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Roofings produces 50,000 seedlings each month and distributes them for free to support regreening initiatives. This effort creates new habitats for wildlife and increases the biodiversity of various parts of the country. The trees planted absorb carbon dioxide, and generally help in restoring the natural balance of the environment, ensuring that it remains healthy and vibrant for years to come.

At Roofings Group, we are proud to use the slogan "Rewilding Uganda" as a reflection of our commitment to promoting biodiversity and creating a sustainable future. We believe that rewilding is essential to restoring the balance between humans and nature, and we are committed to partnering with local and international organizations to support this important work.

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Editor's Comment

t is with much pleasure that we share the first edition of Wildlife Magazine.

It is an annual publication featuring wildlife, tourism, hospitality and ecological appreciation.

We are mindful that wildlife and its off shoot, the tourism and hospitality industry, rake in respectable revenues for the state.

Specialists say through Uganda Wildlife Policy 2014 that "Uganda is host to 53.9 percent of the surviving mountain gorillas population, 11 per cent (1063 species) of the world's recorded birds species (50 percent of Africa's bird species), 7.8 percent (345 species) of the global mammal diversity (39 percent of Africa's mammals).

Uganda is home to 19 percent (86 species) of Africa's amphibian species and 14 percent (142 species) of Africa's reptile species, 1,249 recorded species of butterflies and 600 species of fish.

There are 30 antelope species, 24 primates' species including the charismatic mountain gorillas and chimpanzees, and more than 5,406 plant species so far recorded; 30 plant species are endemic to Uganda."

We keenly appreciate that wildlife was resident on planet Earth before us and, therefore, it deserves our unmitigated respect.

We appreciate the Ugandans who recently found interest in seeking out our fellow Ugandans in the wild for psychological edification, relaxation and a civilizing effect.

Albeit the enthusiasm, the lack of interest in addressing the ecological rape evident in the decimation of wetlands, wild forests and grasslands is glaring.

The obnoxious gases issuing from manufacturing and transport also continue.

We are severally guilty of contributing to environmental degradation with its resultant global warming, incrementally compounding the existential threat to wildlife and ourselves, and hastening our extinction.

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Hon Tom Butime, Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

Public Private Partnerships Grow Tourism -*Butime*

We are pursuing the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Policy, through which the government works with the private sector to promote tourism into a robust sector.



Kidepo Valley National Park is a rugged and unspoiled gem where you regularly find 2,000 buffalos grazing in each other's company.

very region in Uganda is

There is the spectacle of cascading waterfalls that put paid to travel to Murchison Falls National Park. Uganda is an incredible country yet Ugandans have not travelled around to see the beauty of their country, maybe because resources constrain us. Granted that hotel and lodge rates are very high for the majority of Ugandans, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) will endeavour to build bandhas for Ugandans or tourists biased against high-end hotels and lodges.

How is the Ministry of Tourism guiding UWA to actualize its mandate?

UWA is an integral part of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities. It is our agency and the line minister's responsibility to advocate for it. I fought for UWA when it was hit hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting the central government funding support.

Please talk about the partnerships in the tourism sector.

We are pursuing the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Policy, through which the government works with the private sector to promote tourism into a robust sector.

When the two join hands, they pool resources and manage the assets better, like when they invested in Kasubi Tombs and Mugaba Palace construction.

Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC) in Entebbe is an agency of the Ministry of Tourism managed under a partnership with the National Forestry Authority (NFA).

Because the Ministry of Tourism does not have land, unlike the National Forestry Authority (NFA), the famous UWEC Entebbe Zoo will partner to develop the regional zoos. One is in Gulu, another in Hoima, and one in Mbarara on land belonging to NFA, in a partnership between the agencies.

What are the other partnerships besides the inter-government agencies' cooperation?

We have good partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Space for Giants, which are investing in increasing the accommodation in all protected areas under UWA. That means getting a renewable 25-year lease from UWA for accommodation constructing.

There is also a partnership with the World Wide Fund (WWF), and UNDP, where we plan to attract more tourists from Nigeria because they like Uganda. We receive Chinese tourists and tourists from the Far East, Russia, the USA, and Germany.

However, we must build more lodges and high-end hotels where the wealthy can spend time. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) can be very hot; so, we need to develop hotel facilities to attract the Arabs who otherwise vacation in Europe.

How is the tourism sector concretizing its valuable partnerships?

We need a standard for our projects to concretize the partnerships and

develop the infrastructure around the protected areas to enable our partners to do business better.

