

IMPLEMENTING PARK ACTION PLANS STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION FORUM REPORT

Convened by
UGANDA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

November 2018



Part of the *Implementing Park Action Plans* project, led by IIED in partnership with Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Conservation Foundation, Village Enterprise and Wildlife Conservation Society.

Funded by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.



PREAMBLE

The Murchison Falls Protected Area stakeholder coordination forum took place at Country Inn, Masindi on 23rd October 2018. Of 36 invited guests, speakers and organisers, 29 attended (see attendee sheet in Annex 1). Every district bordering MFPA¹ was represented by at least one local government official. Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) was represented by staff from the Kampala headquarters, MFCA headquarters at Paraa and both Bugungu and Karuma wildlife reserves. Civil society representation included actors delivering projects in Buliisa, Masindi, Kiryandongo, Oyam and Nwoya districts.

The coordination forum is funded by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.

OPENING REMARKS

Adonia Bintooro, Senior Manager – Community-based Wildlife Enterprises, UWA

Adonia officially opened the forum, making the following remarks.

1. As human populations worldwide increase, wildlife is becoming increasingly isolated into islands of natural habitat. Uganda is not immune to this and is facing multiple challenges in conserving wildlife whilst ensuring better futures for its people.
2. This forum came about from research conducted by IIED into the drivers of wildlife crime in Uganda and is intended for actors working around the Murchison Falls Protected Area. UWA staff in MFCA are just 368 people – those 368 people cannot be expected to protect wildlife in isolation from the thousands of people who live around the park, or without the support from other stakeholders operating in these areas.

In addition, Adonia made the following remarks in relation to assistance that UWA is giving communities bordering MFPA, and the future of UWA in light of recent restructuring announcements.

- UWA is developing a new community conservation strategy to better engage stakeholders in wildlife management. There will be a particular emphasis on sharing resources, through revenue sharing, and it will utilise a participatory planning approach. No plan is now made without consulting stakeholders.
- UWA is about to begin piloting an electric fence along 5km of park boundary in QEPA (Rubirizi District), with the intention of looking into areas around MFPA where this could also be of benefit.
- UWA is here to stay despite the recent announcement that some authorities will be dissolved back into their parent ministries. Structures and frameworks are being put into place to ensure that UWA remains; by structure it will be very difficult to

¹ The forum represented districts bordering Murchison Falls Protected Area, meaning the national park itself plus the two contiguous wildlife reserves, Bugungu and Karuma, and as being opposed to the national park (NP) which does not include Bugungu and Karuma, and the conservation area (CA) which includes Adjumani, Ajai, East Madi and Kabwoya wildlife reserves, which are managed from Paraa but are not contiguous with MFPA.



dissolve UWA, with the highest echelons of leadership expressing the need for a paramilitary force – which cannot be managed at a ministry level – to protect parks and wildlife. Even if something does change, there is likely to be a special arrangement that allows UWA the powers it requires. All of the tools developed in this workshop will remain useful and utilised even amidst any changes.

PRESENTATION ON THE IWT228 PROJECT

Geoffrey Mwedde, IWT/T Projects Manager, Wildlife Conservation Society

Geoffrey presented to the forum the background of the project under which this initial forum falls, linking back to the original research that informed the development of the IWT218 project. He specifically outlined the following points.

- The IWT218 project is a follow on from the drivers of wildlife crime in Uganda project/ research, which found five key drivers:
 1. To meet basic needs (subsistence)
 2. To generate income above and beyond basic needs (commercial)
 3. In response to perceived injustice
 4. To maintain cultural traditions
 5. In response to political influence
- From the research, a publication entitled [*Taking action against wildlife crime in Uganda*](#) was developed. This included interventions proposed by communities to help reduce their involvement in wildlife crime, including using revenue sharing money to:
 - Support human-wildlife conflict mitigation
 - Institute wildlife-friendly enterprises
 - Introduce wildlife scouts
- The current IIED-led IWT228 project could not pick up all of the strands in the action plan, so just picked out a few that could be tackled. The four-year project involves working with communities, working with UWA to build the capacity of the community conservation department, and holding a coordination forum to discuss and harmonise interventions being implemented or planned by other stakeholders that contribute – directly or indirectly - towards the aims of reducing wildlife crime.

