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USAID/UGANDA TOURISM FOR BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

Quarterly Report – January to March 2014

April 2014

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USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program

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Implementing Partners and the Technical Advisory Group

The following organizations comprise the USAID/Uganda Tourism for 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 habitat, 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 52 years of experience in conservation and enterprise development in Africa, AWF brings relevant and needed lessons learned to the USAID/Uganda Tourism for 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 Mountain Gorilla Park and the world-class Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge at Nkuringo outside of Bwindi. We have improved ecological monitoring and patrolling in the gorilla parks including support to the 2003 and 2011 gorilla censuses, and we have built capacity and supported alternative livelihoods projects in Uganda.

US Forest Service: Responsible for managing over 76 million hectares of national forests and grasslands, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is one of the largest land management agencies in the United States. The ultimate objective in managing these lands in the context of their different benefits and uses is to ensure sustainable healthy ecosystems for future generations via multiple-use policy. The Forest Service deals with a broad array of stakeholders, and must balance the need for resource use with competing interests including extraction, biodiversity protection, and local subsistence resource use, among others.

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.

Uganda Community Tourism Association (UCOTA): UCOTA exists to empower poor communities to improve their lives through community-based tourism products

(accommodation, guiding, crafts and cultural performances). It spearheads community-based tourism development in Uganda in an attempt to ensure that the benefits of tourism stay as much as possible with local communities. UCOTA supports its members through capacity building and marketing of community tourism products.

NatureUganda (NU): NU's mission is "*Promoting the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of nature*". In pursuit of this mission, NU strives to create a nature-friendly public, enhance knowledge of Uganda's natural history, advocate for policies favorable to the environment, and take action to conserve priority species, sites and habitats for the benefit of people.

USAID/Uganda Tourism for 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).

Uganda Tourism Board (UTB): For over 15 years the Uganda Tourism Board has served the country in ensuring the success and growth of tourism in Uganda. This has been in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. UTB is responsible for marketing and promoting the Pearl of Africa, highlighting the true nature, culture, wildlife, accommodation and hospitality packed into a country that is "Gifted by Nature". In furtherance of its mandate to develop Uganda as a tourist destination, UTB is committed to the inspection of all tourist services and facilities in order to ensure conformity with international standards. The continued effort of the board, in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism and various private sector stakeholders, directly contributes to the overall development of the tourism sector on both a national and international scale.

Acronyms

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
AMPROC	American Procurement Company
CBO	Community Based Organization
CPT	Core Planning Team
GLS	Great Lakes Safaris
GMP	General Management Plans (UWA)
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
PMP	Performance Management Plan
MTWA	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
NFA	National Forest Authority (Uganda)
NU	NatureUganda
UCOTA	Uganda Community Tourism Association
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
UTB	Uganda Tourism Board
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

In preparing this report, the Program has been cognizant that it will be undergoing a period of revision and restructuring as per the communication received from the USAID Mission. In the absence of the new program structure, however, the report is based on the approved FY14 workplan.

Implementation of activities this quarter was limited to ongoing activities from Year I as the Program reviewed the Year II work plan, the marketing strategy, and the program performance management plan (PMP). This followed discussions between the USAID Mission and AWF regarding focus of implementation. The FY 14 Program work plan, budget, PMP, and marketing strategy were revised several times and were approved at the beginning of March 2014. Implementation started in earnest thereafter.

The PMP saw the introduction of new indicators and the modification of some old indicators in a bid to ensure that the PMP remains current and relevant to measure program performance and results. In addition, the program continued to work with the Uganda Wildlife Authority to improve ecological monitoring efforts and information dissemination to inform management and partner decision making.

Progress was registered with the development of the land use plan for Karenga and Lobalangit subcounties neighboring Kidepo Valley National Park. Drafting of the plan is progressing as scheduled and the draft plan was presented to various stakeholders in March 2014. The final draft is expected to be presented to the councils for approval in May 2014.

Regarding the communities bordering Lake Mburo National Park, an interim committee was selected by the ranchers to spearhead the development of a conservancy plan and constitution. Four weeks after the committee selection, the Program held a meeting to take the committee and co-opted members (from UWA, the district, sport hunting association, lodge representatives and the subcounty) through the conservancy plan development process. A schedule for implementation of the planning process was also drawn up.

Working with UCOTA, the Program also undertook a follow-up review of the community enterprises around LMNP that had been trained in the first year to determine the level of implementation of skills gained during the training. It was generally observed that while some have improved and are doing quite well, others have not yet reached adequate operating standards. This follow-up was also used to determine the challenges the enterprises are facing to help in determining any further support they may require.

The consultant tasked with developing information guidebooks for Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls and Kidepo Valley National Parks has finalized the guidebooks and submitted them for layout designing and printing, which will be done in the next quarter. The informational material developed and included in the guidebooks will be used by the tourism sector in raising awareness about the parks, developing specific education materials for conservation

messaging, as well as for domestic marketing purposes by UWA, the private sector and community enterprises.

With JGI, work on the biking trail in Budongo continued and the assembly of the bridges was initiated. Guides at Kaniyo Pabidi were trained in tourism impact monitoring using the open data kits and other field gear supplied by JGI.

Three all-weather telescopes were delivered from the US and, with the help of the USAID Mission, were cleared tax-free. They have been delivered to Kidepo Valley National Park and in the next quarter, together with USFS, the Program shall start installation at the sites. Interpretation information will be developed to enable a full and informed experience for visitors using the telescopes. In addition, 35 binoculars, to be shared between the three national park program sites, have also arrived in the country and await clearance.

Regarding Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve, the canopy walk feasibility study, conducted by JGI, was completed. Staff at Kalinzu were also trained by JGI in data collection using the open data kits and other field gear supplied.

The Program also received some guests at the program sites during the period. The AWF Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Patrick Begin and VP Program Design, Daudi Sumba visited Kidepo Valley National Park. USAID Mission AOR Ms. Rebecca Carter, together with a team of Gender Specialists from USAID DC, visited Budongo and Lake Mburo.