The roads will be improved, following the president's directive to the minister of Works and Transport to tarmac Kidepo, Kisoro, and Kasese Airfield runways. It will ensure the landing of direct flights from Dubai, Rome, and other international destinations.

The president has also directed the establishment of a tourism information centre at Entebbe International Airport and all the cities' tourism centres. They will include a section to process the tourists' air travel.



Where is Uganda's low-hanging tourism fruit?

Everybody thinks that tourism in Uganda is about wildlife, yet when I interacted with the Egyptian ambassador, he talked about pyramids, the Nile, and ancient architecture and buildings.

We must diversify and talk about food, paintings and writings, the 1922-founded Makerere University, Kakungulu Mosque, the Kabalega route from Bunyoro to Acholi, the Lake Victoria islands of Ssese, and so much more.

loreug

The roads will be improved following the president's directive to the minister of works and transport to tarmac Kidepo, Kisoro, and Kasese Airfield runways.

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Mr. Sam Mwandha, UWA Executive Director.

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Partnerships Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Conservation

Sam Mwandha is the Executive Director of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), a government agency responsible for protection and conservation of wildlife in Uganda. It liaises with the communities neighbouring the national parks, wildlife reserves, and protected areas to conserve wildlife. He talked to *Wildlife Magazine* about the relevance of 2023's United Nations World Wildlife Day, which was themed 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation', and delved into other wildlife conservation issues.

The excerpts

The theme was appropriate because to sustain a national park like Lake Mburo without partnerships, UWA would sink money into protecting its wildlife without getting any returns.

Then, without a partnership with the communities, there would be challenges with their cooperation and no international organisations to support the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

The partners' involvement is the key to wildlife conservation. UWA ensures the NGOs' interest in wildlife conservation by working with various communities, visitors, and whoever else has an interest in wildlife conservation.

How do you factor in the future when making partnerships?

We are mindful of the future. We support the planting of forests, like in Kibale, where UWA is engaged in a partnership with a conservation organisation, 'Face the Future'.

In carbon financing, we sell carbon and bring in the money, which UWA shares with and invests in conservation and the communities neighbouring the protected areas. According to the law, 20 percent of the revenue collected at park entry gates from gazetted areas is given to the communities; a total of 40 billion shillings has been given to communities over the last 25 years.

Talk of UWA's key partners and how they benefit the tourism sector

UWA partners with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which is mainly engaged in research. The research information they collect helps UWA make informed decisions. For its part, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) raises funds for UWA's emergency issues.

They have helped UWA with conservancies where communities in neighbouring protected areas benefit from their land through activities related to conservation. They helped sustain UWA during the COVID-19 lockdown with equipment and fuel for operations vehicles to stay in control.

The Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) focuses on supporting infrastructure development, especially the construction of joint operations command and control centres in Queen Elizabeth National Park and Murchison Falls National Park.

The construction of a similar facility is nearing completion in Kidepo Valley National Park. It will accommodate and equip all the staff in one building, enabling efficient remote monitoring of various parts of the park rather than at all times, physical boots-onthe-ground patrols. It helps with swift responses.

Other supporters include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s support for UWA to construct a community lodge in Kidepo, besides the monitoring equipment.

UWA's other partners are the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID), and then the European Union (EU) project in Eastern Uganda and the Karamoja area, which will start before the end of this year. UWA is considering how to get support from China, Russia, and other development partners.

UNDP's contribution to mitigating the reduction of biodiversity

UNDP has provided UWA with funding for a project in northern Uganda that covers the Kidepo Valley and is managed by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

It involves tree planting, creating awareness among local communities to stop harvesting the shear nut tree, and supporting UWA authorities in dealing with conservers along the Kidepo Valley. The project, which was very effective, ended in 2021.

The UNDP has bought UWA six classy drones, enabling the staff to monitor developments in a radius of three kilometres. They take pictures and assist in arresting poachers.

Other partners include the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) and Tooro Kingdom. UWA has engaged the kingdom to mobilise its subjects to plant trees, without which the nearby national parks will become their source of timber and wood.

The pivotal partners

The most crucial among the important partners are the communities. UWA manages wildlife issues in communities all over the country. Each wildlife conservation and protected area has a community; their biggest challenge is the wild animals that raid and damage their crops, injure, and sometimes kill livestock.

