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## **USAID/UGANDA TOURISM FOR BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM**

**African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)**

**Quarterly Report – October to December 2013**

**January 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 51 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 in 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 these 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 for 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
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
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 marked the beginning of the second year of implementation of the Tourism for Biodiversity Program. The focus of the activities this quarter was on the preparation and review of the second-year Work Plan and Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) as well as the development of a Marketing Strategy. Some field activities were also implemented but only limited to those activities being followed up from the first year as we awaited the approval of the work plan, PMP and marketing strategy. The USAID Mission has provided comments on the work plan twice, and on the PMP and marketing strategy once, which are being incorporated into the documents before final submission and approval to enable the full implementation of the second-year activities.

The consultancy for the development of marketing information materials for Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls and Kidepo Valley National Parks has been ongoing, and materials for Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls National Parks are ready for production. They were developed in consultation with Uganda Wildlife Authority and tour operators and lodge owners selling these destinations. Work on Kidepo Valley is still ongoing and is expected to be concluded in March 2014.

The consultancy on the development of the National Forest Authority (NFA) Ecotourism Plan was completed with the submission of a final report. The Ecotourism Plan was presented to NFA by the AWF team in November and NFA made some comments and recommendations which have now been incorporated. During the next quarter, the plan will be presented to the NFA Board of Trustees for approval and then launched for implementation.

The two United States Forest Service trail specialists (design and interpretation) who were in the country from last quarter were abruptly called back to the US due to the federal government shutdown in early October. Though most of the work was almost completed, some remained to be done and a report is yet to be received. The team was not able to visit Kalinzu CFR. It was agreed that once the government shutdown is lifted, a status report will be prepared and presented. A draft report has been presented to USFS International Program in DC for finalization. Importantly though, most of the suggestions for improvement of trails and interpretation have been included in the second year work plan since these had been discussed and approved by UWA, NFA and AWF staff.

The land use planning initiated in Karenga and Lobalangit sub-counties neighboring Kidepo Valley National Park (KVNP) reached a crucial stage this quarter. Additional consultations were held with the communities and leadership of the two sub-counties, and the zoning schemes were presented to them. In both sub-counties, the leadership and communities approved the zones. The Core Planning Team (CPT) then met in December and, with support from the AWF Senior Director of Conservation Science, programs for implementation were developed. Drafting of the land use plan has now commenced and is expected to be completed in March 2014.



In LMNP, the AWF Vice President Conservation Strategy met with about 130 ranchers in the Rurambira area (neighboring Lake Kakyera) and explained the concept of conservancies. There was indicative support from the ranchers for the concept. Development of the land ownership map indicating those interested in participating in the conservancy is being developed.

A total of 145 direction and information signs for LMNP have been fabricated and are ready for installation. They will help improve visitor satisfaction and make it easier for first time visitors to LMNP to find their way around the park.

The Deputy USAID Mission Director and the AOR paid a brief visit to Murchison Falls National Park and specifically met the wildlife scouts who have been trained and equipped through the program intervention in November 2013. The scouts demonstrated their skills at dealing with problem animals and how the training and equipment have further helped to reduce incidences of human-wildlife conflict in the area.

An EIA has been submitted to NEMA but work on the 57 km trail in Budongo CFR continues based on NFA guidelines, with the construction of the trail entailing placing of murrum where necessary, construction of bridges, and the removal of fallen logs. A few bridges and the construction of resting areas still remain and will be accomplished in the next quarter.

The USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program participated in the Big Birding day organized by NatureUganda and Uganda Wildlife Authority with our focus being on Budongo CFR, one of the five sites for program implementation. A total of 708 bird species across the country were recorded in a 24-hour period, further cementing Uganda's reputation as a birder's paradise.

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 (December 31, 2013)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<b>General</b>									
Prepare Year II Work plan, review Performance Monitoring Plan and develop Marketing Strategy	Approved work plan, marketing plan and PMP	✓				All documents submitted and Mission provided comments	80	Final revision being undertaken	
<b>Program work in Lake Mburo</b>									
Tourism Product Development for LMNP	Plan, design and implement park-related tourism infrastructure (signage, interpretation and tracks and trails): 8 km of trail; 30 new signage installed	✓				145 signs based on UWA requirements and guidelines fabricated and ready for installation	85	Some delays by the fabricator due to delayed imported supplies were experienced. All signs now ready for installation to start in next quarter. Trail infrastructure awaits USFS report.	✓
Develop a marketing plan, packages and promotional materials for the domestic market	Marketing plan approved & 4000 copies of Promotional materials produced	✓				8 panel and 16 panel brochures ready for printing. Guidebook and children's activity book still being developed, expected to be ready next quarter	70	Relevant tourism players (UWA, tour operators, lodge owners) have been consulted and made contributions to the materials being developed.	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2013)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	Association of CTEs developed and operational	✓				Lake Mburo Community Tourism Association established with interim leadership.	50	A constitution has consultatively been developed and awaits approval by the association and local leadership.	✓
	Land suitable for wildlife management (conservancy) identified	✓				Mapping of ranchers to determine area for conservancy undertaken	90	Consultation with ranchers and local leadership ongoing	✓
<b>Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park</b>									
Improving tourism connectivity between MFNP and KVNP	Northern Uganda circuit investment plan developed and disseminated					The consultant selected for this assignment declined due to the delay in approval of the consultancy. He indicates his availability next quarter.	10	Approval and contracting of consultant expected in the next quarter	✓
Develop tourism Mini-guide for Northern Uganda route to Kidepo	Tourism mini-guide for northern Uganda route to Kidepo used in marketing					This was dependent on the consultancy above.	10	As above	✓
Improving tourism in KVNP	5 km trail developed and signage in place	✓				Three interlinked trails with a total distance of 15 km developed. Signage and interpretation materials await USFS report and recommendations.	80	Awaits USFS report	✓
	Procurement of binoculars and telescopes to improve tourism in Kidepo	✓				Orders placed but due to need to directly manufacture the telescopes, equipment expected to be delivered in the next quarter.	50	Awaiting delivery before installation of the telescopes	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2013)	% 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					Work focused on trail planning and interpretation for the Apoka trail covering the village surroundings, armory, cemetery and museum	30	Awaiting report from USFS before development of trail	
Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)	Approved Karenga Land use plan	✓				Zoning plans presented to the communities and local leadership. Approval of zoning plans sought and received from communities and local leadership.	80	Drafting of land use plan to start next quarter before presentation to the communities and sub county council for approval	✓
Provide environmental awareness and conservation education to organized groups	Two groups supported	✓				Provided awareness education to two clubs (Geography and Wildlife clubs) of Kotido Secondary School	90	More community/schools groups to be engaged and conservation clubs established	✓
<b>Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve</b>									
Improve tourism infrastructure	57 km of biking trail established	✓				EIA done and submitted to NEMA. No objection sought from NEMA and mitigation plan done. Trail construction is ongoing and almost complete. The trail opening, grabbing, shaping and compacting is complete. Bridges and placement of signage in selected sections remains.	80	The bridges will be constructed using timber and NFA made a contribution for the timber required for construction.	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2013)	% 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. Mapping for trail guide development currently being undertaken. The trail opening was undertaken by 15 community members (100% male), as well as 2 NFA staff (50%) female.	90	Development interpretative material is pending receipt of USFS report (with recommendations)	✓
Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management	Train 20 guides in interpretation	✓				Training needs assessment done and training plan developed. Training commences on the 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2014 with training in the use of data tools and equipment. A total of 20 community members and 5 NFA staff have been slated for the training.	40	The training in interpretation is planned for January 2014	✓
	Support CFM groups to access and add value to timber off-cuts	✓				Timber off-cuts value chain analysis is complete. However, facilitating CFM groups to obtain concessions for off-cut harvest and value addition to timber off-cuts was deferred to next quarter.	90	Pending approval of Year II work plan and budget	✓
<b>Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve</b>									
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 complete but awaiting printing and dissemination.	95	Printing to be done in next quarter	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2013)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site	Streamline tourism in relation to ongoing Chimp research.	✓				Held meetings with NFA and Japan researchers to agree on how research and tourism chimp groups will be managed and develop on job training for the guides	80	Process will continue to bring harmony and collaboration to ensure tourism and research support to conservation and visitor satisfaction	✓
	15 staff trained and equipped	✓				Training plan developed and ready for implementation	60	Training scheduled for January 2014 together with staff and CFM groups from Budongo CFR	✓
<b>Program work in Murchison Falls National Park</b>									
Tourism product development within MFNP	Top of falls trail redeveloped					USFS trail design and interpretation specialists and AWF consultant provided support to UWA in designing the top of falls trails. Process still ongoing. Draft design report submitted for comments	50	Activity still ongoing. Final report expected in next quarter	✓
	Improved Purongo community tourism product					A cultural center management committee was selected and set up.	30	Committee is preparing a constitution to guide management of the center. Meanwhile, UWA has provided UGX Shs. 141 million to support infrastructure development of the center from its revenue sharing funds.	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2013)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<b>National Cross Cutting</b>									
Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism	Approved NFA tourism plan	✓				Ecotourism plan presented to NFA management and review done based on their comments	90	NFA Board approval and launch expected in the next quarter	✓
Tourism promotion/marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue	4000 materials produced for marketing and distributed	✓				8 and 16 panel brochures for LMNP and MFNP ready for printing while those for Kidepo are still being developed. Other materials will include guidebooks for the three parks and a children's activity book for LMNP	60	UWA, tour operators, guides, lodge owners and other stakeholders have been involved through consultations on the format and content of the marketing materials	✓
	Production of marketing/branding materials for community tourism enterprises	✓				5 directional signposts produced and installment awaits approval from UWA because they are to be placed inside the park.	90	Signpost to be placed in the next quarter	✓
	Participation in the Big Birding Day, focusing on Budongo CFR	✓				Participated in the Big Birding Day with 26 participants recording 96 species in Budongo CFR in one day. The highest record for Budongo	100		✓
Partners' engagement	Two meetings held	✓				Various one-on-one (AWF/partner) meetings held during implementation and in preparation of the work plan and marketing strategy.	80	TAG meeting postponed. Will hold to present and discuss approved FY14 work plan	✓

Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2013)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program	100 youth trained and equipped to address problem animal and other conservation issues	✓				A study tour for 28 scouts undertaken to Queen Elizabeth and Kibale NPs in October while the Deputy Mission Director USAID and AOR made a visit to the scouts of Koch Goma near MFNP	100	The wildlife scouts continue to play an important role in reducing human wildlife conflicts and supporting the improvement of community perceptions towards conservation and tourism	✓
<b>Media engagement</b>									
Media engagement	Strengthened partnership with media houses and several articles published for more awareness about tourism and conservation.	✓				Media continuously engaged throughout the period. Internal (within AWF) summary information provided and regularly to media with UWA Headquarter, parks staff, and local government leadership participation.	100	Increased number of articles about target sites and tourism/conservation in general.	✓
Media Capacity Improvement	Uganda Tourism Press Association website running and regularly updated with tourism related information	✓				Training on website updating undertaken for the executive of the Uganda Tourism Press Association	100	Regular updates of the Uganda Tourism Press Association website	✓
Media Coverage analysis	Daily clipping has been done to capture biodiversity stories published	✓				Daily capture of stories published has been captured.	100	Keep monitoring news stories to evaluate the trends	✓



Activity As in Work Plan	Planned/Target As in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2013)	% completed	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>									
Revising and updating the program performance management plan	Revised and updated PMP	✓				Chain developed and PMP revised and submitted to USAID, received comments and now finalizing for final submission.	80		✓
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)	80	Baseline to be collected in quarter 2	✓
Reporting	Performance data for fiscal year 2013 uploaded into the system	✓				Indicator targets for fiscal year 2014 will be uploaded once the PMP has been approved	100	Program team to meet and set targets as soon as workplan and PMP has been approved	✓
Ecological monitoring follow up training in Kidepo		✓				16 rangers worked with AWF to harmonize the data collection tools and also received additional training in data capture. 6 rangers were also trained in dissemination of data in GIS format for analysis using MIST	100	Rangers are now able to capture, download, transmit and disseminate data using MIST	✓

# 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

The Program is supporting the placement of direction and information signage in Lake Mburo National Park. Uganda Wildlife Authority has identified signage and interpretative materials as one of the key ingredients that will lead to improved visitor satisfaction in its parks. The Program has also leveraged the skills and resources of the United States Forest Service (USFS) to assist in ensuring high quality tourism products. A total of 145 signs for Lake Mburo National Park have been fabricated and await installation in the next quarter.



*Some of the signage developed for LMNP*

#### 1.1.2 Install supporting infrastructure along the new trails

A two-day inspection exercise was undertaken for the four trails opened in Lake Mburo National Park to identify areas for improvement and for the required signage. The inspection was conducted by the Chief of Party, LMNP Conservation Area Manager, Warden Tourism, AWF Program Officer and UWA ranger guides. The following areas for improvement were identified: provision of signage and interpretation materials on the trails; provision of resting sheds; training for guides on interpretation along the trails; procurement of guide books and binoculars for identification of tree and bird species; provision of parking areas at start and end of trails; guidelines on waste management; cooperation with tour operators and lodge managers to package and market the trails; construction of a viewing platform for viewing animals at the salt lick; improvement of drainage along slopes; provision of toilets at starting points; and naming of the trails.

## **1.2 Secure returns for communities from wildlife conservation**

### **1.2.1 Community tourism enterprises**

This activity is intended to support Community Tourism Enterprises (CTEs) around LMNP to develop necessary tourism infrastructure and to offer improved and increased tourism products and services. Nine Community Tourism Enterprise (CTE) groups trained by UCOTA under their "Lake Mbuero Conservation Area Community Tourism Association" (LMCTA) have been supported to develop a constitution and guidelines for managing their affairs. The aim of the association is to provide a structure for the enterprises to support one another in improving and marketing their products and services. A five-member committee was elected as the association's interim governing body and the committee was guided and tasked to draft the constitution. Through several consultations with relevant stakeholders such as UWA, UCOTA, AWF and local government, a draft constitution has been developed. The draft constitution has been shared with stakeholders for additional input. Finalization and approval of the constitution and guidelines is expected to be completed in the next quarter.

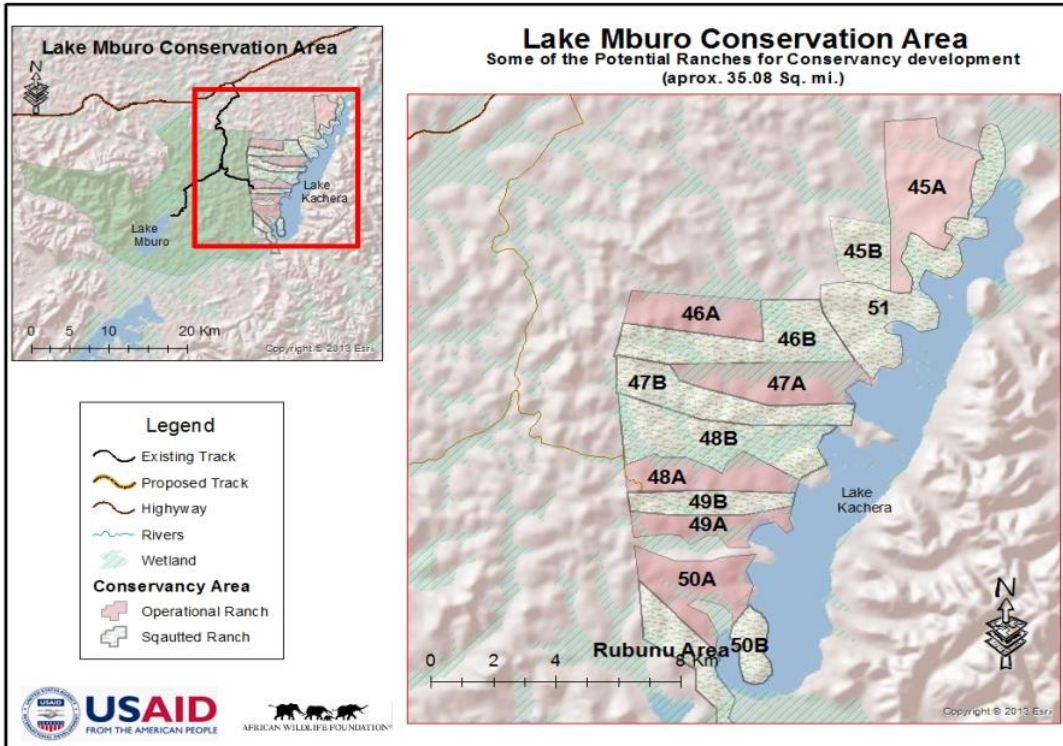
As a follow up on previous training by UCOTA, three other enterprises were visited. It was observed that the communities had taken initiative to further develop their tourism products using the knowledge acquired during the trainings and were looking forward to the dummy tour in which the products would be tested. The dummy tours are expected to be conducted in the next quarter.

UCOTA also provided technical support to the CTEs in the development of homestay-based tourism. Discussions regarding Kanyaryeru homestay development commenced and, following UCOTA homestay criteria, the first assessment was completed. The home owners were left to work on some of the recommendations agreed on.

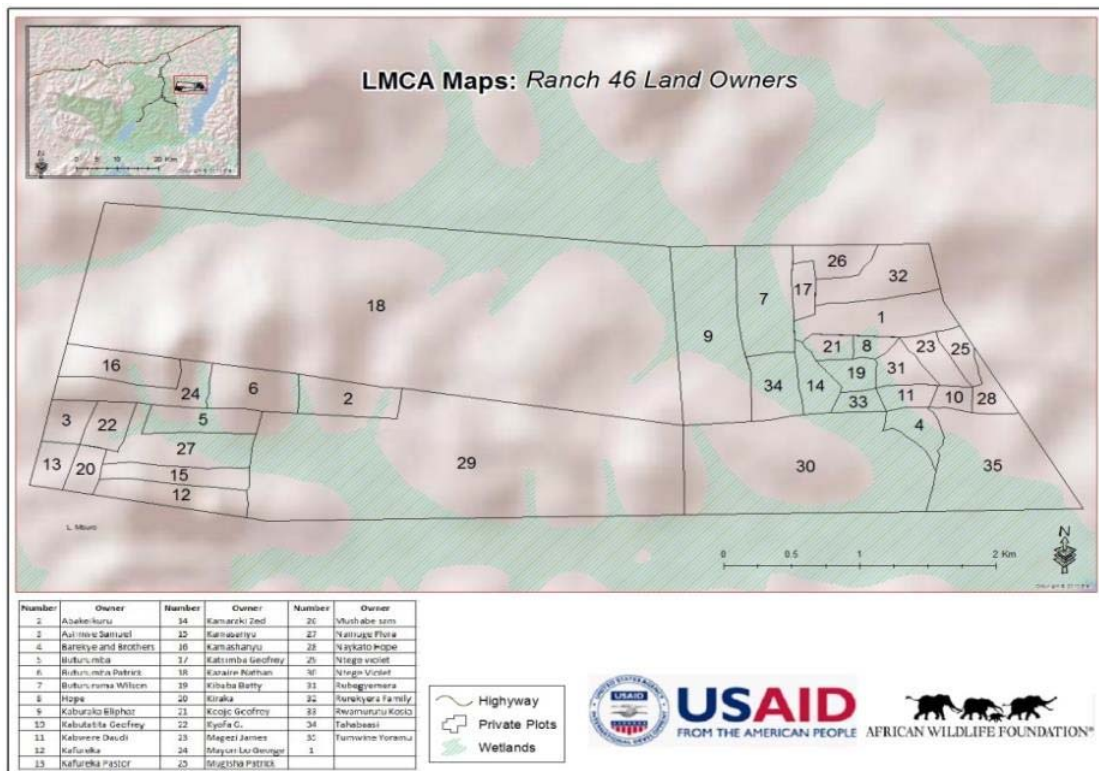
### **1.2.2 Participatory land use planning and zoning**

Several meetings were held with the land owners in Rurambira parish to plan the development of a conservancy. One of the meetings was attended by the AWF Vice President - Conservation Strategy. She discussed with the landowners, 124 (91 male and 33 female) of whom were in attendance, how they can work together to develop a conservancy.

