries in their parishes after having acquired the knowledge.



The Program has continued to follow up the nursery establishment activities and has seen good results. To date 10 nurseries have been established and most are in excellent condition with over 130,000 seedlings raised and will be ready for transplanting in April. The table below summarizes the parishes, number of households involved and seedlings raised as at the end of March 2015.

Location of nurseries and seedlings raised as a Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation measure in MFNP

Parish Targeted	Households targeted	Total Population reached	Total Seedlings in Nursery	Total Hectare to be planted
Diima	20	100	28,050	2.6
Juma	10	51	2,760	0.3
Lii	28	140	12,464	1.2
Kal	21	107	12,600	1.2
Ywaya	22	110	18,816	1.8
Pabali	15	75	23,226	2.2
Todora	30	150	18,900	1.8
Pabit	15	74	5,980	0.6
Latoro II	40	196	4,717	0.4
Latoro I	34	167	7,770	0.7
TOTALS	235	1,169	135,283	13



The Program also observed during the follow up activities that the communities have various innovations they have invented to address the HWC. One such innovation was the use of the locally made problem animal control (PAC) banger which, uses a combination of chili dust and match stick heads, to produce a loud bang similar to a gunshot and pungent smell that scare away elephants and other wildlife. The inexpensive PAC banger was developed by local artisans in partnership with UWA.

5.1.2 Chili growing activities in areas neighboring KVNP

Following the training of farmers' associations in Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties in the KVNP area, in chili nursery establishment and management in the last quarter, four chili nurseries were established. There were in the parishes of Opotpot, Loyoro Napore and Lokori in Karenga sub county and Kakwanga in Lobalangit sub county. Although the seedlings did germinate well, a lot of effort was required to follow up and ensure success of the chili growing activities. This was especially so in Opotpot and Lokori parishes that it was observed it was not cost effective to continue with activities here. The farmers in these parishes were not able to adequately maintain their nurseries allowing domestic animals to damage the seedlings and failing to adequately water the rest leading to their wilting and drying up. Support to these two nurseries has therefore been suspended until they get better organized to warrant resumption of support.



However the nurseries at Kakwanga and Loyoro Napore are doing well and farmers here are more self-motivated. The table below provides a summary of the individuals and number of seedlings raised in the two nurseries.



Location of nurseries and seedlings raised as a Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation measure in KVNP

Parish Targeted	Households targeted	Total Population reached	Total Seedlings in Nursery	Total Hectare to be planted
Kakwanga	15	75	34,500	3.2
Loyoro Napore	6	30	42,328	3.9
Total	21	105	76,828	7.1

While 3.9 hectares of chili are expected to be planted in Loyoro Napore parish by the farmers, 3.2 hectares are expected to be planted in Kakwanga parish. Improved incomes for these farmers will hopefully trigger others to take up chili growing and increase its acceptance as an important HWC measure.

As part of the plan to ensure sustainability of the chili production activities and use as a HWC strategy, the Program, working with the North East Chili Producers Associations (NECPA, UWA and the sub county authorities of Karenga and Lobalangit have formed a joint team to regularly monitor and support the farmers in the nursery and on farm activities. The monitoring team will specifically do the following:

- Jointly monitor the progress of the chili nurseries among the farmer groups of Loyoro Napore parish and Kakwanga parish of Karenga and Lobalangit Sub Counties respectively;
- Jointly establish the challenges faced by the chili farmer groups;
- Identify potential chili farmers within the chili growing communities in the area and encourage them to join the activity;

- Come up with viable and sustainable solutions that address the challenges faced by the farmers while taking into considerations the lessons learnt.

Two joint monitoring activities have been undertaken so far. The monitoring team is also engaging the elders in the two sub counties to support the sensitization efforts on the benefits of participating in the chili growing for both income generation and HWC mitigation.



Joint monitoring team at the Kakwanga nursery site in March 2015

The USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program has continually worked with UWA in support of the aforementioned communities through provision of seeds and other agro inputs, supporting the provision of extension services, market and related information, as well as identifying and linking the farmers to appropriate processing and marketing partners.