Interestingly, even where there are no protected areas, the problem occurs; Lake Victoria is home to crocodiles and hippos, so, communities are the blood of UWA's work. On the other hand, UWA is constructing electric fences around its protected areas, a significant part of which is complete.

A fence construction procurement is underway, whereas dug-out trenches prevent buffalos from interfering with the communities. Further, plans are in the advanced stages for apiary farming; the bees keep elephants at bay, whereas the communities harvest honey to augment their income. Other interventions with the communities include creating awareness about the hippopotami that are otherwise a hindrance to fishing. Fishermen are taught to avoid the animal.

UWA's co-existence with communities neighbouring national parks

Most people subsist on small portions of land; they lack food, fuel, wood, and some critical life needs, like fish and medicinal herbs. The products for weaving are also within the protected areas. UWA, therefore, enters into agreements enabling the communities' controlled access to the protected areas.



According to the law, 20 percent of the revenue collected at park entry gates from gazetted areas is given to the communities; a total of 40 billion shillings has been given to communities over the last 25 years.

The partnerships, the tourist and the tour operator

Partnerships with tourists are complex. Whereas the tourists are not known when they come, they spend some days in the park, sleeping, eating, paying money and going away but are significant partners.

Because tourists bring in money, UWA is regaining its financial sustainability, following the hard times it fell upon during the COVID-19 lockdown, prompting a nose dive in revenues. The tour operator and tour guide are important partners for marketing Uganda to tourists who bring in money.

The champions of conservation

The champions of conservation are the rangers. They put their lives on the line as they patrol the wildlife ranges to fight poaching. On duty, they encounter armed poachers and furious animals that injure them. They care for wild animals without reciprocity or care. They are my heroes.

In my time of wildlife conservation, the president of Uganda is a highlevel advocate for wildlife. He has

Dr Ludwig Siefert of the Uganda Carnivore

Program after collaring a

lioness in Queen Elisabeth

National Park (Uganda

CF photo).

consistently objected to intimations and demands, even from ministers in his cabinet to de-gazette some protected areas.

The president has explained to and dissuaded Karamoja politicians from nursing the idea of de-gazetting a swathe of Kidepo Valley National Park. He strongly advised that with Karamoja's climatic conditions, the people could not depend on sorghum but on tourism to survive. That was when Kidepo Valley National Park received more than 2000 visitors annually; it now receives 20,000.

The Shs 400 million Kidepo harvests annually is growing and will be shared with the communities. The other champions of conservation are the communities; by their proximity to the conservancies; they are challenged and suffer when animals eat their food yet they cannot eat the animals!

Protected areas roads Infrastructural Development

UWA has an ongoing World Bank project in protected areas for smart climate and environment. It has the resources to build 24 residential units for rangers in the most wild areas.

It will fund the visitor centres' construction, especially accommodation facilities for schools that visit at least five selected UWA protected areas sites; say, in Semliki National Park.

UWA's other projects relate to Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary accommodation for staff, for which 1.5 billion shillings have been committed pending partners' support.

UWA intends to increase the accommodation capacity in some areas; hence the World Bank project will facilitate the securing of the construction equipment for the opening of new roads and maintenance of the existing ones in the protected areas.

UWA is grateful to the Ministry of Finance for enabling the construction of water reservoirs, which are critically handy for animals during the dry seasons.



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Calling for *Conservation sensitization*

oreen Silver

Katusiime is the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities, which formulates and implements policies, strategies, plans, and programmes that promote tourism, wildlife, and cultural heritage conservation for the socio-economic development and transformation of the country.

She has seen the Ministry grow to where it is now.

Please talk about the state of the Ministry when you joined it and what it is now.

When I took over, the Ministry's budget for 2015/16 was close to 90 billion Ugandan shillings. The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) was responsible for about 90 per cent of that amount, or about 70 billion Ugandan shillings.

The budget has grown to 214 billion Ugandan shillings for the next financial year; it increased by more than double. UWA doubled its revenue collections from about 70 billion Ugandan shillings a year before COVID-19 to about 130 billion Ugandan shillings.

The other agencies, Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC), Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute, and Uganda Wildlife Training and Research Institute, have also grown.

Uganda Museum has doubled its revenue collections. For me, that's major because not much can be accomplished without resources. It shows that we do not only take from the government but also earn. Apart from the money from private tourism businesses, the Ministry generates revenue.

Share some of the indicators of growth in the tourism sector.

