ABC G Presentation, Washington DC: Increasing Conservation Land, Wildlife Protection and Benefits to Landowners

USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program

Kaddu Kiwe Sebunya – Chief of Party • Ksebunya @awf.org • July 2013
USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program

- **USAID/Uganda Supported Program Cooperate Agreement**

- **Implementing Agency**: Africa Wildlife Foundation

- **Total Budget**: $10 million over 4 years – national program

- **Goal**: To leverage tourism to achieve sustainable biodiversity conservation and economic growth for Uganda

- Collaborating with UWA and NFA.
Carefully planned and implemented tourism investments can be a powerful driver for conservation by providing incentives to communities to conserve important habitats and resources and by supplying financial means for governments and communities to invest in conservation.
1. Improving the management of protected areas require an integrated landscape approach that includes PAs, boarding habitat, and neighboring people,

2. Tourism is an engine to fuel better protected area management and provide incentive for communities to live with wildlife and their involvement in habitat management

3. To be sustainable, enhancing tourism products and value chain linkages must take a market-driven business-oriented approach that stimulates revenues, economic growth, and jobs.
• Government of Uganda • Uganda Wildlife Authority • US Forest Service
• Uganda National Forest Authority • Local District Councils • US Peace Corps
• Uganda Community Based Tourism Association (UCOTA) • Private sector
• Jane Goodall Institute Uganda
1.4 Tourist Arrivals by Purpose

Out of 1,151,356 tourist arrivals, 52% visited friends and relatives in 2011 compared to 58.12% registered in 2010. This was followed by business/conference (14%) registering a fall from 18.45% in 2010. Persons on Leisure, recreation and holiday and those in transit both constituted 7% each and those who did not state the purpose accounted for 20%.

Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics
Figure 2: Distribution of Visitors to National Parks

Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics
The graph above shows a summary of the total revenue shared with the communities living adjacent to protected areas for the last five years. The revenue shared is dependent on the projects which have been identified by the communities at the lower local governments.

Since the establishment of the programme, communities adjacent to the protected areas have been able to benefit from improved infrastructure such as schools and health units, as well as from income generating projects and efforts to control crop-raiding animals. UWA has also observed a reduction in illegal activities emanating from adjacent communities since the programme's inception.

Source: Uganda Wildlife Authority
According to the data collected over the last five years, school groups continue to dominate the category of visitors at UWEC, followed by Local adults, and then local children respectively. The Outreach section in UWEC plays a leading role in reaching out to schools and communities that would otherwise not be able to visit the centre and thus the increase in number of school groups visiting.
Project Sites
Murchison Falls National Park
**NORTH SIDE TRAIL**
- Loop trails pass through scenic canyon bottom and return to driving track
- Scout out feasibility of steep section
- Viewing area to Murchison and Uhuru
- Wilderness campsites along shore
- Concrete Pier

**SOUTH SIDE TRAIL**
- Concrete pier
- Install new composting toilet and visitor briefing area near pier
- Reconstruct entire trail, reduce number of handrails by widening trail for security

**MURCHISON FALLS BRIDGE**
- Length approx. 40 meters
- Trail on island leads to viewing platform to Uhuru Falls
- Conduct feasibility study

**CAMPGROUND**
- Install trees for shade
- Install new toilets and shade structure

**VISITORS CENTER**
- Construct new visitors center on site overlooking falls
- Redesign parking area with more vegetation
- Relocate site entry gate
Lake Mburo National Park
National Crosscutting Activities
Monitoring and Evaluation
Lake Mburo National Park
Lake Mburo National Park

- 1800 - Traditional kings grazing and hunting land
- 1800-1900 - hit by severe rinderpest epidemics
- Vegetation increase - tsetse fly – human and livestock death - Livestock and human population
- Significant increase in wildlife
- 1958 – 1963 – gazetted as game reserve (241 families)
- 78Sq.Km – government breeding ranch
- 1983 – formation of park
Lake Mburo Ecological Description

- Uganda’s only protected area to contain impala, only one in the southern part with zebra and eland, an Important Bird Area (IBA)

- Habitat to a diversity of rare, threatened and endangered species, including the papyrus yellow warbler (Chloropeta gracilirostris) (vulnerable) and the shoebill (Balaeniceps rex) (lower risk: near threatened).