In addition, the landowners were involved in sketching maps of their land parcels within ranches 45 to 51. The Local Council chairpersons were very helpful in assisting with the sketching of the maps. The maps will help in developing a better understanding of the viability of the conservancy i.e. whether there are enough willing land owners, whether their land parcels are sufficiently contiguous, and whether there is sufficient connectivity between the land parcels and Lake Mbuero NP. This exercise also improved transparency in local land governance and natural resource management (NRM).



Location of ranches 45 to 51, which are involved in land use planning for conservancy development



Map of land owners of ranch 46 developed from the community sketch maps  
(Note: the individual plots are not drawn to scale)

With the completion of the maps, additional meetings and consultations with the land owners will be held to identify those interested in the development of the conservancy. They will then organize themselves into an association and select an executive with whom the Tourism for Biodiversity Program, in collaboration with UWA and the local government, will further work on land use zoning and a plan for implementation.

During the visit of the AWF Vice President Conservation Strategy to LMNP, individual meetings were held with the lodge owners of Mihingo Lodge, Mburo Safari Lodge and Rwakobo Rock as well as with Game Trails (undertaking sport hunting activities in the area). The meetings were intended to inform them of Tourism for Biodiversity's plans to develop a conservancy in the area and obtain their buy-in and participation in the process. All were enthusiastic and indicated their willingness to participate in and support the process.



*The AWF Vice President addressing ranch owners of Rurambira parish on conservancy development*

Other discussions were held with the executive of the Nshara Wildlife Association (the association formed by land owners to oversee the activities of sport hunting in the area) to discuss how the association could work with the Tourism for Biodiversity Program and support the landowners in the development of the conservancy in Rurambira parish, and later in other neighboring areas. Association members were very positive and pledged their support.

The Tourism for Biodiversity Program was also represented at a meeting at Sanga called by the LC V chairman for Kiruhura district to discuss the issue of wildlife on private land. All land owners in the two hunting blocks (Nshara & Rwanda) were invited and about 300 people attended including a few from Kampala. UWA was represented by the Deputy Director Conservation. It was proposed at the meeting that a voluntary committee be formed to engage government on the issues of how wildlife on private land can be managed to benefit land owners.

## **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**

This activity was postponed to next quarter due to the unavailability of the consultant selected for the assignment in this quarter.

### **2.2 Improving tourism in KVNP**

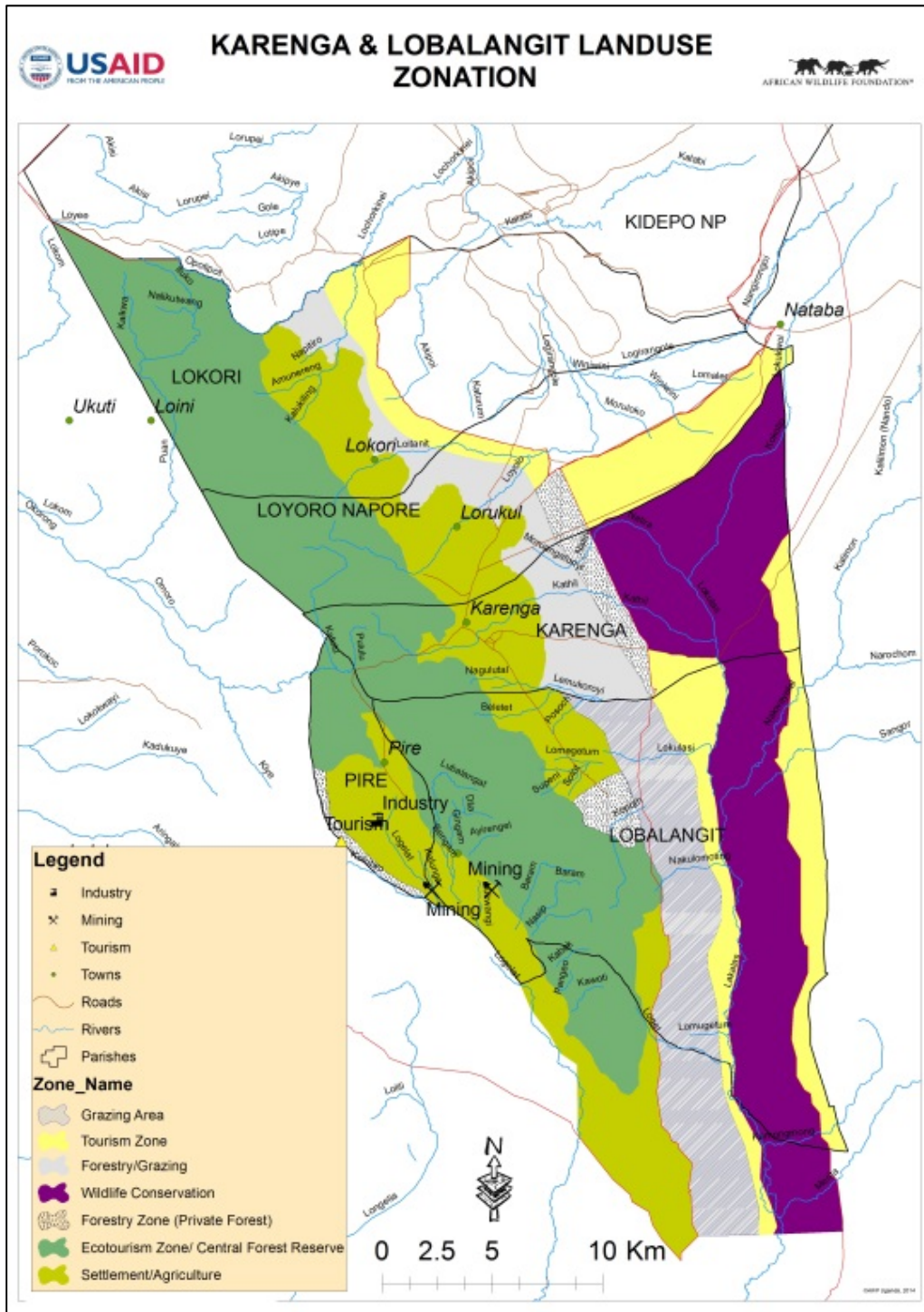
There were unexpected delays in the delivery of the three telescopes ordered; due to their specifications, they needed to be specially manufactured. Delivery and installation is expected in January/February 2014. An additional 5 pairs of binoculars are also expected to be delivered at the same time. These will help in improving visitor satisfaction as the visitors will be able to appreciate better the landscape and species found in and around the park.

Three additional trails (Namamkweny, Kidepo River and Lopirpir/Nakawo confluence) await approval of the Year II budget to be opened. This is also the case for the placement of signage and interpretation materials along the trails in the park.

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

The process of developing a land use plan for Karenga and Lobalangit sub-counties continued during this quarter. An integral part of the land use planning procedure is to ensure that the communities, for whom the land use plan is developed, are fully informed of the process, and approve the development products at each stage in the progression.

As reported in the last quarter, the zoning scheme for the two sub-counties was developed and agreed on by the core planning team (CPT). In this quarter, the CPT presented the zoning scheme to the communities and local leadership for their input and approval at both Karenga and Lobalangit sub-county headquarters (in October). At the Lobalangit meeting, over 200 community members approved the zoning scheme and advised the CPT to continue to develop the necessary programs for implementation.



The zonation scheme developed by the core palnning teams of Karenga and Lobalangit sub-counties

At Karenga, there was some concern raised by the communities regarding the boundaries of the Community Wildlife Area and some of the zones, especially those related to tourism. The meeting resolved that additional discussions were necessary, especially at parish level. Therefore additional meetings at parish level were organized and conducted in November. They were attended by Kaabong district and Karenga sub-county leaders. The parishes are Loyoro, Lokori, Karenga and

Opotpot. At these meetings, the communities sought clarification on all matters and later approved the continuation of the planning process after receiving the necessary explanations from the CPT, UWA, and AWF.

In December 2013, the CPT met again to review the comments from the communities and develop programs for the implementation of the land use plan. The key programs identified are: conservation and ecology; tourism; community livelihoods and resource use; operations and management; and institutions and governance. In the development of these programs, the CPT with technical support from UWA and AWF, discussed the following topics as part of enhancing understanding of land use governance and natural resource management (NRM).

- Conservation values of the area
- Key threats to conservation values
- Key conservation threats, strategies and management actions
- Ecological monitoring framework
- Inventory of visitor facilities and visitor use
- Desired tourism products
- Tourism activity plan
- Livestock production
- Agriculture, mining and industry
- Human-wildlife conflicts
- Adjacent activities and land use
- Security issues
- Infrastructure
- Human resources needs
- Management collaborations
- Institutional arrangements
- Benefit sharing arrangements

To ensure all key issues were captured, the CPT co-opted various technical people during this process, including representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, lodge operators, UCOTA, NGOs working in the area and district technical officers.



*The Core Planning Team members and co-opted members at the program development workshop*





*The agriculture program group discussing agriculture improvement activities*

## **2.4 Provide environmental and conservation awareness education to organized groups**

The Tourism for Biodiversity team in Kidepo Valley National Park held a conservation education awareness discussion with the Wildlife and Geography Clubs of Kotido Secondary School when they visited the park before the end of the third term.

## **3 Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve**

### **3.1 Improve tourism infrastructure**

#### ***3.1.1 Chimp trail network at Kaniyo Pabidi extended***

The new and old grid of trails at Kaniyo Pabidi was inventoried by the USFS specialist Ms. Renee Catherin, with the support of NFA and JGI staff, for the development of maps and interpretative material. These two inventories will provide a complete map of the grid lines useful to guides and researchers at this site. The map will also display a set of signs identifying key grid line numbers that will be placed throughout the grid system to aid guides. Finalization of these materials is still ongoing and will be installed once ready.