In the last nine months of the financial year, we have remitted about 3.6 billion Uganda shillings to URA from our agencies besides UWA which uses what it collects. The Ministry has grown as the agencies have become stronger. There are many more private-sector collaborations.

COVID-19 hit us very hard because in 2020 almost everything collapsed following the ban on travel and hospitality businesses, but the recovery is very encouraging.

The number of tourists dropped from about 1.5 million to 400,000, but the numbers have grown to pre-COVID-19 levels. The number of visitors to UWEC has increased by 120 per cent, and the number of visitors to national parks has doubled.

It is exciting that 60 per cent of them are Ugandans, which was never the case in the past. Those are some of the indicators we look at to determine the sector's growth.

Doreen Silver Katusiime, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities.



Please talk about the tourism sector's recovery from the shocks of COVID-19.

I will look at that from two angles. The first one is the direct government support to the private sector, which COVID-19 also hit the most.

Tourism got a special fund from the government and the European Union through the Uganda Development Bank (UDB), which the tourism sectors stakeholders, like hoteliers and tour operators, have accessed.

Some stakeholders could not meet the bank's stringent requirements, but several have accessed the money, the six million euros the bank released at different intervals. The private companies also competed for grants from the two million dollars the World Bank provided.

The recovery is not a result of direct money injection but working with the private sector to establish where they need support and what the government can do better to market or brand tourism because that's what makes the numbers.

Government markets and private sector sales

The government has made policies like deferring loan repayment, which gives breathing space and enables some recovery. Seven out of ten people in the private tourism sector have regained their jobs. Some companies, however, collapsed and it will take them a few years to recover.

In the sectoral growth and recovery journey, partnerships are in line with this year's United Nations (UN) theme, "Tourism and Green Investment."

Tourism, like any other industry, needs partnerships to thrive. The first partnership is with the private sector. Tourism is public-sector-led but private-sector-driven. The private sector runs hotels, restaurants, tour operators, and guides, so steps have been taken to strengthen the partnerships with the private sector through their umbrella associations.

Meetings every fiscal quarter discuss the burning issues, which has informed our planning and identified



Hon. Martin Mugarra promotes domestic tourism in UWA's drive to savour Uganda's scenic and wildlife diversity.

their needs. The Ministry has contributed to its members training in business development, corporate governance, and capacity building to run the associations for the members' benefit.

Other partnerships are with development partners who support conservation, which is not limited to nature but includes culture and heritage.

The Ministry has benefited from UNESCO's support to conserving Uganda's heritage; we are about to complete the restoration of the Kasubi Tombs which has taken more than a decade. We have submitted a request to UNESCO to remove Kasubi Tombs from the endangered list.

Besides the government's money investment, the Ministry has worked with technical people to accomplish all the processes and have them documented. The Japanese government support has enabled the firefighting equipment installation and testing at Kasubi Tombs.

We have also partnered with UNDP, the EU, and USAID on many issues, like anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade. We are now implementing a project between UWA and the Ministry of Environment and Environment relating to the environmental resilience of the protected areas. Without these partnerships, it would have been hard.

Talk about what else is needed to improve UWA's conservation efforts.

The motto for UWA, "Conserving for Generations," is a conscious admission of the existing social, economic, and environmental impacts on current and future generations.

Conservation cannot be divorced from environmental protection, whereas some visitors say there are no animals because they migrate.

Because the human and animal populations are growing, there is a problem with encroachment, hence the need for sensitising the people about the conservation benefits. Parliamentarians regularly raise matters of national importance when animals are killed or when they have destroyed their constituents' crops.

We equally protect animals and human beings in equal measure and invest more in tourism. This is what makes Uganda unique, especially our cultures, foods, and ethnic groups' diversity, which we need to take advantage of.



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Uganda Tourism Board Chief Executive Officer, Ms Lilly Ajarova (Guide2Uganda photo).

Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo (POATE)

We are pursuing the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) policy, through which the government works with the private sector to promote tourism into a robust sector.



Domestic campaign edition to create awareness about the tourism potential of Northern Uganda (Explore Uganda photo).

he Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo (POATE), Uganda's flagship annual travel and tourism event, was held across four days, from April 26th to April 29th, 2023. It attracted 150 tourism boards and associations from the eastern Africa region to interact with local suppliers for tourism.

Miss Lilly Ajarova, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), noted that while the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) projects that the global tourism sector is at 65% of prepandemic arrivals, full recovery of the sector is expected in 2023 and beyond.