A summary of the progress of activities is provided in the table below

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
General									
Prepare October – December 2013 quarterly report		✓	✓			Report completed and shared with USAID Mission. Brief meeting was held with AOR to discuss the report and the activities for the next quarter	100		✓
Prepare Year II FY14 Work plan, review Performance Monitoring Plan and develop Marketing Strategy	Approved work plan, marketing plan and PMP	✓	✓			Revisions were made on the documents based on comments from the Mission before re-submission. A number of meetings were also organized by the Mission to discuss and agree on changes to be made. Approval of the work plan, PMP and Marketing Strategy received early March 2014.	100	Approval received and implementation ongoing	
Program work in Lake Mburo									
Tourism Product Development for LMNP	Plan, design and implement park-related tourism infrastructure (signage) along park roads; 145 new signage installed	✓	✓			145 signs based on UWA requirements and guidelines fabricated, delivered in LMNP, and ready for installation	85	Some delays by the fabricator due to delayed imported supplies were experienced.	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Plan, design and implement park-related tourism infrastructure (signage, interpretation) along tracks and trails: 8 km of trail;		✓			Trail infrastructure identified and designing starts next quarter	30	Absence of USFS has delayed trail signage and interpretation installation designing. Fabrication of signage and interpretation along trails is planned to be undertaken in the next quarter	✓
	Improve accommodation for domestic tourists inside the park		✓			Discussions on redesigning of buffalo tented camp and 2 camping sites in progress	10		✓
Develop a marketing plan, packages and promotional materials for the domestic market	Marketing plan approved & 4000 copies of Promotional materials produced	✓				Materials are no longer for marketing but information materials to be used for various use e.g. conservation education, guide training, and community enterprise/domestic tourism marketing. The materials are ready for printing starting in the next quarter.	80	Competitive procurement for the designer and printer is in advanced stage.	✓
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	Association of CTEs developed and operational	✓	✓			Lake Mbuho Community Tourism Association constitution discussed and approved by the member institutions	100	The association fill now focus on developing a Strategic Plan	✓
	Land suitable for wildlife management (conservancy) identified and land use plan	✓	✓			Mapping of ranches to determine area for conservancy undertaken	100	Interim leadership for the conservancy elected (committee of 9 – 7 men and 2 women)	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	developed		✓			Planning committee elected and planning meetings started	30	Planning committee composed of 9 ranchers, UWA, AWF, Local government officials and the Manager Nshara Government Ranch	✓
Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park									
Improving tourism connectivity between MFNP and KVNP	Northern Uganda circuit investment plan developed and disseminated	✓				No progress made this quarter as activity has been deferred to await the implementation of the just approved Marketing strategy	10	Implementation will depend on further detailed program restructuring discussions with USAID Mission.	✓
Develop tourism Mini-guide for Northern Uganda route to Kidepo	Tourism mini-guide for northern Uganda route to Kidepo used in marketing	✓				No progress made this quarter as activity has been deferred to await program restructuring.	10	Implementation will depend on further detailed program restructuring discussions with USAID Mission.	✓
Improving tourism in KVNP	5 km trail developed and signage in place	✓	✓			Work undertaken in identifying signage needs but will work with USFS to complete.	60		✓
	Procurement of binoculars and telescopes to improve tourism in Kidepo	✓	✓			35 Binoculars imported into country and awaiting clearance from Customs at Entebbe International Airport	80	Following up letter from Mission requesting waiver of taxes to URA	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Apoka village redevelopment	Work with UWA to prepare Apoka park village redevelopment plan as defined in the KVNP GMP	✓	✓			Report received from USFS. Work will concentrate on development of a tourism trail around the Apoka village. Infrastructure development will be funded and undertaken directly by UWA	40		✓
Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)	Approved Karenga Land use plan	✓	✓			The Core Planning team presented the draft land use plan to the communities of Karenga and Lobalangit as well as the district leadership for comment in March. Finalization of the plan is expected in next quarter.	90	Drafting of the land use plan is ongoing based on programs identified in the previous quarter and comments received during the presentation to stakeholders.	✓
Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve									
Improve tourism infrastructure	57 km of biking trail established	✓	✓			The trail is divided into three sections and two of these sections have bridges. The longest section (22 Kilometers) without the bridge is 100% complete. However, the other two sections are concluding assembling of two bridges over rivers Waisoke and Sonso. There was a two months delay in getting NFA to endorse the sourcing of timber for the bridge.	90	Interpretation work will be done with support from USFS and Trail launching and commissioning slated for later in the year. Radio communication procurement procedure is in advanced stages and once complete, will be installed on the trails and guides will be equipped with hand-held radios (5 per site).	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Chimp trail network at Kaniyo Pabidi extended	✓	✓			25 kilometers of trail extension and development is complete. Guidance for interpretative material was received from USFS.	90	Work planned in next quarter is to begin design and placement. More support from USFS is envisaged	✓
Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management	Train 20 guides in interpretation	✓	✓			Refresher training of 9 guides (3 female and 6 male) in guiding and interpretation commenced at Kaniyo Pabidi in March 2014. The training is ongoing.	90	The guides will be equipped with 1 field camera, 2 range finders, 2 binoculars, 3 GPS units. The equipment also includes guides' field gear including boots, rain poncho, water bottles, compass, and torches (per guide).	✓
	Develop & train participating CFM groups and NFA staff in tourism impact monitoring		✓			Training conducted in January 2014 focusing on the use of data tools and equipment as well as development of data collection forms and protocols. Six (16) NFA staff (11 males and 5 females). Additionally 15 CFM group members (10 males and 5 females). They were supplied with thirteen (13) Open data kits (ODK) sets and accessories.	100		✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
			✓			Data collection and processing has commenced and will be implemented till June 2014 before a review of tools and methodology is conducted to assess effectiveness and applicability.	ongoing	Lessons will be fed into a training template for NFA and communities	✓
	Support CFM groups to access and add value to timber off-cuts	✓				Timber off-cuts value chain analysis is completed.	100	Communities will be involved in selection of crafts basing on the skills and market	
			✓			Facilitating CFM groups to obtain concessions for off-cut harvest and value addition to timber offcuts was deferred to Year II and was pending approval of Year II work plan and budget; preliminary work targeting 3 CFM groups i.e. Kapeeka Integrated Community Development Association (KICODA), Budongo Good Neighbor Conservation Association (BUNCA), North Budongo Forest Conservation Association (NOBUFOCA) commenced in March 2014 and will be ongoing next quarter.	50		✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve									
Explore potential for canopy walk	Feasibility report on canopy walk available	✓	✓			A biodiversity study and evaluation of canopy design and potential impact was conducted at the proposed sites in Kalinzu CFR. The report is now complete	100	Report will be handed over to NFA for further evaluation as a potential business concession.	
Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site	Work with NFA and Research site to streamline processes for chimpanzee viewing at Kalinzu where the research and tourism groups home range overlaps	✓	✓			A follow up meeting was held with key stakeholders including NFA headquarters and field staff as well as the Japanese researchers. The meeting identified the source of conflict and recommended ways forward including the drafting of procedures and guidelines for management of chimp research & tourism groups to avoid conflict.	90	Drafting of guidelines in review stages and will be complete next quarter	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	15 staff trained and equipped	✓	✓			<p>Nine (9) people (3 F & 6 M) trained on the use of data tools and equipment and development of data collection forms and protocols. The trainees included NFA range manager for Kalinzu, two sector managers, 3 guides, 2 chimpanzee habituaters, and 1 research assistant. They were supplied with nine (9) ODK sets and accessories.</p> <p>Field equipment procured and distributed with the ongoing training. The equipment includes: 1 field camera, 2 range finders, 2 binoculars, and 3 GPS units. Field gear provided includes boots, rain poncho, water bottles, compass, and torches.</p>	75	<p>Radio communication procurement procedure is in advanced stages and once complete, the Kalinzu guides equipped with 5 hand-held radios.</p> <p>Extra guides from neighboring communities will be recruited and trained in fourth quarter</p>	✓
Program work in Murchison Falls National Park									
Tourism product development within MFNP	Top of falls trail redeveloped	✓	✓			Designs completed and ready for implementation	55	Implementation of designs expected to start in the next quarter	✓
	Improved Purongo community tourism product	✓	✓			Meeting held with Purongo Cultural Center committee and UCOTA, AWF and UWA to develop activity plan for center development	40	Purongo Cultural center committee trained in governance. Tourism site business assessment and plan to be developed in next quarter	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
National Cross Cutting									
Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism	Approved NFA tourism plan	✓				Plan was presented to NFA Board for discussion and their approval.	90	Program participation in its launch will dependent on further discussions with USAID regarding public events ban.	✓
Tourism promotion/ marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue	4000 materials produced for marketing and distributed	✓	✓			Materials are no longer marketing but information materials to be used for various use e.g., conservation education, guide training, and community enterprise/domestic tourism marketing. Information guide materials are for Kidepo Valley and Murchison Falls NPs.	80	The materials are ready for printing starting in the next quarter. Competitive search for designer and printer on going	✓
	Production of marketing/ branding materials for community tourism enterprises	✓	✓			Follow up with UWA on placement of signage for Rubare fishing village was done but not conclusive	90	All signs for other community enterprises in place	✓
	Participation in the Big Birding Day, focusing on Budongo CFR	✓	✓			Initial contacts in preparation of the 2014 big birding day made with UWA and NatureUganda. Monthly meetings to be organized in preparation of the day in October 2014	10	Budongo will be the target from our program activities esp. environmental educational actions will be carried out involving schools and communities around Budongo.	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Partners' engagement	At least one meeting with each key partner	✓	✓			Meetings with NFA, UWA and UTB were held during the work plan process to capture their priorities but also as feedback to comments from USAID Mission.	100	Individual and all partner meetings will continue to be held to ensure all are up to speed with the activities and plans by the Program including program monitoring and learning.	✓
Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program	100 youth trained and equipped to address problem animal and other conservation issues	✓	✓			No activity undertaken this quarter. However the trained team in Murchison Falls continues to undertake human-wildlife conflict interventions	15	The program will be expanded in Murchison Falls and introduced in Kidepo Valley in the next quarter	✓
Media engagement									
Media engagement	Strengthened partnership with media houses and several articles published for more awareness about tourism and conservation.	✓	✓			Partnerships with media houses maintained through Program providing necessary information whenever required by the media houses.	100	The Program will continue to provide information on tourism and biodiversity conservation as required by the media houses from time to time	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Media Capacity Improvement	Uganda Tourism Press Association website running and regularly updated with tourism related information	✓	✓			The UTPA website continues to be updated regularly by the executive	100	Monitoring of the website will continue to be made	✓
Media Coverage analysis	Undertake clipping to monitor biodiversity and tourism stories published in the media	✓	✓			Clipping has been done whenever relevant stories have been published	100	This activity will continue to be undertaken	✓
Monitoring and Evaluation									
Revising and updating the program performance management plan	Revised and updated PMP	✓	✓			PMP approved by USAID	95	Two indicator baseline figures and targets still pending and to be determined by end of April	✓
Collecting program monitoring data	Tools designed for collecting program monitoring data	✓	✓			Most of the tools have been drafted pending review by the program staff and partners for input and training in the next quarter.	70	To be completed by end of April 2014	✓
Establishing a system for monitoring threats to biodiversity in Budongo	System in place and running by close of FY2014	✓	✓			Completed (System developed, transects for data collection selected), baseline data collection planned next quarter	60	Baseline to be completed in quarter 3	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (January 1 st to March 31, 2014)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Reporting	Performance data for fiscal year 2014 uploaded into the system	✓	✓			Indicators for measuring progress have been selected and most targets set.	80	Indicators will be assigned to the program in the USAID web based system, and their respective targets and baseline numbers uploaded.	✓
Ecological monitoring support to UWA	Systematic ecological monitoring system established in UWA	✓	✓			Ongoing	40	KVCA ecological monitoring rangers have received training. LMNP and MFNP will be trained in quarter 3	✓