*USAID Tourism for Biodiversity and NFA staff inspecting the trail system in December 2013*

The trail system, although not fully complete (pending signage and interpretation), has already been added to the tourism offering of Kaniyo-Pabidi; a total of 18 “trial” visitors have used the trails in the last quarter of 2013. Furthermore, because of the increased chimpanzee viewing success rate, Great Lakes Safaris (the concessionaire at Kaniyo-Pabidi) has now revised chimpanzee tracking rates with a 55% increase, bringing the chimpanzee tracking fees at Kaniyo Pabidi to the same level as other sites (Kibale National Park) in the country. The rates were revised as follows: low season rates increased from \$50 to \$75 per person, and high season rates from \$55 to \$85 per person. This is expected to increase overall revenue for NFA and the concessionaire due to increased satisfaction of visitors and therefore increased tourist numbers to the site.

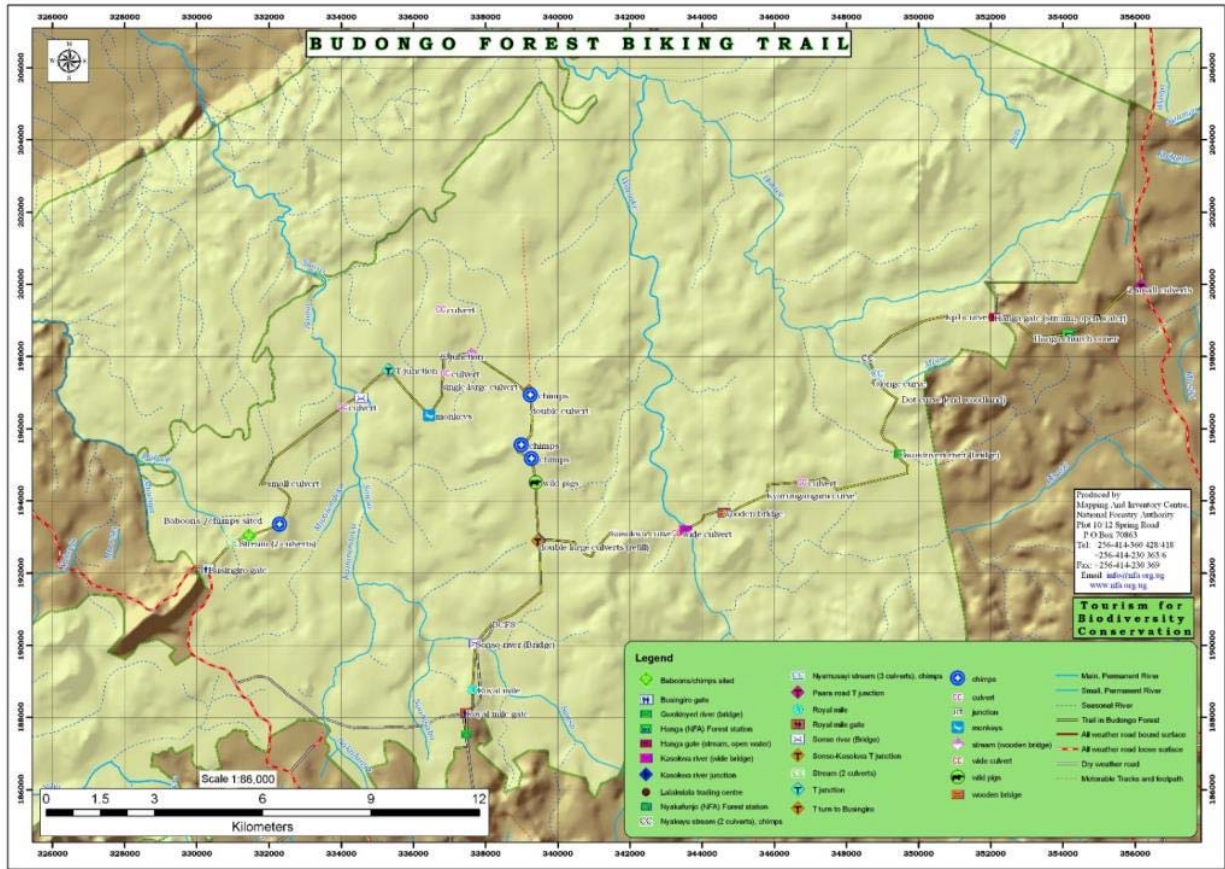
Furthermore, because the new trail system requires continuous management, the 15 community members who were trained to open the trails have been co-opted by the concessionaire to carry out continuous maintenance of the trail system. The community members, who previously derived their main source of income from farming, now have additional employment and household income estimated at US\$3 per kilometer of trail maintenance.



*A view of the forest from the rock platform to be constructed on the new trail system, affording visitors a 360° view of the forest*

### **3.1.2 57 km of biking trail established and operational**

The development of the hiking and biking trail was launched by the USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Chief of Party during this quarter and construction is now near completion. The remaining work mainly entails the construction of bridges and placement of signage. The entire trail system is being constructed concurrently by three community labor-based contractors (Datch Engineering, Luma Construction Company and Remmy Construction Company). The contractors are employing the local communities through the CFM groups and to date, a total of 213 (30% female) community members have been employed. These groups are also undergoing training to provide them with the skills to maintain the trails post-construction. This approach has improved the community relationship with the NFA and local appreciation of tourism and conservation.



Map of the 57km biking trail.

A delay was caused by the heavy rains towards the end of 2013, and also because of a report of lions and buffaloes in Section III of the trail i.e. from River Waisoke to Hanga Gate on the Eastern aspect of Budongo CFR; this brought work to a stand still for several weeks. The lions and buffaloes are believed to have originated from Murchison Falls National Park and were sighted in the community areas adjacent to this section of the hiking and biking trail. UWA Rangers and Environmental Police have been deployed in the area and work recommenced in December 2013.

The community has also donated land for a tourist rest area, bike shade and parking. The 1 acre piece of land, located right at the entrance of the biking trail, was officially handed over to the USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Chief of Party by the L.C. I chairman of Hanga village and the chairman of the North Budongo Forest Conservation Association (NOBUFOCA) CFM group.



*USAID Tourism for Biodiversity CoP commissioning the construction of the hiking/biking trail*



*USAID Tourism for Biodiversity CoP and NFA Range Manager receiving land for a tourist rest area, bike shade, and parking from Chairman L.C. I*

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

### ***3.2.1 Training of interpretative guides for Kalinzu and Budongo CFRs***

A training needs assessment was undertaken and a training plan developed to enhance interpretation for guides in Kalinzu and Budongo CFRs. A total of 20 community guides and 5 NFA staff are to undergo the training in the next quarter. The training will also cover the use of various data tools and equipment which will support the monitoring functions.

### ***3.2.2 Support CFM groups to access and add value to timber offcuts***

The timber off-cuts value chain analysis was completed and reports submitted. However, facilitating CFM groups to obtain concessions for off-cut harvest and value addition training has been deferred to the next quarter.

## **4 Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve**

### **4.1 Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site**

#### ***4.1.1 Streamline tourism and research chimp group conflict***

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013, USAID Tourism for Biodiversity held a meeting at the NFA Headquarters in Kampala, involving key stakeholders (research and tourism) in the management of the chimpanzee groups in Kalinzu CFR. The participants included Dr Feruichi Takeshi (director of the research center at Kalinzu), Ms Kanako Tanaka (ecotourism consultant with NFA), Ms Justine Aheebwa (natural forest management specialist at NFA), Mr Osman Amulla, and Dr Peter Apell from the Jane Goodall Institute (representing USAID Tourism for Biodiversity). The purpose of the meeting was to identify key areas of conflict between the research and tourism groups and to map a way forward to alleviate this conflict. The meeting also focused on sharing information about ecotourism in Kalinzu. The proposed Year II work plan for USAID Tourism for Biodiversity was also discussed, with the views of the researchers and NFA being sought on canopy walk development.

Subsequent to this meeting, another field meeting was scheduled and held at Kalinzu CFR on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013. The meeting was attended by representatives of NFA (tour guides, habitators, the forest supervisor, the sector manager, forest patrolmen, the natural forest management specialist and ecotourism consultant), Kalinzu Forest Project (research site represented by Professor Chie Hashimoto and Ms Hodaka Matsuo) and USAID Tourism for Biodiversity (represented by JGI).

(a)



(b)



*Participants at (a) and during (b) the meeting at Kalinzu CFR*

The main issues highlighted at the two meetings are that there are two (2) groups of chimpanzees that are habituated at the Kalinzu CFR; the M group is for research and the S group is for ecotourism. However, the major problem is that the home ranges of these two groups overlap,

often resulting in tourists meeting with researchers and causing conflict. Furthermore, it was noted that ecotourism guides often ignore the rules for chimpanzee tracking i.e. chimpanzee viewing time exceeds 1 hour, and maximum numbers of people often exceed the upper limit of 6 tourists per session. The latter was attributed to pressure from tour operators, lack of awareness of rules among the tour operators and the lack of payment of salaries to tour guides by NFA.

Based on the above key issues, the meeting resolved that the following should be addressed:

- Expand trail system in Kalinzu CFR to include other activities like the Nkombe Hill climb, and habituate other charismatic primates such as L'Hoest and/or Blue monkeys to provide alternative options for visitors and relieve the pressure on chimpanzees;
- Need to ensure that the guides are paid regularly and properly equipped with field gear, walkie-talkies and uniforms;
- Tour guides are to ensure that the maximum number of tourists entering the forest for chimpanzee tracking per session be maintained at six (6) and NFA will set up in-forest monitoring cameras to monitor and enforce the numbers of visitors entering the forest;
- There is a need for regular joint patrols by the research and NFA patrol teams. There is also a need for official regular communication between the research and tourism teams to harmonize their activities and reduce conflicts. Walkie-talkies for radio communication are available for use in English, as is the standard in such settings. Both the research and tourism teams will be connected on the same frequency for easy coordination;
- There is a need to habituate more chimpanzees within Kalinzu CFR. Also, of the three (3) chimpanzee groups in Kashyoha-Kitomi CFR, at least two (2) could be habituated for tourism so as to reduce pressure in Kalinzu CFR;
- There is a need for refresher trainings - for example, the Japanese researchers at KFP could train relevant NFA staff on tailored training needs such as chimpanzee behavior and tourism management;
- Develop protocols and procedures for ecotourism management in Kalinzu CFR and train guides in the use of these guidelines.