"This year's expo points to our recovery and highlights our readiness to host the tourism community once again," Miss Ajarova explained.

The expo was held at the Commonwealth Resort in Kampala. One hundred (100) African specialist tour operators (hosted buyers) in Uganda's core source markets of Africa (South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt), German-speaking countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), the United Kingdom, and Spain participated.

They came to explore Uganda, the Pearl of Africa, and include Uganda's beautiful destination in their Africa itineraries in the next few months. "That way, Uganda will receive more travellers and their associated benefits, including increased tourism revenue and employment," UTB's chief executive observed.

Hon. Tom Butime, the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities, welcomed the participants to POATE, saying, "The tourism sector under the NRM leadership has blossomed largely due to the stable environment and peace in most parts of the country that make it safer for visitors to explore Uganda."

The minister said the statistics from the Uganda Tourism Satellite Account 2023 indicate that the tourism sector registered 19.3 per cent of arrivals in Uganda for holidays, leisure, and recreation. Some 40.9 per cent came for business tourism, 28.2 per cent for visiting friends and relatives, and 11.6 per cent visited for other reasons. He also noted that despite the soaring interest in visiting Uganda post-pandemic, the country can still do more to attract visitors.

"Several initiatives are in place to drum up destination Uganda's visibility, of which the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo is a vehicle that creates awareness to multiply the number of visitors to Uganda," Butime elaborated.

Tourism is one of Uganda's fastestgrowing sectors and has previously contributed over 1.6 billion United States dollars and accounted for 7.7 per cent of the GDP.

As Uganda's economy fully recovers, the earnings from tourism will more than double. While it prepares for the growing numbers of tourists, there is a need to be mindful of the facilities' standards and types of services offered.

The Uganda Tourism Board enforces

President Museveni visits a tourists lodge in Rubirizi, guided by Ms Bernadette Katureebe. the laws and sector standards to make sure they are followed. To keep up with international standards, the private sector, including hoteliers and tour guides, must register and get licences.

Destination Uganda will thus adhere to global standards, and her visitors' safety will be satisfied with the tourism offerings and facilities.

Butime called on UTB to work closely with the private sector and the Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute to skill the workforce in the tourism sector through staff training and familiarisation with the versatility of the industry. A well-trained, skilled, and efficient workforce effectively markets the country.

After a presidential directive, the government will help the sector fix up the regional airports near national parks and change their codes so that planes don't have to land at Entebbe International Airport. In the near future; the private jets of tourists will land at tourist locations.

In partnership with UNRA and the Uganda Road Fund, an emergency road maintenance programme for the key tourism areas of Kisoro/ Bwindi, Kasese/ Kanungu/ Bwindi, Kitgum/ Kidepo, Kampala/ Jinja and Pian Upe will be developed to expedite the implementation of the state of the tourism roads.

The UTB chairperson, Hon. Daudi Migereko, said tourism has grown into Uganda's leading foreign exchange earner, contributing to Uganda's socio-economic development.

Uganda is one of the ten places where spending on leisure travel will grow the most quickly between 2020 and 2026. India, Angola, Uganda, Brunei, Thailand, China, Myanmar, Oman, Mozambique, and Vietnam are the 10 countries.

However, COVID-19 slowed Uganda's expectations. Interventions such as POATE 2023 will shine a light on the tourism opportunities available to the Uganda Tourism Board.

He added that there is a need to focus on three priority interventions and immediately start working on them in line with the available resources: "We should be certain of the impact or multiplier effects they will create, the returns we shall get, and the benefits should be well articulated."

He also said there is a need to improve ICT and internet capacity. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, internet use has become a way of life. UTB will collaborate with the tourism facilities to install fast internet connections and the capacity to enable tourists to share experiences and participate in meetings and conferences from wherever they may be.

This will also help to enhance business, and meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) tourism, as Uganda is a preferred destination. The country also needs to improve its regional tourism marketing, as it is ranked among the top 52 tourism destinations in 2020 by the *New York Times*.

The Pearl of Africa was listed as a must-visit destination in 2023 by CNN. The destination was rebranded as Explore Uganda: The Pearl of Africa, and scooped international awards, including the Cannes TV and Media Awards and the International Film Tourism Festival in South Africa.

Other awards are from the Committee for International Film Tourism Circuits in Valencia, the Silver Lake Tour Film Festival (Silafest) in Veliko Gradiste, Serbia, and Zagreb, registering remarkable success.

Destination Uganda has been exposed as a highlight reel of all that is rare, precious, and beautiful in Africa.