PRESENTATION ON THE COMMUNITY-BASED WILDLIFE CRIME ACTION PLAN FOR MFPA

Gertrude Namakula Kirabo, Senior Warden Community Conservation, UWA MFCA

Gertrude presented in further detail the community-based wildlife crime action plan for Murchison Falls Protected Area, noting key points as follow.

- Over 40% of households adjacent to MFPA were estimated to have engaged in wildlife crime as of 2015.
- Communities have the answers to a lot of their own challenges, but currently there is a disconnect between UWA and local people. People need to be engaged and consulted in order to develop long-term working relationships.

- The UWA general management plan for each park has a provision for resource sharing – provision of incentives is key in the success of this plan. There should always be an element of conservation that improves people’s livelihoods.
- Law enforcement is always important; conservation will not work without it. Law enforcement – not only UWA patrolling within the park, but local communities, security teams etc. should also be used for policing wildlife crime. This includes providing incentives for local communities to act as informants. Key to this strategy is bringing UWA community conservation and law enforcement departments together so that info gathered by the community department can be utilised by the law enforcement department.
- The importance of sensitising the judiciary to ensure better prosecution of wildlife crime.
- Other government programmes (e.g. NUSAF, NAADS and Operation Wealth Creation) – how to we ensure that these are not at odds with wildlife and wildlife conservation.

Coordination and implementation – UWA commitments

- Ensuring a balanced allocation of funding within UWA between law enforcement and community conservation activities
- Ensuring institutional commitment to engaging with park-adjacent communities
- Addressing capacity gaps and staff training within UWA
- Avoiding perverse incentives

Actions that UWA will implement

1. Carry out law enforcement patrols and collaborate with security agencies. Patrols will be informed by intelligence/ information from the community
2. Community conservation initiatives (includes resource access, which gives roles and responsibilities of communities if they are to maintain access to resources)
 - a. Wildlife scouts – communities will have volunteers who will support park management
 - b. The communities will inform of illegal activity
 - c. There will be local wildlife friendly enterprises
3. Improving awareness – of the judiciary, schools etc.
4. Keeping data on people who are engaging in wildlife crime

Adonia then summarised Gertrude’s presentation, posing the following questions to think about during the lunch break.

- To be successful we need internal and external coordination. Are there other stakeholders not present today who can play roles in this?
- What is our role in capacity building so that communities can implement this action plan?
- The need for political will and support in implementing the action plan
- Cultural and religious institutions’ roles in fostering attitude change
- How do we use the opportunity of revenue sharing to make a difference?



MAPPING OF STAKEHOLDERS AND ACTIVITIES

After lunch participants were divided into two groups to undertake a mapping exercise, the full results of which are provided in Annex 2.

INTRODUCTION TO UGANDA-POVERTY AND CONSERVATION LEARNING GROUP

Peter Dema, Village Enterprise

Peter gave a very brief overview of the U-PCLG. He mentioned that it is an open forum that anyone may join. Learnings, experiences, funding opportunities etc. are shared and discussed in its meetings. It is funded by IIED. Peter noted that some of this forum's participants are members of U-PCLG.

WAY FORWARD

Adonia Bitooro, UWA

Adonia closed the workshop by posing the question: *How do we all work together to ensure that the relationship between the park and the community is improved and works in the best interests of both parties?*

Suggestions from the participants included:

- Understanding how all partners fit within the bigger picture
- That all partners should collaborate to understand who is doing what and where
- By strengthening information sharing through a formal platform, agreed by participants to be best conceptualised as UWA - MFCA serving as the central repository for information
- By making better use of the Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group
- Through introducing spot messaging on conservation on the regular radio talk shows spots designated to local governments

Ideas regarding the way forward for the forum:

- All stakeholders present agreed that this is an important platform and that support should be sought to facilitate regular meetings of this group and any other missing relevant stakeholders
- Adonia noted that there is a forum around Mt Elgon where stakeholders have specific roles in organising and managing the forum and that they meet twice a year
- Participants agreed that the forum should meet annually or twice a year at most
- All parties agreed that UWA should lead the forum and should make specific requests to partners for financial or in-kind donations to support meetings
- Participants felt that if the forum is to be formalised then regulations should be drawn up, and that there should be a secretariat
- It was suggested that the forum be run as a two day event, the first day with political representatives from surrounding districts, and the second with technical partners such as the participants of this forum. The forum could be run out of MFNP and could be combined with a game drive/ national park tour to increase exposure
- All agreed that a taskforce is needed to forge the way forward. The following were nominated to comprise the taskforce: MFCA chief warden, UCF, Nwoya District Local