## **5 Program work in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP)**

### **5.1 Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program**

#### **5.1.1 *Wildlife scouts study tour to Queen Elizabeth and Kibale National Parks***

A four-day study tour was conducted in October 2013 to Kibale National Park (KNP) and Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) by a group of 28 Community Wildlife Scouts (CWS) drawn from seven neighboring parishes around MFNP. The selected scouts were part of the larger group of 122 that underwent training on community-based human-wildlife conflict (HWC) management with support from the USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program implemented African Wildlife Foundation in July 2013. The 28 included CWS parish chairpersons, secretaries and one committee



member from each of the parishes (Pabit, Kal, Lii (*Nwoya District*), Dimma, Nyamasa, Kyangkende and Kichwabugingo (*Kiryandongo district*)). Lii parish had more representatives considering the length of its boundary with the park. Two staff of MFNP (Warden Community Conservation in charge of human wildlife conflicts and one community conservation ranger) accompanied the scouts.

The objectives of the tour were to enable the wildlife scouts to:

- a) Understand intensity of HWC in other areas outside MFNP
- b) Learn how communities around KNP and QENP manage HWC
- c) Compare and contrast successes and challenges involved in mitigating HWC
- d) Learn new mitigation measures and adopt suitable ones for the MFNP situation

In Kibale, participants visited the Isunga chili farming and Kahondo parish trench. In Isunga, community leaders explained to participants the process of chili growing and its application to deter elephants and baboons. They also learned of the use of Mauritius thorn and buffer crops such as tea, coffee and chili along the excavated trench. It was however, noted that trench maintenance was equally challenging to those communities.

In Kahondo (KNP), participants visited a section of trench under maintenance where Mauritius thorns were planted to reinforce trench. Here the scouts were also taken through setting up of surveillance camps (bivouacs) for night guarding of elephant entry points. The challenge witnessed here included protection of Mauritius thorn bushes against fire in dry seasons.



*A woman explaining how to care for Mauritius thorn on the boundary of Kibale National Park*



*Community Wildlife Scouts admiring beehives laid by community alongside trench in Kyambura, Queen Elizabeth National Park*

In QENP, the scouts visited Kyambura community where large-scale farming takes place at a cooperative level. Other than trenches and Mauritius thorn, scouts learned of the use of bees as a mitigation measure and how to lay beehives alongside trenches and other elephant entry points. The importance of planting similar (uniform) crops, especially those not palatable to elephants, in a given season by all farmers was also emphasized; intercropping often attracts elephants.

#### **5.1.2 USAID Deputy Mission Director and AOR's visit to the wildlife scouts of MFNP**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013, USAID/Uganda Deputy Mission Director, Mr. Mark Meassick, accompanied by the USAID/Uganda Team Leader for Environment and Natural Resources, Rebecca Carter visited Community Wildlife Scouts of Koch Goma sub-county, neighboring Murchison Falls National Park. The Community Wildlife Scouts implement human wildlife conflict control measures to support UWA in reducing the problem animal conflicts.



*The Deputy Mission Director discussing human wildlife conflict issues with the wildlife scouts*



*Wildlife scouts demonstrating the use of various methods to deter problem animals from raiding crops*

The Deputy Mission Director who was visiting USAID Mission-supported programs in Northern Uganda was presented a demonstration how ranger scouts connected their interventions to wildlife conservation. When he teased them as to why they were doing so much to protect elephants that raid their crops instead of killing them (for ivory that offers quick money), George Okeny (the scouts' leader) quickly responded: "We have to protect elephants because they attract visitors who bring money that we get from UWA through revenue sharing!" One of the objectives of the park is to increase park visitation in order to increase revenue sharing, the rate of which is currently set at 20% per park gate entry.

The Community Wildlife Scouts explained and demonstrated to their guests some of the interventions they undertake to prevent crop raiding by wildlife, especially elephants. These include maintenance of the 32 kilometer elephant trench, laying chili (pepper) bricks that are lit during crop-raid periods, and other methods like increased vigilance, beating drums, blowing of whistles and vuvuzelas, application of pepper on ropes on the boundaries of gardens, setting fires, and other traditional methods. These methods have helped in controlling crop raids in areas of operation.

USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program equipped the scouts with gear worth 7.5 million Uganda shillings in September 2013. George Okeny extended the group's appreciation to USAID for the support in training, learning trips and equipment. Mr Okeny called for more support to the group and the extension of the program to other affected communities around the park.

At the same meeting, the MFNP monitoring and research rangers explained to the visitors a new monitoring technique using a camera (with in-built GPS) and how this helps in information capture and prosecution in cases of illegal activities. USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program plans to support UWA with similar cameras as part of the year two work plan activities.

The Deputy Mission Director pledged USAID continued support through USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program to address some of the challenges the group is facing. He expressed gratitude to the community for their involvement in sustainable wildlife management and conservation.

The Community Wildlife Scouts (CWS) program was initiated by Uganda Wildlife Authority as it embarked on implementing a number of human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures. Community representatives and volunteer youths (scouts) were mobilized to chase away 'invading' elephants from community gardens. This community, which carries scars of the Kony war, settled in Koch Goma after peace returned to the area. The wildlife scout initiative has helped to reduce poaching in the area, with the number of hippos increasing from only two in R. Ayago to about 23 hippos now. Similarly, the presence and interventions by wildlife scouts has resulted in UWA reducing their ranger presence and patrols in the area. In 2008, UWA had 14 rangers in this area but they have been reduced to only 3 rangers as there are fewer conflicts to address. UWA is saving approximately 15 million Uganda Shillings annually on operational costs, food rations, transport, patrols and supervision as a result of this particular community empowerment.

## **5.2 Tourism product development within MFNP**

### **5.2.1 *Re-design Top of Falls layout***

Work on the redesign of the Top of the Falls Area in Murchison Falls National Park has also been undertaken and a draft design has been submitted to AWF for review and comment. It is meant to define, improve and enhance the visitor experience at the falls. Meetings with the technical team at UWA were held with the consultant and the interpretative planner Chuck Lennox. The site plan will provide for:

- Improved vehicle access and parking
- Improved visitor access and facilities locations (pathways/trails, toilets, safety features)
- A better and safer visitor viewing experience at the falls proper
- Interpretive themes and storylines for the site
- Designated locations for future interpretive signs and features
- Review and recommendations for the location of a future visitor center (if not at the site)
- Review and recommendations (or not) for food service/canteen/restaurant options
- Review and recommendations (or not) for building a pedestrian bridge across the top of Murchison Falls

### **5.2.2 *Improve Purongo community tourism product***

One meeting was held this quarter at Purongo, involving the USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program represented by UCOTA, to discuss how activities at the cultural center under construction would be implemented. This is especially important as UWA has already disbursed UGX Shs. 141 million towards development of the cultural center and has specifically requested the Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program to support the capacity building of the community to ensure development of a good cultural product at the center.

During the meeting, a committee was elected from among the community representatives pre-selected by the sub-county leadership. It was agreed that additional experienced and knowledgeable elders will need to be selected to serve as ex-officials to the committee.

It was also learnt that UWA had already disbursed the UGX SHs 140 million to the sub-county account and that the community had started spending without a clear implementation plan. Some of the activities which the community has already spent money on include: development of site structures, architecture plans, thatch and site clearing, digging a pit latrine, and seating allowances. The Program advised the committee to halt expenditures until all relevant plans are in place to ensure the funds are spent according to the site management plan that will be developed with the help of UCOTA. The USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program will follow up on the activities of the communities in the coming quarters to ensure delivery of a good product at Purongo.

## **6 National Cross Cutting**

### **6.1 Development of an NFA ecotourism plan**

The consultancy regarding the development of an NFA ecotourism plan was concluded in this quarter. The consultant, Bradley Weiss, submitted a draft plan for comments. The AWF team presented the Ecotourism Development Plan to the NFA management for review and comment on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. NFA has already submitted their comments which were incorporated into the plan and a final document has been submitted. The draft ecotourism plan now awaits the next NFA Board of Trustees meeting for presentation and implementation approval.

It should be noted that the NFA management indicated their appreciation of the report and especially the consultation of stakeholders. They emphasized that the plan would facilitate the promotion of ecotourism enterprises and revamp the ongoing ecotourism activities across the CFRs.

### **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 the marketing materials for LMNP, MFNP and KVNP commenced in the last quarter; several materials have since been finalized. The development of the materials has involved consultation with UWA, tour operators and lodge owners, both at the inception and finalization stages of the process. Eight-panel and sixteen-panel brochures for LMNP and MFNP are ready for printing while work on designing guidebooks for all sites, and brochures for Kidepo still continues. It is expected that all work will be ready in the next quarter.