5.2 Support CFM groups of Budongo and Kalinzu to increase honey production in order increase their household income

5.2.1 Support to groups neighboring Budongo CFR to increase honey production for household income improvement

Due to the many groups that desired to participate in the training and management of bees for honey production, it was necessary to select a number that was manageable (supervision, training, provision of other support) given the resources available. Initial group selection and training commenced targeting 101 beneficiaries (32 females) and initial set of equipment have been procured including 200 modern Kenyan Top Bar (KTB) beehives, most preferred for their quicker colonization and easy handling by farmers. Originally the Program had planned to provide more of the higher yielding Langstroth beehives and fewer KTBs, the farmers

preferred and insisted on having the KTB hives which they are more conversant with and so these have been supplied.

In addition, an assortment of harvesting gear including full honey harvesting suit (10 pieces), bee harvesting gloves (10 pairs), gum boots (10 pairs), hive tools (10 pieces), bee brush (10 pieces), smokers (10 pieces), re-sealable 20 liter buckets (20 pieces) and beekeeping guide books (10 pieces) have been procured. The hives and equipment distribution as well as follow-up training will continue throughout the quarter.



Relatedly Malaika Honey, a private honey production and exporting company, has been identified and linked to the community groups from start of project. The identified groups are in the process of negotiating and signing a partnership agreement with Malaika Honey. The company is involved in the training of the bee keepers in the best methods in apiary for the best results.

5.2.2 Support to groups neighboring Kalinzu CFR to increase honey production for household income improvement

As is the case for Budongo CFR groups, Community group were identified and received initial training in villages neighboring Kalinzu CFR. The community groups are Swazi Banyanjuki,

Swazi Bataka and Rwenyamihondo with a total membership of 75 people (30% females). The three have formed an umbrella group for ease of mobilization, information sharing, training, marketing among others. The umbrella group has been named Kyamuhunga Banyanjuki Turihamwe literary meaning Kyamuhunga apiary members are together.

An initial set of 200 modern bee hives (KTB) were procured for distribution in addition to an assortment of honey harvesting equipment that includes Full honey harvesting suit (10 pieces), Bee harvesting gloves (10 pairs), Gum boots (10 pairs), Bee brush (10 pieces), Smokers (10 pieces), Re-sealable 20 liter buckets (20 pieces) and Beekeeping Guide Books (10 pieces). The hives and equipment distribution as well as follow-up training will continue throughout the next quarter.

As is the case of Budongo, Malaika Honey, a private honey production and exporting company, has been identified and linked to the community groups from start of project. The identified groups are in the process of negotiating and signing a partnership agreement with the company. The company is involved in the training of the bee keepers in the best methods in apiary for the best results.

5.3 Support farmers around Lake Mburo National Park to improve productivity of their economic activities

5.3.1 Engage the district and sub county administrations and the private sector to provide extension services to improve livestock enterprises and productivity to the communities around LMNP

Following the re-mobilization of the communities of Rurambira parish, neighboring LMNP at the resumption of Program activities, a community meeting was held to identify key challenges that the program should support to address the human wildlife conflicts there.

The meeting listed the following issues (in order of their priority) that need to be addressed to reduce the human wildlife conflicts in the area:

1. Crop damage by wildlife especially the bush pigs and zebra and therefore the need for support with longer lasting and effective fences to reduce the crop damage
2. Scarcity of water for livestock during drought periods, exacerbated by damage to watering points by wildlife, especially the zebra. There is need for de-silting community dams and protecting them from wildlife while providing water access points for them too
3. Transmission of diseases from wildlife to livestock with East Coast Fever and Foot and Mouth diseases, the major complaints. It was noted that East Coast fever needs one vaccine for life while foot and mouth requires vaccination twice a year.
4. Predation of livestock by wildlife especially the hyenas and leopards

The Program in consultation with UWA, the District Veterinary Officer (DVO) and the District Water Officer (DWO) is now working on developing a program for implementation that will address the first three challenges. It is expected that implementation will start in the next quarter.

5.4 Organize refresher and new training for wildlife scouts in MFNP and KVNP

The training of the scouts was postponed to the next quarter (April – June) to concentrate on the raising of chili seedlings to be ready for planting during the rains.

6 Model IV: Management of wildlife outside protected areas

6.1 Work with the local government in Kaabong district to approve the implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan

A consultative meeting was organized for key stakeholders for the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan. This meeting was organized by KVCA management and Karenga Sub county Local Government and supported by AWF with the objective of discussing with stakeholders AWF's work in the area and present the land use plan for Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties to key stakeholders from Napore County (Karenga, Lobalangit, Kawalakol and Kapedo sub counties) and also to address challenges affecting service delivery in the county near KVNP.