Government, Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organisation (BIRUDO) and Total E&P Uganda

- The taskforce is tasked with the duty of:
 - Identifying objectives, roles/ functions of forum and how frequently it will meet

CLOSING REMARKS

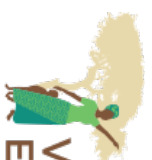
Dr Eric Enyel, Chief Warden, UWA – MFCA

Eric closed the meeting with the following remarks:

- Stakeholder coordination, collaboration and communication is the way to go – we need to move away from the traditional methods of law enforcement only for national park protection
- This collaboration forum is going a long way towards contributing to community participation in wildlife conservation
- UWA urged to ensure that these opportunities for stakeholders to meet are regular
- Thanks to the venue, the donors, and the organisers.

ACTION POINTS

1. **UCF to write up forum report and share with participants**
2. **Taskforce members (detailed above) to coordinate and agree on the following:**
 - a. **What the objectives/ functions of the forum are**
 - b. **When the next engagement of the forum will be**
 - c. **What support UWA needs in organising the next meeting of the forum**



Village
Enterprise



UWA
Uganda Wildlife Authority
Conservation for Generations



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ANNEX 1: MURCHISON FALLS PROTECTED AREA STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION FORUM ATTENDEES
COUNTRY INN, MASINDI - 23RD OCTOBER 2018

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	F/M	Email	Phone
1	Gira Chris Otim	Oyam DLG	District Community Development Officer	M	giranoo@yahoo.com	0772 618488
2	Samuel Mutebi	Total E&P Uganda	BPE	M	samuel.mutebi@external.total.com	0794 888176
3	Barugahara Benard Atwooki	Buliisa DLG	District Community Development Officer	M	bbarugahara@yahoo.com	0772 372098
4	Enyel Eric	UWA MFNP	Ag. Chief Warden	M	ericnyel@gmail.com	0782 476112
5	Julius Obwona	UWA MFNP	Warden Law Enforcement	M	i.jobwona@gmail.com	0772 673421
6	Chandiru Doreen	Kiryandongo DLG	District Natural Resources Officer	F	doreencandiru@yahoo.com	0782 926791
7	Ocheng Vincent	Kiryandongo DLG	For District Community Development Officer	M	ochengv@gmail.com	0787 507182
8	Demu Peter	Village Enterprise	Ag Country Director	M	demap@villageenterprise.org	0752 842114
9	Rogers Niwamanya	Flora and Fauna International	Project Officer	M	rogers.niwamanya@fauna-flora.org	0772 855889
10	Kidaga Robert	Soft Power Education	Finance and Admin Manager	M	krobert@softpowereducation.com	0792 567476
11	Opira Godfrey	Soft Power Education	Senior Field Officer - Buliisa District	M	opira@softpowereducation.com	0792 406752
12	Kyomukama Evelyn	UWA Bugungu	Warden in Charge	F	evelyn.kyomukama@yahoo.com	0772 855100
13	Akanwasa John Walter	Budongo Conservation Field Station	Research fellow	M	walterakankwas@gmail.com	0705 683065
14	Geoffrey Mwedde	Wildlife Conservation Society	IWT/T Projects Manager	M	gmwedde@wcs.org	0772 226004
15	Gertrude Namakula Kirabo	UWA MFNP	Senior Warden Community Conservation	F	gatruden@yahoo.com	0772 643062
16	Tekakwo Stephen	Nwoya DLG	Entomologist	M	stekakwo@yahoo.com	0789 446536
17	Mukhwana Methodius	African Wildlife Foundation	Conservation Planner	M	mmukhwana@awf.org	0782 706123
18	Kajuma Geoffrey	Village Enterprise	Field Associate	M	geoffreyk@villageenterprise.org	0778 614296
19	Tugume Benard	Buliisa DLG	District Natural Resources Officer	M	tugumeben@gmail.com	0772 414508
20	Opiu Moses	Oyam DLG	District Natural Resources Officer	M	opiomos@gmail.com	0772 676733