**Where to Stay**

**Luxury: \$150/night and up**

**Kimbila - Mantara Camp**  
Luxury tented camp with excellent food, great service, and spectacular views located within the national park. Each raised tent platform has a veranda looking out across the Mburo landscape.  
[www.kimbila-mantarauganda.com](http://www.kimbila-mantarauganda.com)  
Phone: 0414 521 552

**Mhingo Lodge**  
Beautiful, family-friendly lodge on a hill with sweeping vistas, an animal watering hole, on-site naturalist, horseback riding, and a flycane den nearby for night-time serenades.  
[www.mhingolodge.com](http://www.mhingolodge.com)  
Phone: 0752 410 509

**Mid-Range: \$50 - \$150/night**

**Arcadia Cottages**  
Comfortable cottages in the heart of the park near the lake shore. The restaurant is also an option for drop-in meals if you are camping near the lake.  
[www.arcadiacottages.net](http://www.arcadiacottages.net)  
Phone: 0414 286 261

**Rwenzori Bush**  
A family-run, eco-friendly lodge 1 km from the Nohara Gate. Individual cottages are perched on the rocks overlooking the park. Mountain bike rentals available.  
[www.rwenzoribush.com](http://www.rwenzoribush.com)  
Phone: 0775 211 771

**Mburo Safari Lodge**  
Some of the cottages incorporate the surrounding rocks into their walls to bring the experience of nature into the rooms with you. Great views from the central dining area, and the large beds are a rare treat!  
[www.mburosafarilodge.com](http://www.mburosafarilodge.com)  
Phone: 0414 577 997

**gorilla@tours.com**  
Ph: 0414 200 221

**Imbaga Cultural Centre**  
This cultural centre in Bihara offers a museum, buffet meals, traditional performances and starting in early 2014, conference facilities and lodging. Convenient place for a staff retreat and safari!  
[www.igongomuseum.co.ug](http://www.igongomuseum.co.ug)  
Phone: 0392 722 828

**Budget: Less than \$50 / night**

**UWA Bungalows or Tents**  
Basic and affordable lodging adjacent to park headquarters. Must self-cater or eat elsewhere. 20,000Ush/person shared or 35,000Ush single.  
[www.uganda Wildlife.org](http://www.uganda Wildlife.org)  
Ph: 0751 046 904

**Conservation Ed. Centre**  
Clean rooms with bunk, twin or double beds. Shared toilet and shower facilities. Solar lights. Meeting room and educational programs available. Can reserve for group or individuals. 5500 per student and 10,000 for adults.  
Phone: 0721046904

**Rwenzori Campsite**  
Support the local community while staying for cheap at the Nohara gate. Bungalows or self-camping available. 10,000Ush per person for either. Meals can be arranged with notice.  
Phone: 0758 253 460

**Self-camping or rooms in a country house for 10,000Ush. Terms for hire at 35,000Ush. Meals available from food produced organically on-site. See activities under "Things to Do" section.**  
Phone: 0782 191 563 or 0782 301 201

**Very basic single rooms or self-camping next to the Conservation Education Centre. Limited space available, so call first.**  
Phone: 0753795060

**Where to Do**

**Day/Night Game Drive**  
Day offers impala, zebra, eland and others. Night (7 - 11pm) in Mburo is possibly your best chance of seeing kudu anywhere in Africa, as well as hyenas, owls, nightjars and more. Make arrangements at park headquarters.  
Ph: 0751 046 904

**Horseback Safari**  
Get close to wildlife without the engine noise! Guided outings range from 1 hour (525) to 5 days (5750) and everything in between. All skill levels and kids welcome. Contact Mhingo Lodge at 0752 410 509.

**Boat Ride**  
Chance to see hippos, crocodiles, and the elusive African reed-bird. The park operates two boats (8-person and 14-person). Make arrangements at park headquarters. 530 per person.  
Phone: 0751 046 904

**Mountain Bike Safari**  
Have fun and get exercise while taking alongside incredible wildlife. Contact Rwenzori Rock for details.  
Phone: 0775 211 771

**Spout Fishing**  
Available starting in 2014 on Lake Igamba. Check at park headquarters for prices and availability.

**Walking Safari**  
Slap back in time and move silently on a guided walk in the forest, around the wetlands, or in the woodlands/savanna. 2 - 3 hours. Arrange a guide from park headquarters.  
Phone: 0751 046 904

**Community Tourism Opportunities**  
Help the park by supporting these groups!

**Igongo Cultural Institute**  
On the main highway in Bihara Museum, restaurant, traditional dances, village walks, lodging. Learn local culture and history.  
Phone: 0392 722 828

**Nohara Community Group**  
Budget lodging, food and craft shop at the Nohara gate. Meals can be arranged, but call ahead.  
Phone: 0758 233 460

**Rwenzori Handicrafts**  
Crafts for sale, handicraft demonstrations and information about cultural uses of pots and baskets. Near the Sanga Gate.  
Phone: 0753 288 141

**Rwenzori Drama Actors**  
Traditional Ankole dance, songs and performances about wildlife conservation. Handicrafts and beekeeping.  
Phone: 0392 840 554 or 0702 595 075

**Rwenzori Campsite**  
Organic juices and honey, village and hill walks, goat roasts, bike rentals, medicinal plant walks, cattle watering.  
Phone: 0782 191 563 or 0782 301 201

**Rwenzori Community Assoc.**  
Handicrafts, traditional dance, beekeeping, shoes from recycled tires, community walks.  
Phone: 0774 739 127

**Ankole Cultural Shop**  
Watch traditional milk churning and ghee making and learn about the lifestyle of the Bahema herders.  
Phone: 0782 739 273

One side of Lake Mburo NP eight-panel brochure ready for printing (note: 1 photo awaits placement)

**Getting there**

**Hour to Do**

**Waterfalls**  
Murchison Falls is the largest waterfall in Uganda. It is a spectacular sight to see the water falling 152 metres into the Nile River. The falls are surrounded by lush forest and are a popular spot for picnics and photography. Contact: 0753 887 016

**Wildlife**  
The park is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including giraffes, zebras, and hippos. It is a great place to see these animals in their natural habitat. Contact: 0753 887 016

**Boat Ride**  
Take a boat ride on the Nile River to see hippos and crocodiles. The boat ride is a great way to see these animals up close. Contact: 0753 887 016

**Spout Fishing**  
Try your luck at spout fishing on the Nile River. This is a unique and exciting activity that is popular with both tourists and locals. Contact: 0753 887 016

**Walking Safari**  
Go on a walking safari to see the park's diverse wildlife and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Contact: 0753 887 016

**Hot Air Balloon**  
Experience the park from a new perspective by taking a hot air balloon ride. This is a truly unforgettable experience. Contact: 0753 887 016

**Hot Springs**  
Relax at the park's hot springs, which are a natural wonder. The hot springs are surrounded by lush forest and are a great place to relax and enjoy the view. Contact: 0753 887 016

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Experience the park from a new perspective by taking a hot air balloon ride. This is a truly unforgettable experience. Contact: 0753 887 016

**Hot Springs**  
Relax at the park's hot springs, which are a natural wonder. The hot springs are surrounded by lush forest and are a great place to relax and enjoy the view. Contact: 0753 887 016

One side of Murchison Falls NP sixteen-panel brochure ready for printing

### **6.2.2 Participation in 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 USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program implemented by African Wildlife Foundation, Diary of a Muzungu, and Guide2Uganda. The BBD activity combines avian conservation with awareness and tourism development. The BBD is aimed at encouraging the use of conservation habitat for birding to help promote domestic tourism in the country and to promote Uganda as a global birding destination. It also aims to bridge the information gap by linking up all bird watchers, tourism promoters and conservationists with each other and the rest of the world in an exciting event.

This year's BBD was organized under the theme **“Connecting Birds to People and Nature”** and comprised of three events: the launch day to flag off birding teams on 18<sup>th</sup> October, the birding day on 19<sup>th</sup> October, and the big birding festival day where results from the birding race were announced on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The birding event included guided nature walks throughout the country, with expert ornithologists from NatureUganda membership, UWA staff and other interested birders leading participants at various locations over a 24 hour period. Over 489 enthusiasts participated in the birding race, covering 73 sites in the 32 general conservation areas, and recording 708 bird species. According to Nature Uganda, this birding race was the most successful they had ever organized. The USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program participated in Budongo Central Forest Reserve, one of the program sites, with a team of 26 participants and recorded 96 species.



*Participants at the Uganda Museum at the launch of the big birding day*





*The team of bird enthusiasts who participated in the bird count in Budongo CFR*

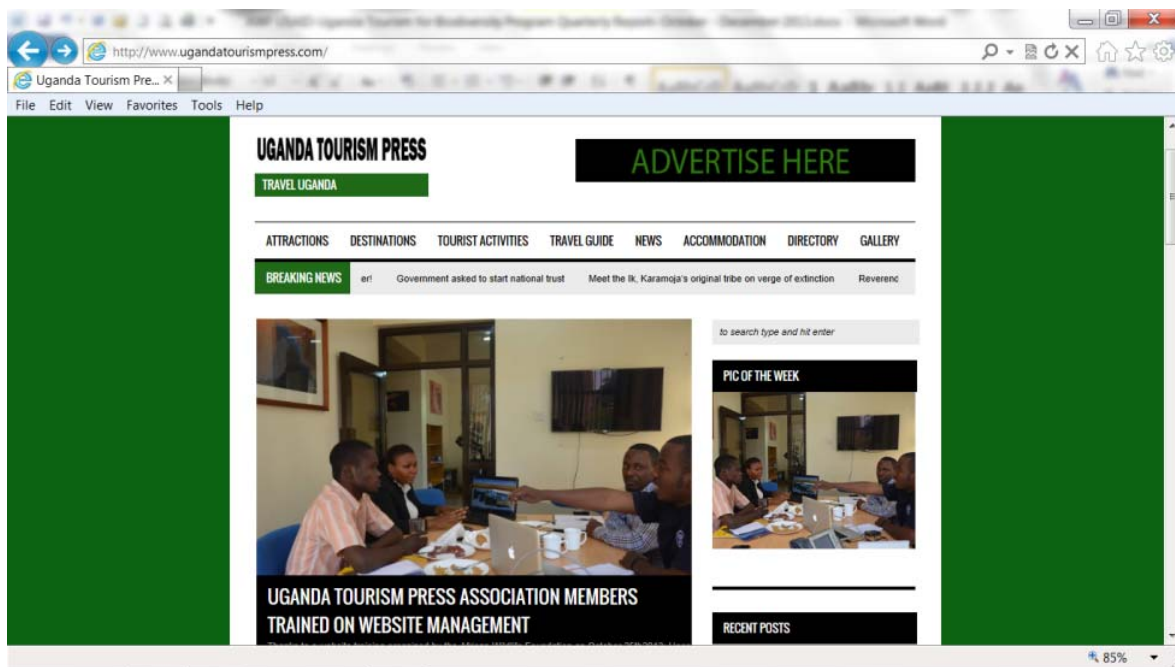
### **6.3 Media engagement**

The USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program continued to correspond with the media to provide information regarding tourism and biodiversity conservation, especially in the five program sites in which we operate. Most of the work entailed responding to and following up on requests made by media houses on various stories regarding our work in the program sites. Various stories have appeared in the papers over the period and additional ones are expected to follow in the next quarter based on requests we received from media houses.