Triumph over the Mountains of the Moon, the Rwenzori.



A tourist gingerly approaches Lake Bunyonyi.



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Uganda's Pearl Kidepo Valley National Park

idepo Valley National Park is a true wilderness experience that offers a tourist a feeling of tranquilly, peace of mind, and an excursion into the jungle. They can explore the beauty of Narus Valley, home to animals such as cheetahs, elephants, buffaloes, zebras, giraffes, and various species of savanna birds.

Kidepo offers nature at its best. It is a tourist destination where you close your eyes and experience a place for those tired of the urban life associated crowds.

It is not surprising that it was this year nominated for the coveted World Travel Awards, which reward and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries.

The nomination is alongside the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana, Etosha National Park in Namibia, Maasai Mara National Park in Kenya, and Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

Kidepo is in Karamoja sub-region, in north-eastern Uganda. It is one of the ten national parks in the Pearl of Africa, popular for its rugged savannah, bird species, wildlife, and sprawling hills with ranges that give some of the best sunsets.

It is also typified by sunrises that form a backdrop of breathtaking landscapes that protect diverse wildlife and the most unadulterated cultural heritage among north eastern Uganda's Karimojong people, bordering South Sudan and Kenya, between Nageya Valley and the hills of Karamoja.

Kidepo is 1,442 square kilometres with an altitude ranging from 914 metres. The park consists of two shallow valley systems with rugged, dry mountain terrain. In the southwest of the park is the Narus Valley, bordered by the Napore range to the north-west.

It is endowed with one rainy season, which usually begins in April and ends in September. The rains feed the vegetation, including the montane forest, grassy plains, open




tree savanna, dry thorn bush, thick miombo-like woodlands; Borassus palm forest, and kopjes, or rocky outcrops.

It is home to a bevy of wildlife, including 86 species, among them maneless zebras, large herds of elephants, elands, lesser kudus, dik-diks, buffalos, cheetahs, oribi, waterbucks, and much more. In recent years, there have been sightings of the Mongalla gazelle, and white-eared kobs are also now frequently seen.

A birder will chance upon several species. Kidepo has more than 453 bird species, according to the Avibase Clements Bird Checklists, with the ostriches, kori bustard, Verreaux's eagle, Karamoja apalis, Clapperton's francolin, blackbreasted barbet, stone partridge, yellow-necked spurfowl, and pygmy sunbird being some of the soughtafter and recognizable attractions.

You can book your tour through a tour and travel company or agent who can advise on travel arrangements. You can travel by road or by air. BAR Aviation and Aerolink fly to Kidepo.



Stone Patridge.

Warthog (Inspire African Safaris photo).

White eared kob





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♥ Murchison Falls National Park f
♥ Image: Im



MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP IS VITAL FOR CONSERVATION



The Minister for Water and Environment Hon. Sam Cheptoris (2nd right) launching the IFPA-CD Project.

Under its Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025, NFA will consolidate and expand its partnership with forest adjacent communities doubling the area they comanage from 4.5% to 9% of the total CFR area. he National Forestry Authority (NFA) was established under section 52 of The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003 and mandated; "To sustainably manage and develop the country's central forest reserves (CFRs) and to provide quality forestry products and services for the socio-economic development of Uganda".

The NFA has embraced partnerships and collaborative approaches to sustainably manage central forest reserves which provide habitats for wildlife and give support to other forms of biodiversity forming the vital country's heritage.

Under its Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025, NFA will consolidate and expand its partnership

forest adjacent communities with doubling the area they co-manage from 4.5% to 9% of the total CFR area. Through collaborative forest management (CFM), the Authority has signed agreements with 72 forest adjacent community groups across the country. Under the agreements, communities are formally organized in groups to regulate their forest use and are allowed to benefit from sustainable activities within central forest reserves such as beekeeping, collecting nontimber forest products, and developing tree plantations in degraded areas. On their part, the communities participate in forest patrols and policing of the areas allocated to them to deter illegal activities. Under the Investing in Forests and Protected



Areas for Climate Smart Development project, NFA will train the different CFM groups in tree nursery establishment and beekeeping as an income-generating activities to boost their incomes and livelihoods. Over 350 people especially women and youth will benefit from this. It is envisaged that this partnership will improve forest management and boost conservation.