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21	Akoko Anthony	Masindi DLG	For District Natural Resources Officer	M	anthonyakoko@yahoo.com	0782 372980
22	Lubangakene Godfrey	UWA Karuma	Asst. Warden Community Conservation	M	lubangagodfrey@yahoo.co.uk	0772 643152
23	Barekye Sam	National Forestry Authority	Sector Manager	M	sbarekye@yahoo.com	0776 211045
24	Maz Robertson	Uganda Conservation Foundation	Programmes Coordinator	F	maz.robertson@ugandacf.org	0788 406739
25	Shivan Kamugisha	Uganda Conservation Foundation	Projects Manager	F	shivan.kamugisha@ugandacf.org	0706 200752
26	Bintoora K. Adonia	UWA HQ	Senior manager - community-based wildlife enterprises	M	bintoora@yahoo.com	0772 622658
27	Ica Daniel	The Water Trust	Program Manager	M	dica@watertrust.org	0777 890049
28	Komakech Joseph Jason	Nwoya DLG	Senior Community Development Officer	M	komakechjosephjason@yahoo.com	0775 994527
29	Paolyel Onencan	Bulisa Initiative Rural Devt (BIRUDO)	Executive Director	M	paolyel@gmail.com	0772 994527

ANNEX 2: MURCHISON FALLS COORDINATION FORUM STAKEHOLDER ACTIVITY MAPPING

PRIORITY ACTION	ACTIVITY	ORGANISATION	AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION	
Human-wildlife conflict mitigation and wildlife scouts	Provision of clean water for human consumption (thus reducing competition for water between humans and wildlife – though not necessarily with this primary aim)	Local governments	All districts surrounding the protected area	Ongoing at village level	
		The Water Trust	Masindi and Kiryandongo districts	Until at least 2021, at village level	
		The Jane Goodall Institute	Budongo Sub-County, Masindi	?	
	Piloting human-chimp conflict compensation scheme	Partnership of The Jane Goodall Institute, Uganda Biodiversity Fund, Eco Trust	Kasongire Parish, Budongo sub-county, Masindi	Began 2018	
			Local govts	All districts	Through community conservation staff
	Conservation awareness	Conservation awareness	UWA	All districts	Through community conservation staff
			NFA	Masindi District	
			AWF	Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts	
			WCS	Kiryandongo District	
			UCF	Nwoya District	Got Apwoyo Sub-County
			BIRUDO	Buliisa District	2012 to date
			Soft Power Education (SPE)	Buliisa District	2011 to date
			Budongo Conservation Field Station	Budongo Sub-County, Masindi District	
Makerere University			?		
Trench excavation			UWA with local governments	Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts	
Beekeeping/ beehive fences	Beekeeping/ beehive fences	SPE (beekeeping)	Buliisa District	Ongoing since 2011	
		AWF	Lei village, Nwoya District		

Unpalatable crops	UCF (beehive fences)	Got Apwoyo Sub-County, Nwoya District	Between 2016-2018, now ended
	UWA (beehive fences)	Buliisa, Kiryandongo, Oyam, Nwoya districts	Ongoing through resource user agreements
Crop growing	UCF	Got Apwoyo and Purongo sub-counties, Nwoya District	Between 2016-2018, now ended
	AWF		
	Village Enterprise/ WCS		
	BCFS		
Live fencing (Mauritius thorn)	SPE – training, inputs, equipment, monitoring – food crops	SPE – Buliisa	From 2017 – 2018
	Village Enterprise – mentoring, training, grants – food and cash crops	VE – Kiryandongo, Nwoya	From 2015 to date
Repellents e.g. fire, chilli bricks, chilli fences, organic repellent	NUSAF III, OWC – provide inputs only	All districts	Ongoing
	AWF – training, extension services, tools, inputs – AWF is looking for partners to work with on this	Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo	2018 - 2019
2017-2021 under IWT Challenge Fund project	UWA	Oyam, Kiryandongo districts	2 year project in Oyam, began 2017
	AWF	Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts	Planned 4 year project in Kiryandongo from c. 2020 (once Oyam finished)
2017-2021 under IWT Challenge Fund project	WCS	Kiryandongo	