Website training was organized for Uganda Tourism Press Association (UTPA) members to enable them to upload stories directly on to their website. This has reduced the delays previously experienced when submitted stories took lengthy periods to be uploaded. During the five-hour training session, Grace Nakawooya, who supported the development of the UTPA website, gave UTPA members a wealth of knowledge pertaining to the management of their website. In this regard, the UTPA website management was handed over to the association for full control.

Under the new arrangement, members will file and directly email their stories, pictures or videos to the website editors. To begin with, the four members who were present at the training will

volunteer as the editors. These are Simon Musasizi, Samson Baranga, Solomon M. Oleny and Rafsanjan Tataya.



*A screen print of one of the pages of the UTPA website*

## **7 Monitoring and Evaluation**

This report presents an update of monitoring and evaluation within the USAID/ Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity program for the quarter ending December 2013. Activities mainly revolved around revising and updating the program performance management plan, as well as following up on the ecological monitoring program initiated together with the Uganda Wildlife Authority during the first year of program implementation. Initial discussions with the National Forestry Authority, through the Jane Goodall Institute, to establish a system for monitoring threats to biodiversity in Budongo and Kalinzu Forest Reserves, were also conducted during this quarter and a plan of action developed as well. Details of these activities are provided in the proceeding sections.

### **7.1 Revising and updating the program performance management plan.**

During the quarter under review, the program undertook a number of revisions on its performance management plan to adapt to a new and emerging result chain approach. This was done in liaison with USAID Uganda and the Measuring Impact team- a group of consultants. The major focus of the review was on refining program indicators and proposed methods for data collection to ensure that data collected remains current and relevant to the program, its partners and USAID. A draft revised program performance management plan was submitted to USAID for review and comment, and feedback has since been provided. The program will incorporate the new comments and finalize the document during the next quarter of program implementation.

## **7.2 Ecological monitoring follow-up training in Kidepo**

A need for technical support to the Uganda Wildlife Authority in the area of ecological monitoring was identified during the first year of program implementation. Training and capacity building in ecological monitoring was one of the actions to be undertaken as well as procuring equipment to support the ecological monitoring exercise.

During the first year, a training program was launched in Kidepo Valley National Park, aimed at equipping the monitoring and research rangers with skills in accurate data capture and download using selected transects for purposes of consistency, and to facilitate trend analysis. Over 26 rangers from the research and monitoring unit of the Uganda Wildlife Authority attended this training which introduced the concept of transects and the use of OZ explorer software for data download, and included a refresher on the use of GPS to ensure that data capture during the transect walks is accurate. Tools for data capture were provided after the training and rangers consequently embarked on data collection exercises during the last quarter of the first year of program implementation. Follow-up on this training and data collection exercise revealed some difficulties on the part of the rangers in downloading data captured from the transect walks using the OZ explorer software that was introduced.

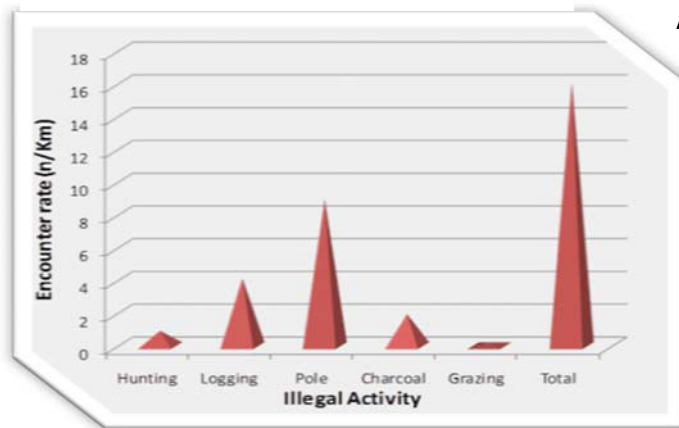
This quarter, USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity program rolled out a plan to harmonize data collection with that of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, identifying ways through which UWA data systems can be manipulated to produce the data needed in the right format for analysis. Training on the new synchronized approach was provided to the monitoring and research rangers in Kidepo Valley National Park on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2013. The new tool (Appendix 2) was reviewed and the rangers equipped with skills on how to disseminate data in GIS format using the MIST software that they were familiar with, instead of the newly introduced OZ explorer. Sixteen participants from UWA were involved in the review and harmonization of the ecological monitoring tools, which have since been adapted. They subsequently collected data along some transects (as shown in Appendix 1), which will act as a baseline for future data analysis to determine changes in wildlife movements and distribution.

The program will continue to assist with the spatial analysis and production of maps based on collected data in order to allow the rangers time to master the data capture and download aspects, before training them on how to analyze the data collected. Similar training will be initiated in Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls National Parks during the next quarter.

### 7.3 Establishing a system for monitoring threats to biodiversity in Budongo

The main threats to biodiversity in Budongo have been identified as illegal logging, encroachment and poaching (figure 1 below), mainly in the south and east of Budongo where most human settlements are concentrated.

Figure 1: Main illegal activities in Budongo



Areas to the south and east of the forest reserve are dominated by subsistence households that are mainly dependent on the resources provided by the forest, including: building poles, timber and firewood. Along the southern boundary of the reserve, Kinyara Sugar Works Limited has planted a large expanse of land with sugar cane and has thus reduced the size of land available for subsistence agriculture.

There has been an increase in population around the southern edge of the forest reserve following an inflow of laborers seeking employment with Kinyara Sugar Works. This has increased the demand for resources from the forest reserve, some of which are obtained illegally.

The program, through the Jane Goodall Institute, is working to reduce these threats by engaging communities that live in and around the forest reserve. The challenge is to increase benefits through alternative livelihoods for these communities, while explicitly creating conservation linkages to reduce the threat to biodiversity. The program is working to link the developed tourism products to communities outside the reserve in order to create economic opportunities, through job creation and spin-off enterprises.

This quarter, the program, in consultation with the Jane Goodall Institute, developed a plan for monitoring threats to biodiversity in the Budongo Forest Reserve using transects previously laid out by a livelihood program in 2009. The program will periodically collect data on threats in the forest reserve to monitor the changes over time and the level of illegal activities. These transects are purposefully laid in areas with a significant level of human settlement, where illegal activities are bound to occur. This makes them particularly valid for use by the program, especially since they also cover the community areas where community participation in tourism development is taking place.

Nineteen of these transects, measuring 3 km each, systematically run from the forest edge, bordering with human settlements, into the forest interior. Nine transects run from the southern forest edge into the forest interior, ten run from the eastern forest edge into the forest interior, and an additional five northeastern transects cover the area adjacent to communities. The

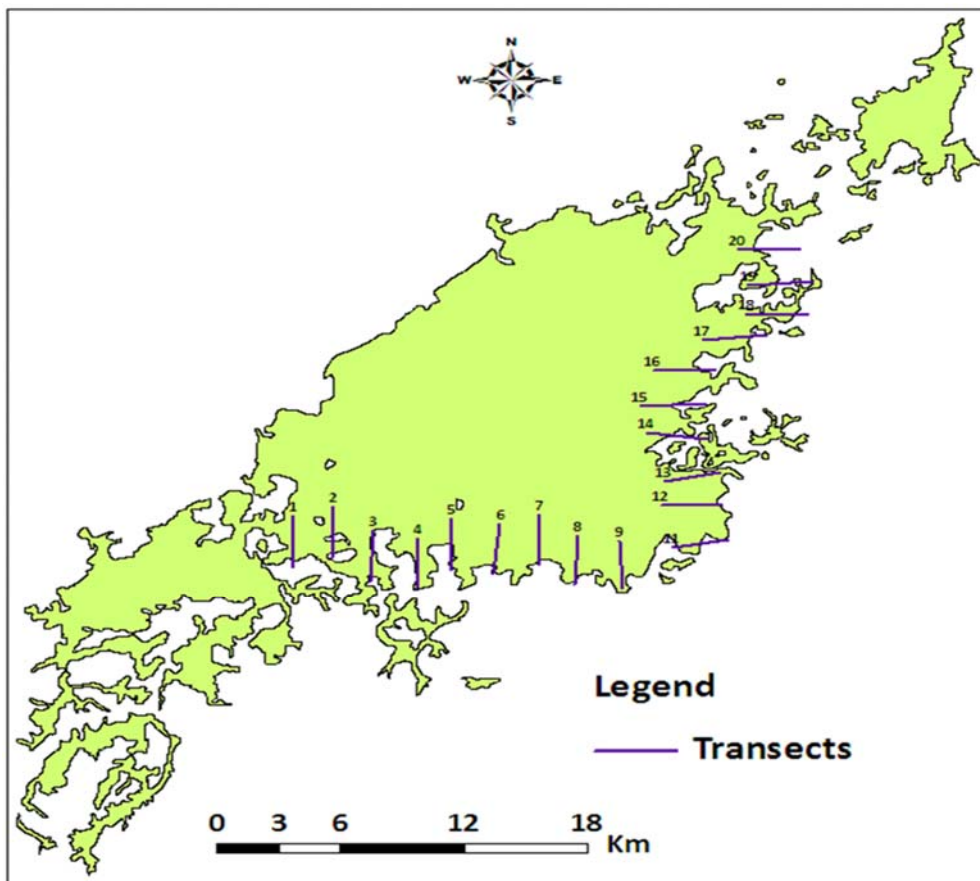
location of the start and end points of each transect were recorded with a GPS and every 250 metres from the start of each transect, a reading was taken. Figure 2 below illustrates the location of these transects in the Budongo forest reserve.

Each transect will be walked twice every year and data recorded on encountered signs of illegal human activity, including illegal logging, poaching, charcoal burning, grazing, pole collection, and paths that appear to be anthropogenic in origin.

Data collected will be analysed and encounter rates (the number of human signs/illegal activities recorded per kilometre walked) calculated for each transect. In addition, encounter rates of the different categories of illegal activities will also be calculated and mapped spatially using the GIS computer package ARCGIS. Relative abundance in different areas of the forest will be represented using different sized circles. This will enable the spatial distribution of objects to be analysed visually and make it easier to assess where the main threats to the forest are occurring. Analyzed data will then be compared with data from previous years to establish the trend in illegal activity encounter rates. This will enable the program to establish whether or not its hypothesis is really valid.