Activity Report

1 Program work in Lake Mburo

1.1 Tourism Product Development for LMNP

1.1.1 Branding and Signage for Lake Mburo National Park

Road signs to be placed leading to and within Lake Mburo National Park (LMNP) were fabricated in the last quarter. They have been delivered to the park and await placement, which will take place in the next quarter. Competitive bidding for placement is in progress.



Lake Mburo National Park staff members with one of the new signs awaiting placement

1.1.2 Install supporting infrastructure along the new trails

A meeting was held with the tourism team of LMNP and the following facilities for making the 4 trails fully functional were identified:

- a) Interpretation trail: 2 viewing platforms (one at the start of the trail and one at the salt lick), 1 resting shed, 2 resting benches
- b) Lakeside trail: 1 pit latrine at camping site, 2 resting benches, 1 viewing platform at the salt lick
- c) Kigarama hill trail: 1 pit latrine at starting point, 2 resting sheds and 2 resting benches
- d) Rubanga forest trail: 1 pit latrine, 1 viewing platform

The location of these facilities was earlier discussed with the USFS team on their field visit last year. UWA is currently undertaking the designs for the various facilities and installation will begin in due course.

1.1.3 Improve accommodation at 2 camping sites in LMNP to increase visitor accommodation

Two camping sites were identified by park management for improvement to provide more accommodation options for local visitors to LMNP. These are the Kingfisher and Kigarama camping sites. Each camping site requires a toilet and bathroom, cooking area and a shed. Tent pads also need to be prepared to enable comfortable placement of mattresses. The sites are in the process of being designed, after which the necessary infrastructure will be put in place through a competitive bidding process.

1.1.4 Improve accommodation at the Buffalo tented camp in Rwonyo to increase domestic tourism

On request from UWA, the program plans to support LMNP in the improvement of local visitor accommodation in the park. The dilapidated Buffalo tented camp is to be redesigned and expanded to provide better toilet facilities (within tent) and an improved camp layout. This activity is intended to increase and improve accommodation options with a view to targeting the domestic tourism market. Since the approval of these plans by USAID in March 2014, UWA, with support from the Program, has embarked on identifying a competent designer (through a competitive process) to redesign and supervise the implementation of the designs.

1.2 Secure returns for communities from wildlife conservation

1.2.1 Community tourism enterprises

In the last quarter, the Lake Mburo Community Tourism Association (LMCTA) was formed as an umbrella organization by the Community Tourism Enterprises (CTEs) around LMNP. AWF, in partnership with the Uganda Community Tourism Association (UCOTA), have provided support to enable the LMCTA to finalize and approve its constitution. All association matters now follow the approved constitution.

The Program also undertook a follow-up review of ten Community Tourism Enterprise (CTE) groups around LMNP to determine the level of implementation of skills imparted during the

5-module training carried out by UCOTA. The follow-up was also carried out to establish the current status of the tourism products and services offered by the groups and to identify further support needs. The program identified several critical issues especially in the areas of governance, land user rights, product packaging and pricing, and market linkages to Lake Mburo National Park. Resource gaps that the CTEs need support in addressing were also identified. In the next quarter, the Program support will go towards the three selected CTES in operationalizing business and operation plans, developing conservation commitments, polishing-up developed products, and maintaining support toward strengthening the LMCTA as an umbrella institution. Dummy tours aimed at guiding product development are also expected to be conducted in the next quarter.