- The Park contains a series of small lakes that constitute an important catchment area, a unique grassland ecosystem, important wetlands that are breeding grounds for the national bird of Uganda – the crowned crane.
Unclear and unmarked sections of the boundary cause disputes between park management and neighbouring communities.

Poaching.

Grazing inside the Park by pastoral communities.

Wildfires burn approximately 50% of LMNP annually.

Many of these issues derive from an overall impression by people within the region that the Park is ‘vacant’ land from which they do not benefit.
Lake Mburo Adjacent Landuse

- Most land privately owned – divided ranging from 3 to 1250 acres
- Government ranch about 30Sq.Km
- Livestock and mixed farming
- Small towns development and high population
- Fencing Debate
AWF - USAID Intervention

- Park management plan
- Park Tourism development, planning, management
- Accurate Mapping of proposed conservancies
- Conservancy Ecological assessment
- Conservancy Tourism market assessment
- Conservancy formation
Capacity of UWA in tourism planning and management
Tourism, Planning

- Viewing Platform to Salt Lick
- Lakeshore Trail 4 km length
- Lakeside Trail
- Visitors Area
Community Mobilization and awareness
Conservancy?

Conservancies are essentially areas of land managed for conservation, with various enterprises embedded in the landscape where those enterprises derive revenue from conservation dependant activities.
Conservancies complement state owned and managed protected areas by providing additional habitat and refuge for wildlife.

Conservancies diversify the tourism economy by offering a different type of tourism product. For example, walking safaris, hunting and cultural interaction are often more prevalent in conservancies.

Conservancies diversify land management, providing a range of habitat types to support a broader diversity of wildlife and ecosystems.

Conservancies enable the direct engagement and empowerment of communities and private landowners to take part in and benefit from conservation.

Conservancy management can encourage greater understanding of more ecologically sustainable land use practices within the community.
Conservancy Benefits in Relation to PAs

- *Threatened ecosystems.* Not all ecosystems are represented in the protected areas.

- *Incomplete ecosystems.* Park boundaries are often not in line with modern principles of protected area design, leaving key areas of ecological importance unprotected.

- *Park size.* While many parks are large by world standards they are nevertheless too small to support viable populations of species and encompass whole ecosystems.

- *Ecological isolation.* Many protected areas are islands of habitat;
Examples of Conservancy Components

- Well defined property and/or land user rights.
- A land area large enough to support wildlife and a diversity of tourism experiences.
- Strong demand for wildlife viewing and/or safari hunting, i.e. a vibrant tourism economy.
- Meaningful engagement of landowners especially where communities are the primary owners and adjacent neighbours; that includes equity in conservancy ownership and benefits.
- Strong by-laws and constitutions that ensure good governance, transparency, conservation parameters and guidelines, code of conduct, membership obligations, management objectives, and revenue sharing are essential.
- Adopted and updated scientifically based management plans for wildlife and habitat conservation and management.
Park Management Plan – Conservancy; North - 16 Sq. Miles & South - 25 Sq. mile
Conservancy Structure

Conservancy Members / Landowners
Each contributing land to the Conservancy

Conservancy Board of Directors

- BOD elected by Members/Landowners and includes:
  1) Members
  2) Technical appointments based upon experience
  3) CEO of the Conservancy

Responsible for oversight of conservancy management team and overall strategic guidance for the Conservancy

Conservancy Management & Staff

Depending on business plan and revenue, managed by an Executive CEO and management/staff team with skills in conservation management, road repair, anti-poaching, enterprise liaison and community liaison.
Thank you!