Partnerships have strengthened forest restoration, protection and conservation through restoration planting by private sector and Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs), forest boundary opening and demarcation. In its 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan, NFA envisaged to increase from 16% to 24% the area of CFR forest land managed under licenses and MoUs with the private sector and NGOs, and through corporate social responsibility partnerships.

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through technical support from the United States Forest Service (USFS), 580km of forest boundaries have been opened and demarcated. Under the partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) 60km has been opened and NFA in collaboration with USAID Biodiversity for Resilience (B4R) project will open and demarcate 120km of central forest reserves boundaries in the North Karamoja landscape. Approximately 45km of forest reserve boundary will be opened and demarcated with support from WWF.

Through partnership with WCS and Worldwide Fund for Nature. (WWF) restoration planting and protection patrols is ongoing in the Budongo, Bugoma and Kagombe landscape. NFA has engaged Corporate companies notably Uganda Baati, Uganda Breweries Limited, FINCA Uganda, Electricity Regulatory and MTN Authority, Uganda, among others to fund restoration planting in sites that have been degraded to enhance forest and wildlife conservation. The NFA is partnering with the private sector to invest in ecotourism infrastructure by allocating ecotourism sites for development. To date concessions have been given for development of ecotourism sites in Lutoboka



The State Minister for Environment (2nd right) Hon. Beatrice Anywar launching the NARIS project.

CFR in Kalangala district, Budongo CFR, Mpanga CFR, Mabira CFR, and Kalinzu CFR among others.

NFA has also licensed the private sector to develop plantations to meet the ever increasing demand for wood and wood products and reduce pressure on natural forests. So far, 102,234 hectares have been planted by private sector with conifers (pine) and broad-leaved species (eucalyptus, teak, musizi, terminalia, mahogany, afzelia, cordia, muvule, giant lira) and bamboo.

NFA is employing new methodologies of land cover assessment in collaboration with international networks notably Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to acquire licenses of proprietary GIS software such as Arc GIS and Erdas Imagine. NFA has equipped staff in data analytical tools using highperformance cloud-based platforms like SEPAL and Natural Resources Information System (NARIS) to monitor forests at a near real time basis using satellite images, remote sensing and human generated field alerts. Capacity to use unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) in forest monitoring is also being developed.

Another partnership is with; Jane Goodall Institute for the restoration of

degraded natural forests in Kagombe CFR, Nature Uganda for restoration and species monitoring in Echuya, Kalinzu, Kasyoha Kitomi and Mabira CFRs.

NFA is also implementing a project partnership agreement with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for restoration of CFRs degraded by influx of refugees and also tree planting within the refugee-hosting districts.

Uganda is indeed gifted with unique wildlife, richly found in forests, mountains, national parks, wildlife reserves, lakes and rivers, among others. These have earned the country its breathtaking beauty thus being referred to as the "Pearl of Africa". Meaningful partnerships is one way through which we can mobilize resources (both technical and financial) to sustainably conserve wildlife and wildlife habitats.

NFA applauds all its partners and the government of Uganda for the support rendered towards sustainable forest management in the country.

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"Using environmentally friendly technology and our proven capability in developing oil resources in sensitive areas, we aim to create a project that shows how oil, environment and tourism can harmoniously coexist," TotalEnergies.

The Oil Sector aims to coexist with tourism, environment

A limited number of wells are drilled, fewer pads constructed, fewer roads are opened hence a reduced footprint on the environment.

ganda is targeting to earn \$5.2 billion in revenues from the tourism industry by 2028 – seven times more than (\$736 million) in 2022.

The tourism industry which contributed about 8 per cent to the country's GDP before Covid-19 is nature dependent.

Winston Churchill, the former British prime minister coined the phrase 'Pearl of Africa', appreciating Uganda's overwhelming natural beauty which he encountered on a visit here decades ago.

The country's flora and fauna are protected in sprawling game reserves and national parks nationwide, including the Murchison Falls National Park, home to some of the largest populations of elephants, giraffes, lions and leopards anywhere on the planet.

With 76 species of mammals and Uganda's largest population of the Nile crocodile, the park also hosts 451 bird species including the rare Shoe-bill stork, the dwarf kingfisher and the Goliath Heron.

Uganda's largest protected area covering 3840 km2, the Murchison is situated in the Albertine Graben where TotalEnergies' Tilenga oil fields are located.

The threat the oil production-related activities pose to the environment and biodiversity in the parks is a matter that has been given its deserved attention.



One of the biggest challenges facing TotalEnergies, CNOOC and the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the companies licensed to get Uganda's oil to the world market, is to ensure the least disruption to nature as they go about their activities.