1.2.2 Participatory land use planning and zoning

The Program continued to work with UWA, land owners and other stakeholders around LMNP to develop a Community Conservation Area (conservancy) neighboring the park through land use planning. The land in question is between the eastern boundary of LMNP and L. Kakyera and is mainly used for cattle ranching with some limited crop growing. The establishment of a conservancy is envisaged to provide landowners with an opportunity to benefit financially from wildlife, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and improve land management. As this is the first-ever conservancy-building process in Uganda, AWF will hold several planning meetings to ensure all stakeholders, adequately understand and buy-into the process.

A meeting of 104 land owners (22 females and 82 males) from Rurambira parish sat and elected a nine-member planning committee on February 06, 2014. The nine-member (2 females and 6 males) planning committee has co-opted technical members from UWA, AWF, Kiruhura district, Nyakahita subcounty local governments, the 2 neighboring lodge owners, a sport hunting company, Nshara government ranch and the Community Wildlife Association for Nshara block to support the process. The coopted members are intended to bring in the various expertise they hold in making the plan more realistic and achievable.

A conservancy planning committee meeting was held and attended by all the expected members except Game trails (the sports hunting company) on 6 March, 2014. The main aim of the meeting was to initiate the planning team into the planning process and agree on the schedule of the subsequent activities. The activity schedule was developed and will guide all subsequent activities. The schedule is provided below:

Activity	Date	Responsibility
Inception community meetings	February 06, 2014 -Done	AWF
Inception meeting of elected committee	March 06, 2014 - Done	Chairman, AWF
Compilation of data about the area	6 th March to 30 th April 2014	Charles (AWF)
Reconnaissance and zoning meeting	3 rd Week of April 2014 (15 th – 18 th)	Committee Chairman and Charles
Update community members on the	2 nd Week of May 2014	Committee Chairman and

Activity	Date	Responsibility
Planning process and proposed zoning scheme		Charles (AWF)
Development of Programs	3 rd Week of June	Committee Chairman and Sam (AWF)
Drafting Concept (Programs and prescriptions)	3 rd Week of June to 1 st Week of July	Methodius & Charles (AWF)
Presentation of concept to the community	2 nd week of July	Committee Chairman and Charles (AWF)
Drafting of Plan	3 rd week of July to 2 nd week of September	Sam (AWF) and Committee
Approval of plan	Last week of September	Committee
Translation of plan into vernacular	October 2014	Committee Chairman and Charles



The inception meeting of the elected committee and coopted members

1.2.3 District plans for human-wildlife interventions

In a plan to address human-wildlife conflict, the LC V Chairman of Kiruhura district inaugurated a 6-man committee representing land owners in the two blocks neighboring LMNP (Nshara – south of the highway; and Rwanda – north of the highway), to engage UWA and government on how to handle the issue of wildlife on private land. The committee is generally expected to work out modalities of reducing human-wildlife conflicts and advise the district accordingly. The program, in partnership with UWA will seek audience with the committee to discuss modalities of how land owners can derive benefits from wildlife on private land.

2 Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park

2.1 Improving tourism connectivity between MFNP and KVNP and develop tourism mini-guide for the Northern Uganda route to Kidepo

As reported in the previous quarter, the consultant who was to undertake the work to identify tourism attractions on the northern route and develop a mini guide did not take up the work. It was duly decided to defer this activity until the detailed marketing strategy was developed to inform the Program on the relevant activities that need to be undertaken to improve visitation to Kidepo Valley National Park. In the next quarter, this activity will be revised to focus on identifying opportunities and developing information for increased domestic tourism.

2.2 Improving Tourism in KVNP

The three telescopes ordered for Kidepo Valley NP have been delivered to the park and await installation at the selected viewpoints. A tourism specialist is being sought (competitively) to support UWA in developing the necessary accompanying interpretative panels in order to ensure maximum value is attained from the telescopes. Meanwhile, ten¹ binoculars have been imported into the country from the US and await clearance from Customs at Entebbe International Airport.



The three telescopes awaiting installation

¹ The ten binoculars are part of 35 binoculars imported to be used by guides in KVNP, LMNP and MFNP. They are expected to improve the guides' ability to identify and interpret the various attractions, especially birds, in the parks for the visitors.

The report on the USFS team’s work in the Program sites was received and will guide AWF and UWA in the development of the signage for the 15 km of trails developed in KVNP in the first year. At Apoka village, a trail detailing the past history of management of the KVNP will be developed capturing especially the armory, the offices, the cemetery of fallen rangers and a few other historical sites. Infrastructure development (rangers’ accommodation and offices) will be undertaken directly by UWA.

2.3 Support Karenga Community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)

The land use planning activity has been ongoing to secure the Karenga Community Wildlife Area for the conservation of the wildlife dispersal route southwards from KVNP. The planning process is also intended to ensure that communities of Karenga and Lobalangit sub-counties are offered an opportunity to benefit from tourism that can be developed within this area. Following the identification of thematic development programs for the land use plan in December 2014, AWF started drafting the plan. The draft concept was then presented to the two sub-counties and the district leadership of Kaabong in March for their comments and input. The presentations were well-received, though the presence of a gazetted community wildlife area remains an issue of contention.



Presentation of the draft land use plan to the Kaabong District Technical Committee

The thematic development programs in the draft land use plan include agricultural development and management; livestock development and management; tourism and wildlife management; conservation and ecology; institutional governance; as well as operations and management. The stakeholders concurred with the planning team that the programs align with the government’s national development program and expressed their support for the plan. In Karenga Sub-county, however, the communities requested some

adjustments to maps regarding the zones for tourism and settlement, and also for boundaries between Karenga Sub-county and the neighboring sub-counties.

At the Kaabong District level, the CAO and the technical team overwhelmingly supported the ongoing land use planning and the proposed programs. The final land use plan is expected to be completed in May 2014 when it will be presented to the sub-county councils for approval.



AWF and UWA meet the resident district commissioner of Kaabong before the presentation of the draft land use plan to the district

As part of the land use planning process, the Program, working with UWA, engaged the Napore Development Association (NDA²) to obtain comments and input on the draft land use plan. The team also met officials of the Uganda Land Alliance to introduce the Program and its activities, including the participatory land use planning process for Karenga and Lobalangit sub-counties. The two meetings provided an opportunity for the two organizations to appreciate USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program's contribution to the development of the communities neighboring KVNP.

² NDA is an association formed by the elite of Dodoth West constituency, where Karenga and Lobalangit sub-counties fall, to work towards the development of their area

3 Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve

3.1 Improve tourism infrastructure

3.1.1 57 km of biking trail established and operational

The development of the hiking and biking trail in Budongo CFR is in its final stages. Excluding two bridges, the entire trail is complete. As part of their contribution, NFA committed to providing timber for the bridges, however, there was a two-month delay in acquiring this timber due to a recently enacted policy which prohibits logging (even legal) in Budongo CFR. However, a solution was reached in late March 2014 and bridge assembly is now being finalized.