6.2 Support establishment of a conservancy on ranches neighboring LMNP

6.2.1 Conservancy planning activities

In the last quarter a constitution drafting committee of 5 members was selected from within the Conservancy planning committee. After a number of meetings, the committee developed a draft constitution that was further reviewed by the planning committee. The constitution is a tool intended to guide the landowners who are planning to put their land together for ease of management of the natural resources thereon including wildlife. The area in question is Rurambira parish to the east of Lake Mburo National Park with over 180 land owners.



The planning committee is composed of community representatives from ranches 45-50 that form the interim executive and the ex-officials from other stakeholders interested in conservancy development around Lake Mburo National Park (LMNP). The stakeholders are AWF, UWA, lodge owners, sport hunting company, Local Government and Nshaara Government ranch.

Now that the Planning committee has finalized the review and referred to the general community, the Program, working with the committee will organize a general community meeting for Rurambira parish to present the draft constitution for approval. Those who approve and sign on the constitution will then be the ranchers who will form the conservancy but leave the door open for others who may be interested to join along the way.

6.2.2 Support cultural activities that enhance community appreciation of biodiversity

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ankole Cow Cultural Association (ACCA), discussions were held on priority activities that the Program could support. ACCA with the support from UWA and Flora and Fauna International is developing a proposal for improving cattle and wildlife water points (water dams) and provision of veterinary drugs for the cattle herd. In return ACCA will participate and spearhead community

sensitization on the benefits of conservancies, with its members within Rurambira parish signing onto to the conservancy concept.



6.3 Organize a study tour for UWA and communities to build capacity of UWA and communities to develop conservancies in Uganda

The Program organized a study tour in January 2015 to AWF Kenya Programs sites to learn from both private and community conservancy programs being implemented in the various parts of Kenya. The team visited AWF headquarters and Kilimanjaro and Samburu AWF landscape offices. The conservancies visited included Satao Elerai, Oltiyani, Kilitome, Ol Pejeta Conservancy and the Ol Lentile. The visit also included the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, the umbrella organization that represents and regulates private and community conservancies in Kenya and Kenya Wildlife Services.



The participants included 3 community members (2M, 1F) from ranches neighboring LMNP, 4 community members (2M, 2F) from Karenga and Lobangit sub counties neighboring KVNP and 5 UWA staff (2 LMNP, 2 KVNP and 1 headquarters) participated in the trip. During the wrap up meeting at AWF, it was agreed each team will present their observations and impressions from the study tour to their constituencies and use the opportunity to agree on the next steps. It was also agreed that the AWF Director Land Conservation would visit Uganda in March to collect data to use in making an economic case for conservancy development in the ranches neighboring LMNP as well as discuss with UWA and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.



Key lessons learnt during the study tour included:

- Conservancy development needs a third trusted party (not only wildlife agency and communities)
- Immediate benefits are often not possible and therefore there is need for support from donors especially to enable the communities meet their day to day requirements during the initial stages of setting up of the conservancy
- Conservancies MUST make economic sense to the communities for them to support their set up
- Conservancy development often takes long to yield tangible benefits and therefore requires the patience of all parties.
- Only integration of various activities in the conservancy can ensure full benefit
- Benefits to go directly to the communities rather than government to ensure accountability and avoid misunderstandings
- Wildlife must positively contribute to the economy of the community for them to support its conservation
- The cultural aspects of the Ankole cow can greatly benefit the conservation efforts around Lake Mbuo

On return from the study tour, the participants in the two program sites of LMNP and KVNP organized community meetings to share their experiences with the meeting of the proposed Rurambira Conservancy Ranchers held on 12th March 2015 and in KVNP the meeting held on the 28th February 2015. The meetings created interest with some of the skeptical community members being worn over. Steps to move the process of conservancy development were agreed on in LMNP area while further consultations regarding the extent of the Karenga Community Wildlife Area boundaries were suggested. On the way forward, some of the activities agreed were:

- Need for the teams to sit, summarize their observations and present them to the wider community starting with the planning committees both in Mburo and Kidepo
- There is need to determine the economics of the current activities as well as when a conservancy is in place to show the advantages (if they exist) of starting a conservancy
- Around Kidepo, starting point should be in improving the productivity of the subsistence farming already going on
- Continuous sensitization of the communities at all levels about conservation must continue (all the time)
- Problem animal issues need to be addressed as part of the conservancy development through development of the wildlife scout concept among others
- GEF and AWF should meet to harmonize activities and pull in the same direction
- Consideration should be made to engage the government ranch in the early stages
- Director Land Conservation should travel to Uganda in last week of March to further discuss development of the conservancies there.

