

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 a 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 Bitooru, 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

ANNEX 1: 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 | Kasongore Parish, Budongo sub-county, Masindi | Began 2018 |
| | Conservation awareness | Local govts | All districts | |
| | | 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 | SPE (beekeeping) | Buliisa District | Ongoing since 2011 |

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|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | AWF | Lei village, Nwoya District | |
| | | 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 |
| | Unpalatable crops | UCF | Got Apwoyo and Purongo sub-counties, Nwoya District | Between 2016-2018, now ended |
| | | AWF | | |
| | | Village Enterprise/ WCS | | |
| | | BCFS | | |
| | Crop growing | 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 |
| | | 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 |
| | Live fencing (Mauritius thorn) | UWA | Oyam, Kiryandongo districts | 2 year project in Oyam, began 2017 Planned 4 year project in Kiryandongo from c. 2020 (once Oyam finished) |
| | Repellents e.g. fire, chilli bricks, chilli fences, organic repellent | AWF | Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts | |

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|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | WCS | Kiryandongo | 2017-2021 under IWT Challenge Fund project |
| | | UCF | Got Apwoyo and Purongo sub-counties, Nwoya District | From 2016-2018 in Purongo From 2016 to at least April 2019 in Got Apwoyo |
| | | UWA | Nwoya, Oyam, Kiryandongo districts | |
| | | Communities | All affected areas where people trained and materials available | Ongoing |
| | Noise-making e.g. whistles, drums, vuvuzelas, bangers, scare shooting | UWA, vermin control officers, communities | All affected districts | Ongoing |
| | Data collection and information sharing | 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 |
| | | Makerere University | | |
| | 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 | |
| | | Nwoya District Local Govt | Nwoya District | 2016 onwards |

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | Eliminating problem animals/vermin | Vermin control officers, UWA | All districts | Ongoing |
| | 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 |
| Wildlife-friendly enterprises | Beekeeping | Local governments | All districts | Ongoing |
| | | Communities | All districts | Ongoing |
| | | UWA | All districts | Ongoing |
| | | NFA | Masindi District | Ongoing |
| | | AWF (capacity building, inputs, value addition) | Lii, Nwoya District | At planning stage |
| | | UCF (capacity building, inputs) | Got Apwoyo and Purungo sub-counties, Nwoya District | 2016-2018 |
| | | SPE (capacity building, inputs) | Buliisa District | 2011 to date |
| | | BIRUDO | Buliisa District | 2013 to date |
| | VSLA (savings groups) | Local governments, communities, TWT, BIRUDO, JGI, UCF, WCS, AWF, SPE | All districts | Ongoing |
| | Sport hunting | UWA, Uganda Wildlife Safaris, local govts, communities | Nwoya, Buliisa | Ongoing Buliisa beginning in 2019 (Bugungu Wildlife Reserve) |
| | Tree planting | NFA, local governments, SPE, JGI, BCFS, UCF, Eco Trust, communities | All districts | Ongoing |
| | Energy savings technologies | SPE (energy savings stoves, biomass briquettes) | Buliisa District | Stoves 2015 onwards, briquettes 2016 onwards |
| | | BIRUDO (biomass briquettes with SPE) | Buliisa District | 2016 to date |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|------------|
| | | Eco Trust | Masindi District | |
| | | UCF (energy savings stoves) | Kiryandongo District schools | 2016 |
| | | Communities | All districts | |
| | Crops including less palatable crops to wild animals | Local governments (NUSAF II, Operation Wealth Creation) | All districts | Ongiong |
| | | 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 | |
| | Community-based tourism | UWA, community | Buliisa, Masindi, Nwoya, Pakwach | Ongoing |
| | Livestock rearing | Local govts | All districts | Ongoing |
| | | 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 govt | All districts | Ongoing |
| | Sustainable fishing | Local govt | Buliisa, Pakwach | From 2015 |

ANNEX 2: 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