Representatives from USAID, AWF, JGI and NFA visit the biking trail in March 2014

The next phase to be implemented in the third quarter of year II will mainly entail placement of signage and amenities (biking shade, toilets, rest sites etc.), installation of a VHF radio communication system, and further training of community members and NFA staff in guiding and monitoring. The trail is slated to be officially opened in June 2014.



Representatives from USAID, AWF, JGI and NFA visit the biking trail starting point

3.2 Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management

3.2.1 Guide training

USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity commenced refresher training of 9 guides (3 female and 6 male) in guiding and interpretation at Kaniyo Pabidi in March 2014. This training is meant to improve their skills in guiding and interpretation but with a focus on the newly extended (approximately 20 kilometers) section of the trail system in Kaniyo Pabidi. The focus of the training is the newly identified sites and attractions (physical and biological) on this trail and their incorporation into the tourism 'menu'.

Eleven (11) more guides will be recruited from the community and trained in the second half of 2014. The shortfall in the target was caused by the delay in the completion of the tourism biking trail where 10 additional guides will be deployed.

The site has also been equipped with tools and equipment, including 1 field camera for data collection (specifically meant to enhance chimpanzee identification during habituation), 2 range finders to assist with the habituation process, 2 binoculars, and 3 GPS units that will help with geo-referencing for both tourism and forest monitoring. Each guide has also

received a field gear unit which includes boots, a rain poncho, water bottles, compass, and torches. The tools and equipment will go a long way in improving the quality of guiding as well as data collection for improved management.

3.2.2 Develop and train participating CFM groups and NFA staff in tourism impact monitoring

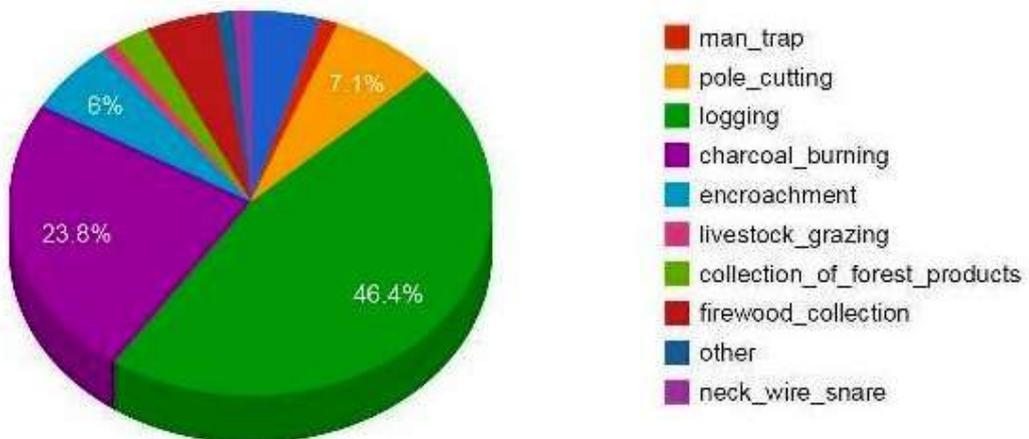
In January 2014, USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity conducted training in data collection and monitoring focusing on the use of hand-held tablets containing data collection tools that are developed by the site staff in line with their needs. The data that is collected can then be uploaded for processing and viewing on a Google cloud and can be viewed by all stakeholders (in real time). Sixteen (16) NFA staff (11 males and 5 females) and 15 CFM group members (10 males and 5 females) were trained. They were supplied with thirteen (13) Open Data Kits (ODK) sets and accessories. It is envisaged that these tools will greatly enhance data collection and processing and provide vital and timely information for management action. The simplicity of the system makes it an attractive and feasible tool for all users.



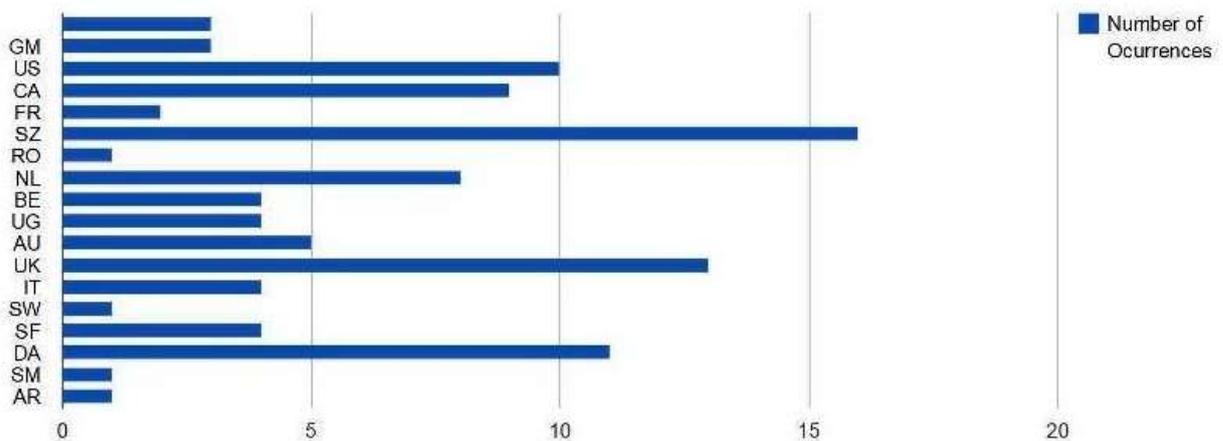
Training in the use of the ODK at Kaniyo Pabidi, Budongo CFR



Illegal hunter photographed and geo-referenced by patrol team providing vital evidence



Illegal activity data collected by NFA/CFM monitoring team in Budongo CFR (February 2014)



Tourism data collected (visitor numbers) by guides at Kaniyo Pabidi

Other tourism data collected includes tour company information, the sightings and comments by the tourists, previous sites visited and planned destination after Kaniyo Pabidi, and contact details (optional). This information will be vital in improving the tourism offer at Kaniyo Pabidi.

4 Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve

4.1 Explore potential for canopy walk

A biodiversity and geotechnical evaluation for the canopy walkway was conducted at two proposed sites in Kalinzu CFR. The report has finally been completed and is pending dissemination to key stakeholders.

The study reviewed two possible sites for canopy walkway development (Nkombe I and II) in Kalinzu CFR and concludes that such an undertaking is feasible from both engineering and biodiversity conservation standpoints. The total area of Kalinzu CFR is generally considered to be stable rather than decreasing throughout its range and the ecological consequences of a minor reduction in this area are not significant. This appraisal indicates that the significance of that loss will be low, however, this will need to be verified by a detailed botanical survey of the route footprint and works area once design and construction methodology have been defined.

The presence of endangered species such as chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) and blue monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*) as well as L'hoest's monkey, a species whose range is restricted to the Albertine Rift and a region of lowland forest in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, implies that nature conservation issues must be incorporated from the earliest stages of project development to ensure that canopy walkway designs are approached from an ecological engineering standpoint to avoid adverse environmental impacts.