6.4 Initiate the process for development of guidelines for management of community wildlife areas (conservancies) for UWA.

As planned with the AWF Director Land Development, Dr. Alistair Pole visited Uganda in March. Apart from meeting the AWF Uganda staff, the Director was able to meet and interview nine ranchers, the District Veterinary Officer - Kiruhura, the Manager Nshaara government ranch and the Management of Lake Mburo National Park.



He also met with Senior officials of UWA, led by the Director Conservation, John Makombo. At the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, he met with the Ag. Commissioner, Wildlife conservation (Asst. Commissioner, Dr. Akankwasah Babirega) and the Principal Wildlife Officer, George Owoyesigire. Separate wrap up meetings were organized with the AWF Uganda Country Director/Chief of Party USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program, Kaddu Sebunya and the Director Conservation, UWA, John Makombo, and the Executive Director, Dr. Andrew Seguya.

Key observations made during the meetings include:

- The ranchers do not keep records of their expenditure and income and therefore are not able to determine whether they actually are making any profits on their investments on the cattle and goats they rear
- Based on the discussions held all ranchers interviewed have overstocked their ranches, often going for about 1 cow to 1.5 acres as opposed to the 1: 2.5 as advised by veterinary officials in this area. This has meant that any serious drought makes the life of the cattle vulnerable and causes losses to the ranchers.
- Key challenges mentioned by the ranchers during the interviews were transmission of diseases from wildlife to cattle and limited water for their herds during long dry periods. Other challenges include predators (especially hyenas and leopards) and crop damage especially from bush pigs.