The program will in the next quarter establish a baseline upon which progress and success will be measured.

Figure 2: Selected Ecological Monitoring transects in Budongo



#### 7.4 Collecting program monitoring data

Data collection on a number of program indicators and performance measures has been ongoing using the tools designed by the program as well as through engagement with stakeholders and partners. This process is participatory in nature and involves program technical personnel and partners, both in the field and the main office. Data will be aggregated and program performance and progress against selected indicators will be provided during the next quarter of program implementation.

#### 7.5 Reporting

The program finalized the process of uploading performance data into the USAID performance reporting system against selected indicators for the first year of program implementation. Program actuals against set targets were provided, as well as brief descriptions of what activities contributed to the reported results.

The program will in the coming quarter upload FY2014 targets once the program performance management plan and workplan has been finalized and approved.

### 8 Program support to USAID/Uganda AMPROC initiative

Support to AMPROC was suspended on advice from USAID/Uganda Mission.

### 9 Planned activities for January – March 2014

Activity	Remarks
<b>Program work in Lake Mburo</b>	
Work plan, PMP and Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finalize editing and submit to Mission for approval</li></ul>
Tourism Product Development for LMNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Install signage and supporting facilities along the four trails in Mburo</li><li>Design Buffalo tented camp and advertise for contractors</li><li>Start works on improvement of camping sites in LMNP</li><li>Print and distribute marketing information materials for LMNP</li></ul>
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide support to CTE to ensure sustainability</li><li>Continue with Land use planning process for ranches</li></ul>
Build staff capacity in tourism planning and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conduct a hands-on training of LMNP staff in tourism planning, infrastructure and development</li></ul>
<b>Program work in Kidepo Valley National Park</b>	
Improving tourism in KVNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Open Kidepo valley, Lopirpir and Namamkeny trails</li><li>Install signage and supporting facilities along the three trails opened in KVNP</li></ul>

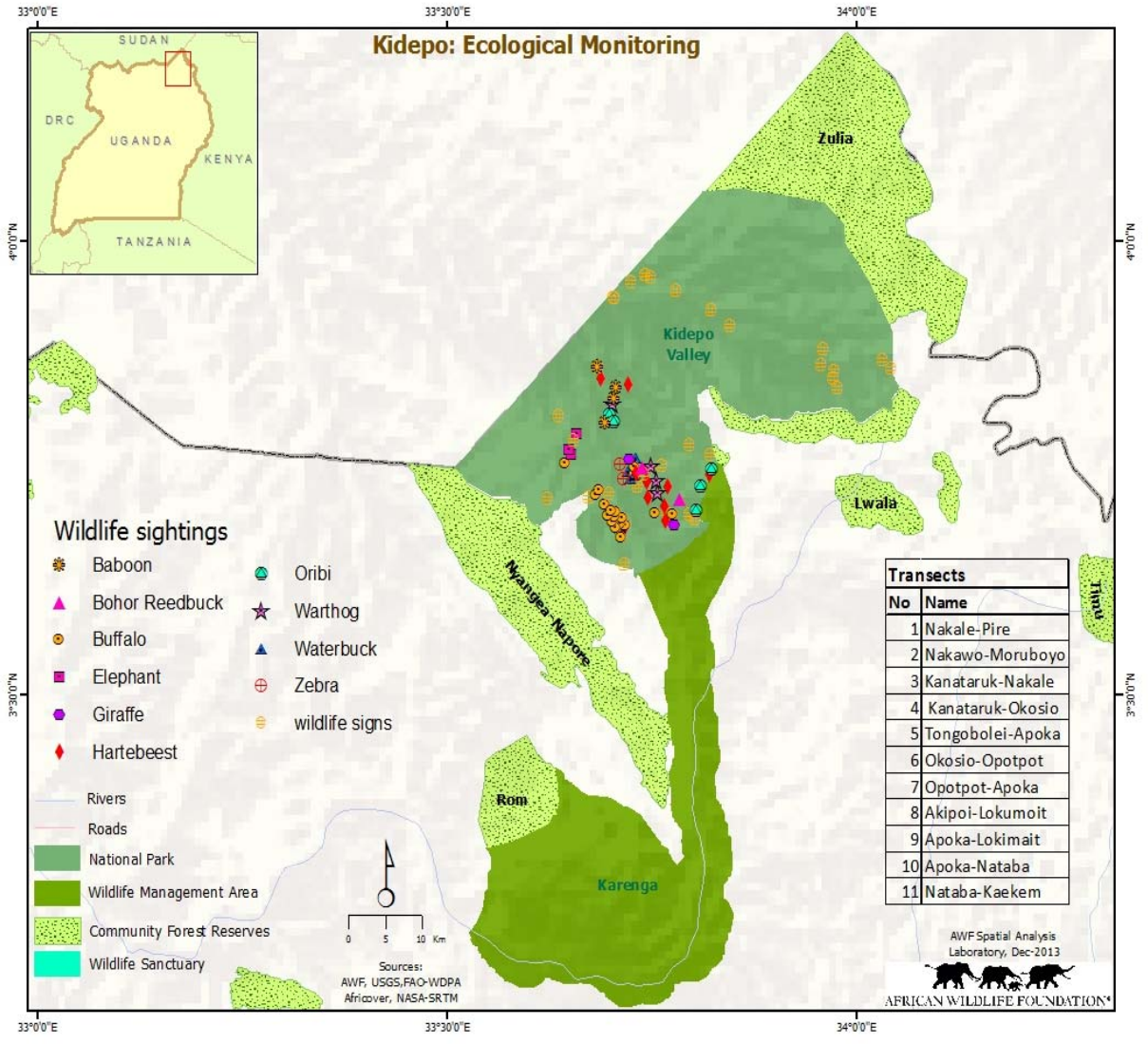
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Support Karenga community in land use planning to secure community wildlife area (conservancy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Land use plan for Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties and present it to the communities and sub counties for approval</li> <li>• Start design of Lochim community tourism sites</li> </ul>
<b>Program work in Budongo Central Forest Reserve (JGI with support from UCOTA)</b>	
Increase benefits and livelihoods for communities using ecotourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train communities in value addition on off cuts</li> <li>• Engage communities in implementing aspects of the biking trail</li> </ul>
Improve tourism infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install signage on all trails</li> </ul>
Build NFA capacity in tourism concessions, guiding and community forest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train selected community members and NFA in guiding and community forest management</li> </ul>
<b>Program work in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve (JGI with support from UCOTA)</b>	
Diversify tourism products in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve	Start development of selected products/facilities
Explore potential for canopy walk	Print and disseminate report on feasibility of canopy walk construction in Kalinzu
Support NFA to improve the ecotourism experience at Kalinzu Ecotourism site	Train guides to improve tourism services
<b>Program work in Murchison Falls National Park</b>	
Expand both youth ranger and UWA mentoring program	Implement problem animal measures
Tourism product development within MFNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize improvement plan for Top of Falls</li> <li>• Initiate improvement activities for Top of Falls trails</li> <li>• Start procurement process for the production of signage for MFNP</li> </ul>
Secure returns for communities from Wildlife conservation	Initiate land use planning process for land north of MFNP
<b>National Cross Cutting</b>	
Tourism promotion/ marketing and development for protected areas to increase tourism and park revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce at least assorted marketing information materials for program sites</li> <li>• Obtain approval of NFA eco-tourism plan and select priority activities from plan for implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Media engagement</b>	
Media engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue media engagement</li> <li>• Organize one familiarization trip for journalists and tour operators to program focal sites</li> </ul>
Media Capacity Improvement	Train tourism journalists in improved reporting
Partners' engagement	Hold Technical Advisory Group meeting
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
Training of program staff and partners in data collection	Continue providing back stopping for staff and program partners in data collection
Finalize PMP	Submit revised PMP to USAID
Train UWA staff in ecological monitoring	Organize and hold training for UWA ecological monitoring staff in MFNP & LMNP

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Hold Performance review and checking in for new program partner roles, CLA processing from lessons learnt from last year.	The program workplan, budget and performance management plan have undergone a number of changes during the last two quarters of program implementation. A meeting that brings all together to discuss the final documents and program of work is necessary to ensure that all are familiar with the likely changes in roles and relationships.
Data capture	Collect, analyze and enter data into monitoring system
Review baseline on threats to biodiversity in Budongo and the marketing strategy	Because of additional tourism products like biking trail and increased area for chimp tracking trails, current baseline in Budongo may not represent a true situation on the ground. Also need to develop new indicators and baseline for the new marketing strategy.



# 10 Appendix 1

MAP SHOWING DIFFERENT SPECIES SIGHTED IN SOME OF THE TRANSECTS IN KIDEPO NATIONAL PARK



## 11 Appendix 2

### HARMONIZED DATASHEET FOR ANIMAL COUNTS ALONG A TRANSECT IN KIDEPO NATIONAL PARK

Date:					Start Time									
Region					Start GPS		E				N			
Transect no.					End GPS		E				N			
Area name					End Time									
Personnel					TRANSECT LENGTH KM									
Recorder					GPS Device Number									
Time	UTM-E	UTM-N	WPT Code	Species	Distance	Bearing	Total	Adult males	Adult females	Immature	Unsexed	Habitat	Comments	
Heart beast	HAR			Greater Kudu	GTK	Dikdik		Dik						
Elephant	ELE			Eland	ELA	Jackal		Jac		Cheetah		CHE		
Buffalo	BUF			Oribi	ORI	Bohor Reedbuck		RED		Klipspringer		KLP		
Leopard	LEO			Gazelle	GAZ	Water buck		WAB		Roan antelope		ROA		
Lion	LIO			Ostrich	OST	Warthog		WAR		Velvet Monkey		VVM		
Giraffe	GIF			Hyena	HYE	Patas monkey		PTM		Lesser Kudu		LSK		
Zebra	ZEB			Cheetah	CHE	Baboon		BAB						
Bushbuck	BUB			Hunting dog	HUD	Crocodile		CRO						