Architectural impression of the canopy walkway

4.2 Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site

4.2.1 Threat monitoring

In order to link tourism and biodiversity, the Program has developed a monitoring system to ensure tourism impacts as well as threats to biodiversity are monitored and appropriate action taken when necessary. It was decided that the open data kit (ODK) would be ideal technological equipment for collection and transmission of data at Kalinzu. This technology involves the use of a tablet computer for geo-referencing and capturing field data using pre-designed forms (based on site needs). The data collected can be loaded on a cloud for real-time evaluation and action.

In Kalinzu, nine (9) NFA and research staff (3 females and 6 males) were trained on the use of data tools and also participated in the development of data collection forms and protocols that are specific to research, tourism and forest monitoring. The trainees included the NFA range manager for Kalinzu, two sector managers, 3 guides, 2 chimpanzee habituators, and 1 research assistant.

In addition to providing the sites with data collection tablets, other field equipment has been procured and will be distributed during the guiding and interpretation training that commences in April 2014. The equipment includes: 9 ODK data collection tablets, 1 field camera, 2 range finders, 2 binoculars, and 3 GPS units. The equipment also includes a field gear unit for each guide, including boots, a rain poncho, water bottles, compass, and torches.

4.2.2 Streamline processes for chimpanzee viewing where the research and tourism groups home range overlaps

Following a stakeholders' (NFA and Researchers) meeting facilitated by USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity in December 2013, work has been on-going regarding the development of guidelines for chimpanzee viewing which are expected to reduce the conflict between the research and tourism group. The process is stakeholder-led and is being drafted and tested in the field, and will be completed in the next quarter. Furthermore, the ODK technology introduced by the Program is being utilized to map out movements of the two groups. Once the temporal and spatial patterns of the two groups have been mapped, it is hoped that this information will ultimately contribute towards alleviating this conflict.

5 Program work in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP)

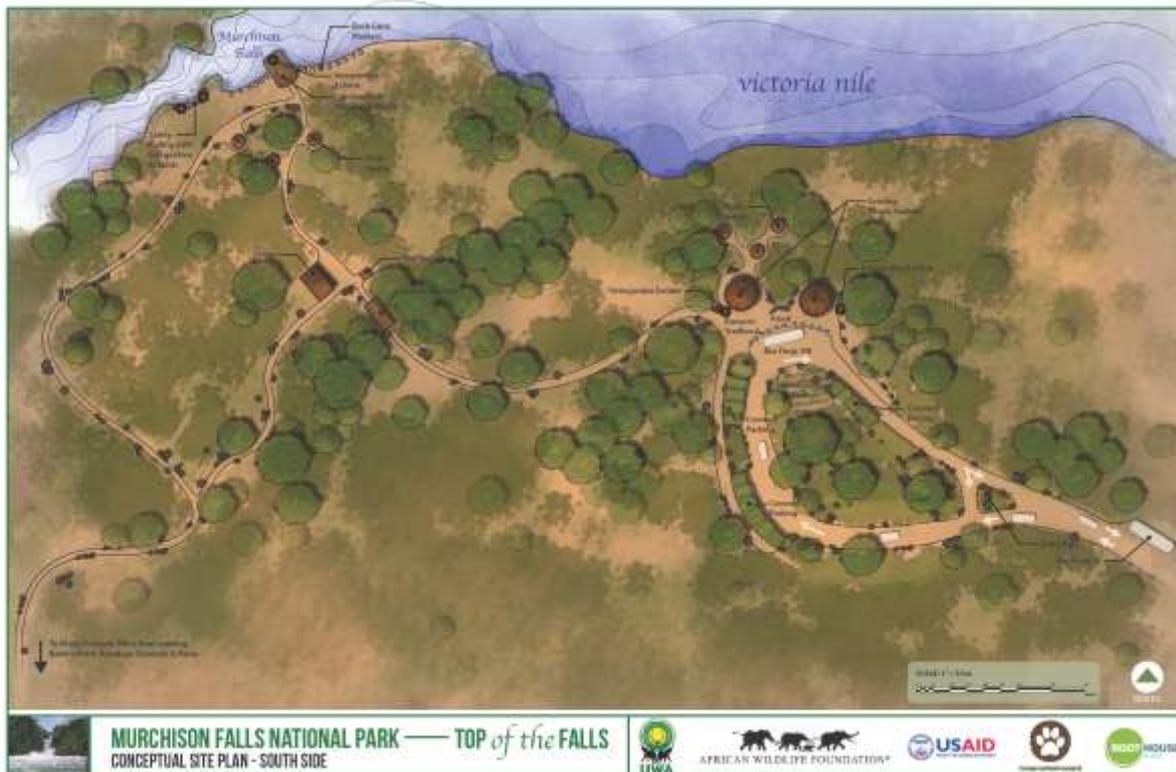
5.1 Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program

Following the training and study tour in the previous two quarters for the wildlife scouts from villages neighboring Murchison Falls National Park, the scouts are currently concentrating on ensuring the wildlife deterrents are in good working condition. Additional training for the scouts as well as selection of more scouts is planned in the next six months.

5.2 Tourism product development within MFNP

5.2.1 Re-design Top of Falls layout

Work done by Mark Jordahl - the Root House consultant firm, Seattle USA, on the redesign of the Top of the Falls Area in Murchison Falls National Park was completed and a final report received by AWF. The final design provides for improved parking, camping, trails, safety features at the falls, and a picnic area near the falls with benches for visitors. Also planned are relevant signs including interpretative signs and panels. See the conceptual site plans below.



Top of the Falls conceptual site plan – south side

5.2.2 Improve Purongo community tourism product

UCOTA, AWF and UWA held a meeting with Purongo Cultural Center committee to develop an activity plan for the center development. The activity plan spells out key activities such as development of the site plan, use of the shs. 140 million provided by UWA through its revenue sharing scheme, and finalization of the center constitution, among others.

Training was also organized and held to provide the Purongo Cultural Center committee with skills in good governance and as part of the review of the draft constitution. The tourism site plan is to be developed in the next quarter.