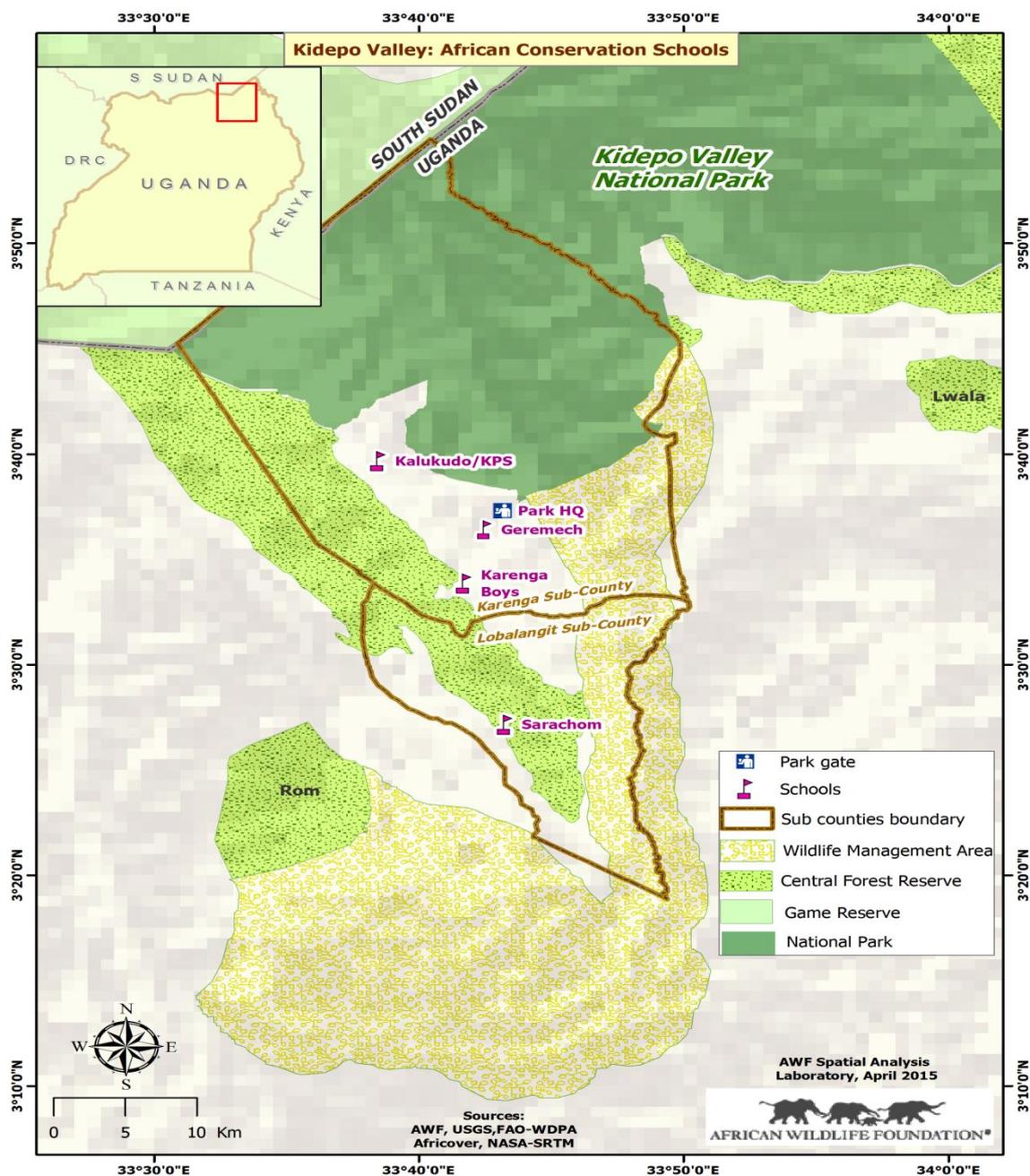
- There are generally poor yields of milk from the cross breeds that the ranchers seem to prefer. From figures provided, it seems milking more than 5 liters from one cow per day is considered a very high yield.
- East Coast Fever and Foot and Mouth disease are the key diseases attacking the cattle. Incidentally only one vaccination for East Coast fever for calves over three-months old cost of about USD 11 will protect the cow for life. While repeated vaccinations for FMD every six months at a cost of USD 2 will keep this disease away from the herd. Unfortunately the ranchers have not quite appreciated these facts and therefore have not invested in vaccinations leaving their herds to the mercy of these two diseases
- The ranchers have started organizing themselves into associations to enable them handle the sale of milk among others things
- After the approval of the Uganda Wildlife Policy in 2014 by cabinet, the Ministry and UWA embarked on reviewing the Uganda Wildlife Act. The process is still at drafting level (First Parliamentary Council).
- Before embarking on the review of the Uganda Wildlife Act, regulations for wildlife use rights were being developed and a final draft was ready for discussion and approval. A copy of this has been availed and this will be reviewed by AWF for comment. It was noted from the draft regulations that two additional wildlife use rights were created, leading to them being eight (probably in the draft Uganda Wildlife Bill).
- Almost of all wildlife use rights require a combination of others to be implemented to make them successful/profitable. For example one cannot just ranch wildlife but may need tourism, trade and/or hunting use rights to benefit from the ranching activity. This therefore calls for a need to review how the wildlife use rights will be managed to avoid long and bureaucratic processes that will hamper investment in wildlife management.
- Both the Ministry and UWA felt there was a need for support to develop conservancy development guidelines
- It was also agreed that for Uganda to succeed in getting the communities and private sector to participate directly in wildlife management, there must be a clear demonstration of its benefits, starting with have clear rights to the wildlife they manage.

The Director will use information and data gathered to undertake an economic analysis of the cattle ranching and the argument for conservancy development around LMNP as well as draft guidelines for conservancy development for Uganda.

7 Other activities

7.1 Due diligence for new AWF program in Conservation Primary Schools near Kidepo

The AWF Director for ACS therefore paid a visit to KVNP and visited several potential schools. Two schools have been identified for potential funding i.e. Kidepo Valley Primary School (Karenga Sub County) and Sarachom Primary School (Lobalangit Sub-county). It is expected that when the due diligence report is presented to the AWF Board next quarter, approval will be received to start supporting the improvement of these schools.