Noise-making e.g. whistles, drums, vuvuzelas, bangers, scare shooting	Data collection and information sharing	UWA, vermin control officers, communities	All affected districts	Ongoing			
					UCF	Got Apwoyo and Purongo sub-counties, Nwoya District	From 2016-2018 in Purongo
					UWA	Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts	From 2016 to at least April 2019 in Got Apwoyo
					Communities	All affected areas where people trained and materials available	Ongoing
					UWA	All districts	Ongoing
					UCF	Got Apwoyo and Purongo sub-counties, Nwoya District	2016-2019
					JGI	Masindi District	
					FFI		
					WCS	Kiryandongo District	2017-2021
					Ecotrends (commissioned by Total)	All districts	Baseline survey 2018
Scouts		UWA	All districts	Ongoing from about 2015			
					UCF	Got Apwoyo and Purongo sub-counties, Nwoya District	2016-2019
					AWF	Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts	Pre 2018, and 2018-2021
					WCS	Kiryandongo District	2017-2021
					JGI	Masindi District	
Eliminating problem animals/vermin		UWA	All districts	Ongoing			
					UWA		

Wildlife-friendly enterprises	Capturing problem animals	UWA, local governments	Buliisa, Masindi, anywhere else required	Ongoing		
	Establishing a community wildlife conservancy	UWA with AWF and UCF	Nwoya District	2015 - 2020		
	Beekeeping	Local governments Communities UWA NFA AWF (capacity building, inputs, value addition) UCF (capacity building, inputs) SPE (capacity building, inputs) BIRUDO	All districts	All districts	Ongoing	
			All districts	All districts	Ongoing	
			All districts	All districts	Ongoing	
			Masindi District	Masindi District	Ongoing	
			Lij, Nwoya District	Lij, Nwoya District	At planning stage	
			Got Apwoyo and Purungo sub-counties, Nwoya District	Got Apwoyo and Purungo sub-counties, Nwoya District	2016-2018	
			Buliisa District	Buliisa District	2011 to date	
			Buliisa District	Buliisa District	2013 to date	
			All districts	All districts	Ongoing	
			Nwoya, Buliisa	Nwoya, Buliisa	Ongoing Buliisa beginning in 2019 (Bugungu Wildlife Reserve)	
	Sport hunting	UWA, Uganda Wildlife Safaris, local govts, communities	All districts	Ongoing		
Tree planting					NFA, local governments, SPE, JGI, BCFS, UCF, Eco Trust, communities	Ongoing

		Communities	All districts	
Crops including less palatable crops to wild animals	Community-based tourism	Local governments (NUSAF II, Operation Wealth Creation)	All districts	Ongoing
		UWA	All districts	Ongoing
		Village Enterprise (training, inputs, tools, mentoring, grants)	Kiryandongo District	2017-2021
		UCF	Nwoya District	2016-2018
		AWF (training, inputs, tools, extension service)	Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts	2018-2019
		BCFS	Masindi District	
		SPE (training, equipment, inputs, tools, extension service) in conjunction with UCF/ IWT032	Buliisa District	2017-2018
		Communities	All districts	
		UWA, community	Buliisa, Masindi, Nwoya, Pakwach	Ongoing
		Livestock rearing	Livestock rearing	Local govts
JGI	Masindi District			
BCFS	Masindi District			
SPE – training, small grants, monitoring	Buliisa District			Since 2011
Village Enterprise – training, grants, follow up	Kiryandongo District			Since 2017
Revenue sharing	Local govts	All districts	Ongoing	
Sustainable fishing	Local govts	Buliisa, Pakwach	From 2015	

ANNEX 3: PHOTOS



Figure 1: Adonia Bintoora from UWA welcomes participants to the forum



Figure 2: Stakeholders listen to Adonia's remarks



Figure 3: Geoffrey Mwedde from WCS situates the forum within the wider context of the project



Figure 4: Gertrude Kirabo, Senior Warden Community Conservation, UWA MFCA engages stakeholders with her presentation on the specifics of the MFCA park action plan



Figure 5: Opira Godfrey, Soft Power Education Senior Field Officer leads group work



Figure 6: Dr Eric Enyel, Ag Chief Warden, UWA MFCA gives his closing remarks