6 National Cross Cutting

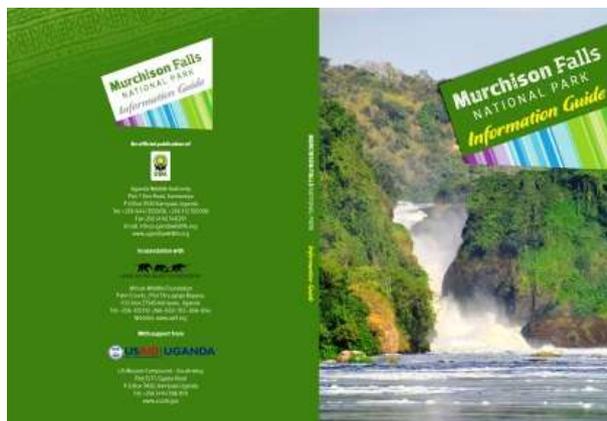
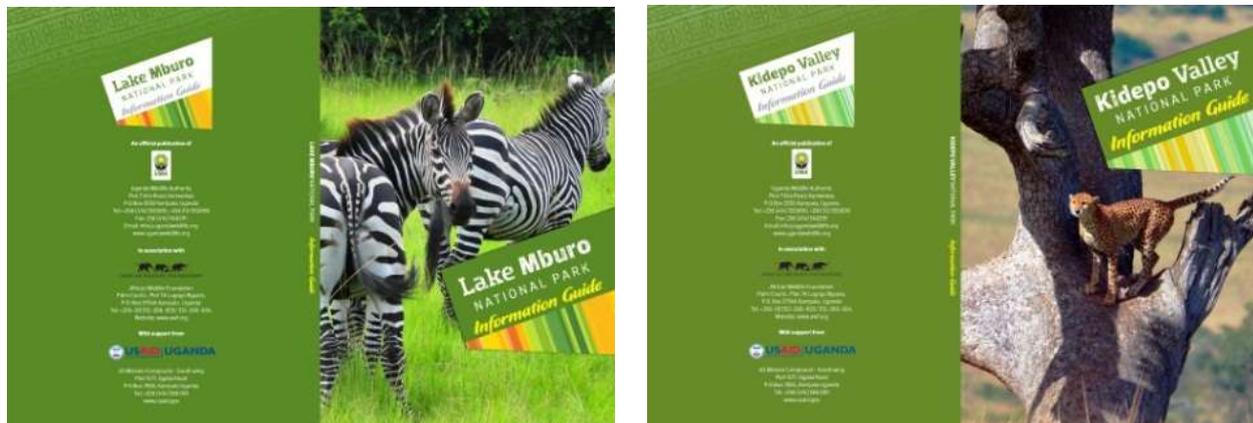
6.1 Development of an NFA ecotourism plan

The Eco-tourism plan was submitted to NFA for board approval. NFA is planning to celebrate its 10 year anniversary in May; and the Program intended to use this opportunity to facilitate the launch of the plan, however, the launch has been put on hold due to the current advisory on high-level government events.

6.2 Tourism promotion/marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue

6.2.1 Development of information and promotion materials

Development of information materials for LMNP, MFNP and KVNP has now been concluded and the by Mark Jordahl, the consultant, has handed over all materials. The materials are now ready for printing.



Cover pages of the guidebooks prepared for LMNP, KVNP and MFNP

6.2.2 Kidepo @ 50

USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program supported Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to organize the Kidepo @ 50 celebrations, held on 28 February, 2014 in Kidepo.

The event was held in celebration of the over 50 years of conserving Kidepo Valley as a national park. The celebrations were presided over by the President of the Republic of Uganda and were attended by Members of Parliament from the Karamoja region and from the sessional committee on Tourism, Trade & Industry, local officials, and over 2000 locals.

Program support for the event was in line with raising awareness among local communities regarding the importance of conserving the region, and showing appreciation for their support to conservation for over five decades. It presented a further opportunity to showcase

to the communities (which the Program is engaging in land use planning activities) the linkages between the park, central government, and the possibilities for improved local livelihoods. As a result, a positive change of attitude among community members was noted at subsequent land use planning meetings.



The State Minister for Karamoja Affairs addresses attendees at Kidepo @ 50

6.2.3 Preparation for the 2014 Big Birding Day

The Uganda Big Birding Day (BBD) is a birding activity organized by NatureUganda in collaboration with Uganda Wildlife Authority and with support from other partners, including the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program. The BBD is aimed at encouraging the use of habitat under conservation for birding to help promote domestic tourism in the country.

Preparations for the 2014 BBD have commenced. One preparatory meeting was held this quarter. Monthly planning meetings will now be held in the run up to the event, scheduled for October 2014.

6.3 Women in Conservation

In February and March, the program facilitated the establishment of a *Woman in Conservation Working Group*. The group, composed of five senior women conservationists, will aim to inform policy and practice in NFA and UWA, as well as oversee a mentoring program for recent female graduates looking to become established in the conservation

sector. The members of the working group were individually recognized at the Women in Conservation awards ceremony held last year; they are each involved in the running of successful Ugandan conservation NGOs.

The five women are Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Executive Director and founder of *Conservation Through Public Health*; Ms. Lilly Ajarova, Executive Director of *Chimpanzee Trust Uganda*; Mrs. Pauline Nantongo Kalunda, Executive Director of *Ecotrust* - the Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda; Dr. Dianah Nalwanga Wabwire, the Research and Monitoring Coordinator at *NatureUganda* and Ms. Helen Lubowa, Executive Director of the *Uganda Community Tourism Association*.

The working group met with USAID gender and environment specialists on the 6th March to discuss women’s participation in the biodiversity conservation sector in Uganda and the various challenges that they face in this regard.



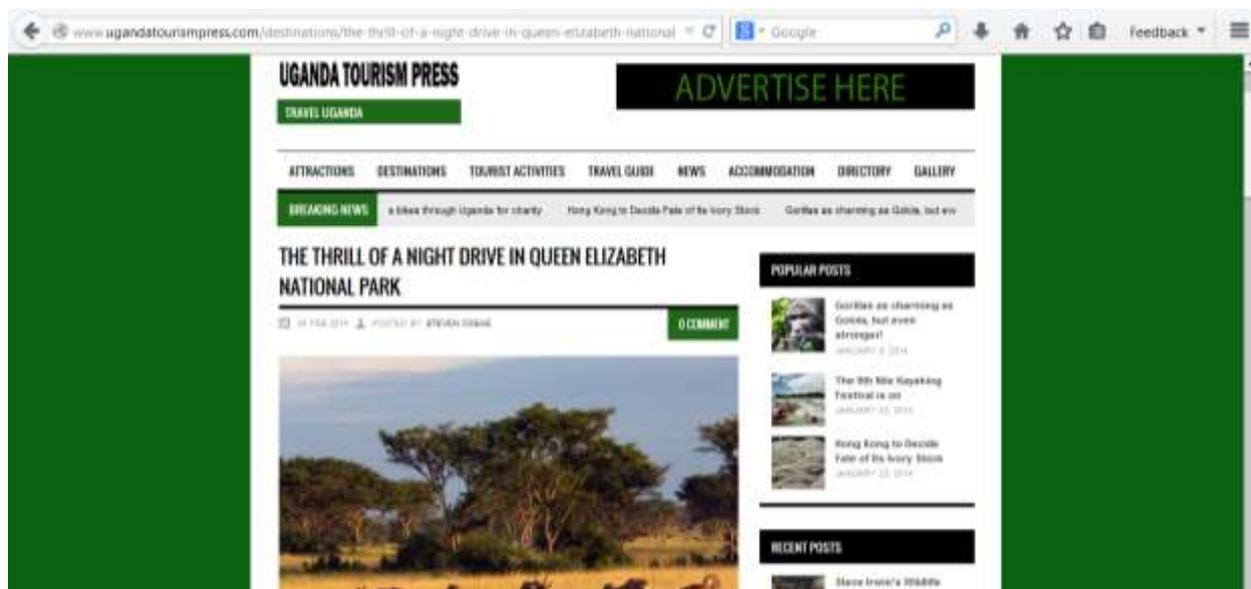
Members of the working group with AWF and USAID representatives

The working group’s activities are currently in a design phase. Specific engagements with UWA and NFA are being identified and the structure of the mentoring program developed.