Given Kidepo’s history of civil war and violence, many of the current generation of families have clustered tightly around local village/community structures for safety and security. Willingness to travel far from the village has been limited, especially to wildlife areas (which are generally seen as less secure due to vast expanses of unsettled land). With that mentality, there are many families (and notably children) who have not ventured inside the KVNP, nor have seen much of the wildlife that AWF and USAID are seeking to protect. Children’s understanding of the local wildlife is through stories told by grandparents, or other elders.

Generally, the conditions of the public schools in the two sub-Counties where USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program works is characterized by local ministry officials as “poor”. The government schools in the area are often overcrowded, with student-teacher ratios in excess of 50 students per teacher. According to the draft USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program Land Use Plan, “There is a low level of literacy, with high school-drop-out rates in the two sub-Counties. For most families, the provision of food at school is the only reason their children attend school.



The school drop-outs end up taking care of live-stock or marry at an early age. School enrolment is high at the start of the term but class attendance drops below 50% in most primary schools. The low level of literacy has affected employment levels in the area. As an

example, Uganda Wildlife Authority has fewer locals than it should in its employee base with most only qualifying to serve in ranger force [low in the UWA command structure]. This continues to be an issue of contention between the communities and KVNP, yet qualified locals for the UWA jobs are few.



Many of the government-run primary schools also attract students from neighboring areas— notably South Sudan which further exacerbates the overcrowding issue. Some government primary schools, and many community schools run through Primary 5, forcing graduates to walk far distances to finish their primary education, board at a neighboring school, or drop out of the education system altogether.

Through an African Conservation School engagement, AWF seeks to build on the relationship with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and some of the work that has already started with local schools, by helping to bring the children to the wildlife, and improve their understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the wildlife that exists not too far outside the village borders.



To this end, AWF is making long term plans to work in this landscape and have input on conservation and people's livelihoods. AWF is therefore raising funds to start a conservation schools program in which AWF supports improvement of schools infrastructure and teachers' refresher training. This is geared towards ensuring the teachers and pupils appreciate conservation and are used as a link to the parents and communities therefore creating more support for conservation

8 Program Visitors

This quarter saw the visit of the AWF Vice President, Conservation Projects. He was on a management and supervisory program visit. He visited some of the field sites as well as held meeting with staff focusing on program impact evaluation and monitoring, and effective implementation of activity.



Others visitors were Brian McBrearity, AWF Director African Conservation Schools, (see section 7.1) and Alistair Pole, the AWF Director Land Conservation (see section 6.4).

9 Planned activities for April - June 2015

Model I: Ecological Monitoring Capacity Development

1. Training of UWA in collection and analysis of ecological data using SMART and Cyber tracker
2. Provide technical backstopping in data collection and analysis using ODK
3. Finalize acquisition of monitoring equipment for UWA to enhance monitoring
4. Complete establishment of monitoring trails in LMNP, KVNP, BCFR and KCFR.
5. Support UWA procure equipment for opening and maintenance of roads for natural resource management and monitoring

Model II: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation

1. Disseminate educational and informational materials in support of conservation education and awareness.
2. Mobilize communities (youth from colleges and universities, schools and general public) around LMNP and Mbarara Municipality to conserve River Rwizi basin a source of lake Mburo waters used by wildlife and ranchers

3. Implement the Lake Mburo National Park awareness campaign – “for Uganda to thrive, wildlife must survive”
4. Equip LMNP community education center to rejuvenate UWA conservation education programs.
5. Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation through the mentoring program

Model III: Conservation Enterprise Development

1. Support communities transplant chili into gardens and provide technical support in managing of the young chili for increased household income and problem animal control
2. Finalize setting up of 400 KTB beehives in Budongo and Kalinzu by CFM groups and provide technical support for increased honey production in order to increase their household income
3. Engage the district and sub county administrations and the private sector to provide extension services to improve water resources for wildlife and cattle, and productive livestock
4. Organize refresher and new training for wildlife scouts in MFNP and KVNP

Model IV: Management of wildlife outside protected areas

1. Work with the local government in Kaabong district to approve the implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan
2. Support processes to establish a conservancy on ranches neighboring LMNP (conservancy constitution and conservancy management plan)
3. Continue with the process for development of guidelines for management of community wildlife areas (conservancies) for UWA.