6.4 Media engagement

The USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program continued to engage the media fraternity by providing necessary information regarding tourism and biodiversity conservation, with regarding the Program.

The Uganda Tourism Press Association (UTPA) continued to update the UTPA website, indicating that the training undertaken in the last quarter was productive.



The UTPA website

7 Monitoring and Evaluation

Activities in the second quarter of program implementation continued around the revision of the program performance management plan (PMP), and saw the introduction of new indicators and the modification of some old ones in a bid to ensure that the PMP remains current and relevant to measure program performance and results. In addition, the program continued to work with the Uganda Wildlife Authority to improve ecological monitoring efforts and information dissemination to inform management and partner decision making. Details of these activities are provided in the proceeding sections.

7.1 Revising the program performance management plan

Working in liaison with USAID/Uganda and the African Wildlife Foundation headquarters in Nairobi, the program continued to revise and update its performance management plan to accommodate the various changes in the program work plan. New indicators were introduced while some old ones were modified. A total of 13 new indicators were introduced while seven of the old indicators were dropped. Eight (8) 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. Indicator reference sheets for each of the new and modified indicators have already been made and targets for most of these indicators set.

Pending targets for some indicators will be set in quarter three as information comes in from the planned baseline survey and data collection efforts towards this end. Indicators will be assigned to the program in the USAID web-based performance management system and the respective targets and baselines uploaded as well.

7.2 Ecological monitoring efforts with the Uganda Wildlife Authority

Although the planned ecological monitoring training activities for Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls National Parks did not take place during the quarter under review due to time constraints, the program continued to coordinate and share ecological and threat monitoring information with the Uganda Wildlife authority, especially with Kidepo Valley National Park where more ecological and threat monitoring capacity building activities have taken place. This is in regard to an ongoing effort to improve ecological and threat monitoring within the conservation areas, as well as providing accurate data to inform programmatic and management decisions.

Information from the Uganda Wildlife Authority ecological and threat monitoring activities for Kidepo Valley National Park this quarter continues to justify program activities in the Karenga community. In an aerial wildlife survey conducted for the National Park and the neighboring Karenga Community Wildlife Area (KCWA) between March 22nd and 23rd, 2014, several species were sighted in the community wildlife area, including elephants, buffalos and hartebeests among others. In addition, signs of illegal activity, especially tree cutting, were observed, with approximately 29 people seen carrying poles from the Community Wildlife Area. The ongoing land use planning activities in the area, as well as the planned conservation education activities with the communities will help in reducing some of these threats to biodiversity as well as in securing this critical dispersal area for wildlife.

7.3 Designing of data collection tools

The required data collection tools for the new indicators in the PMP were drafted during this reporting period. Next quarter, they will be circulated to the program staff and partners for input and feedback. This exercise will be finalized during the coming quarter and simple training in their application given to staff and partners during an upcoming staff retreat slated for mid May 2014. It is expected that after the training, staff and partners will be able to collect monitoring data on an ongoing basis, although training support will continue to be provided throughout the life of the program to ensure that accurate and relevant monitoring data is collected for measuring program progress and performance.

8 Other activities

A gender team from USAID, accompanied by the AWF team, visited Budongo and Lake Mburo program sites in early March. Discussions were held with NFA, UWA and community members regarding how gender issues are handled during activity planning and implementation of program activities. The team was able to interact specifically with women at these sites and understand how they work and participate in male-dominated activities and the various challenges they face in this regard. In Budongo, the team visited the biking trail which local communities are working on. In Lake Mburo, sessions with UWA staff focused on how work in a national park affects family relations, staff development and gender.



USAID gender, Program AOTR, and environment specialists visit Budongo and view the Budongo ecological monitoring system

The Program, through its Kidepo Valley Program Office, also participated (on invitation) in a meeting organized by GIZ to discuss how land wrangles in Karamoja sub-region can be addressed. The meeting took place in Kotido between March 17th and 21st 2014. Meeting

attendees proposed that, given AWF's expertise in land use planning, it should lead the land use planning activities in the region. This matter is, however, not yet officially communicated.



USAID gender, Program AOTR, and environment specialists visit Lake Mburo National Park and met with senior park staff.

9 Planned activities for April – June 2014

The Program is cognizant that it will be undergoing a period of revision and restructuring as per the communication received from the USAID Mission. In the absence of the new program structure, however, the activity plan below is based on the approved FY14 workplan. It is of course likely that many of these activities are going to change however.

Activity	Remarks
Program work in Lake Mbuoro	
Tourism Product Development for LMNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install signage and supporting facilities along the four trails in LMNP • Design Buffalo tented camp and advertise for contractors • Start works on improvement of camping sites in LMNP • Print park information materials for LMNP • Developing local partnerships between the park and business stakeholders for improved domestic tourism.
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	• Provide support to CTE to ensure sustainability
	• Support selected Community Tourism Enterprises to develop and sign three conservation action plans
	• Continue with land use planning process for ranches in conservancy area
Build staff capacity in tourism planning and infrastructure	• Conduct a hands-on training of LMNP staff in tourism planning, infrastructure and development
	• Conduct training of staff in interpretation along the trails and equip them with the necessary tools
Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park	
Improving tourism in KVNP	• Install signage and supporting facilities along the three trails opened in KVNP
Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)	• Present draft plan to subcounty councils for approval
	• Assess the viability of Lochim community tourism site, Lorukul cultural group activities, Morungole trail and Lobalangit community trail
	• Select youth for training as wildlife scouts
	• Support KVNP undertake conservation education in schools
Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve (JGI with support from UCOTA)	
Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train communities in value addition on off cuts • Engage communities in implementing aspects of the biking trail
Improve tourism infrastructure	• Install signage on all trails
Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management	• Complete training of selected community members and NFA in guiding and community forest management
Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve (JGI with support from UCOTA)	
Diversify tourism products in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve	• Open selected trails for tourism

Activity	Remarks
Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize training of guides to improve tourism services
Program work in Murchison Falls National Park	
Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program	Develop plan for refresher training of wildlife scouts and expansion of the wildlife scout program in other parishes neighboring the park
Tourism product development within MFNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate improvement activities for Top of Falls trails
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	Initiate land use planning process for land north of MFNP
National Cross Cutting	
Tourism promotion/ marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Print information material MFNP, KVNP and MFNP.
Women in conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the women in conservation mentoring program Develop an action plan to engage UWA and NFA in engaging more women in conservation
Media engagement	
Media engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media and public events are currently on hold
Partners' engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold one Technical Advisory Group meeting
Monitoring and Evaluation	
Training of program staff and partners in data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue providing back stopping for staff and program partners in data collection
Finalize PMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the setting of targets for new indicators in the PMP
Train UWA staff in ecological monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and hold training for UWA ecological monitoring staff in MFNP & LMNP
Baseline data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological baseline data collection in Kalinzu and Budongo especially to capture current threats to biodiversity in these two forests
Data capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect, analyze and enter data into monitoring system. Data will be collected for all sites