They are under the scrutiny of environmental activists from across the world who have scared away funds from big global financial institutions. The European Union Parliament moved a motion for a resolution to at least temporarily stop the projects.

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) dynamics have taken centre stage in the evaluation of any investment. TotalEnergies acknowledges the fact in a statement on its website that in part reads; "Using environmentally friendly technology and our proven capability in developing oil

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erns into Policies, Plans and Programmes' Hotel, Kampala - Uganda



Dr. Joseph Kobusheshe presents on the ESIA in Oil & Gas activities in the Albertine Graben Region.

resources in sensitive areas, we aim to create a project that shows how oil, environment and tourism can harmoniously coexist."

The company has deployed modern technology like the 3D cable-less seismic expertise in oil exploration, which makes Uganda the first country onshore in Africa to use it.

The technology produces quick results with less man power and fewer supporting vehicles, thus limiting its impact on vegetation compared to other techniques.

In addition, horizontal wells drilling means that only a limited number of wells are drilled, fewer pads are constructed and fewer roads are opened, reducing the footprint on the environment.

Before the activities, TotalEnergies carried out public consultations as part of its Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) covering land, biodiversity and human rights.

The company is committed to limiting its footprint in the National Park from the 10 per cent land area that was approved in the ESIA to less than 0.05 per cent.

In May 2021, the company's name changed from Total to TotalEnergies, to reflect its new strategic commitment to sustainability, echoing its commitment to achieving NetZero pollution by 2050.

Then in June 2022, it unveiled the Tilenga Biodiversity Program, which General Manager, Philippe Groueix said will leave the Murchison Falls Protected Area and the surrounding landscape in better condition than if there had been no oil activities.

The Program is designed to address the impacts associated with the project, in line with the "Avoid, Reduce, Compensate" hierarchy; the avoidance and reduction of impacts as a matter of priority. The actions required to compensate for these impacts aim to deliver positive outcomes ("net gain") for biodiversity and local communities.

Besides the Murchison Falls National Park, it focuses on Bugungu Wildlife Reserve, the Murchison Falls Albert Delta, the shoreline wetlands along Lake Albert and the Bugoma– Budongo Forest corridor ecosystems.

TotalEnergies is collaborating with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to address the risk of increased pressures on the wildlife in the park with enhanced park protection and community-based management.

It intends to utilize renewable power from the national grid and later produce Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from the project to supply the Ugandan market.

Its subcontractors, whose activities are carried out in compliance with national and international standards, are guided by the ESIA and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) requirements.

They are specifically compliant with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards 1-8 on Environmental and Social Sustainability and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.



GoU support

The Director of Environment, Health, Safety and Security at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), Dr Joseph Kobusheshe says following the confirmation of commercially viable oil deposits in Uganda, new laws were enacted to address waste management, climate change, and oil spills, the key issues in the petroleum industry.

As a result, the oil pipelines will be buried and equipped with leak detectors and valves to shut down in case of damage or abnormalities.

Also, no flaring or venting of oil or gas will be permitted during normal operations – ensuring Uganda's oil projects are "low emission."



Updating the country's laws to address ESG matters associated with the petroleum industry has also been done.

Dr Kobusheshe notes, "Uganda has a regulatory, monitoring and compliance enforcement framework to ensure that oil activities mutually co exist with the environment and the communities' social wellbeing." The announcement of the final investment decision (FID) for the development of the Tilenga and Kingfisher oilfields plus the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) in February 2022, has set off several infrastructure projects in the Albertine valued in billions of dollars.

About \$15 billion will be invested in the development phase in the lead-

up to oil production (First Oil) in 2025.

Projected to transform Uganda's economy for the foreseeable future – bringing in at least \$2 billion in annual revenues, it is in the country's interests to ensure the petroleum project is scandal free on the environmental and social front.





Tilenga Project Biodiversity Program in Murchison Falls National Park

ocated in Buliisa and Nwoya districts in the Albertine graben, the Tilenga project is operated by TotalEnergies EP Uganda in partnership with Chinese Oil Company National Offshore (CNOOC) Limited and Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC). It includes the development of six fields and the drilling of around 400 wells from 31 wellpads. Approximately 0.05% of Murchison Falls National Park surface area will be occupied by the project facilities including 10 wellpads, access roads and pipeline network to develop one of the fields located inside Murchison Falls National Park.

TotalEnergies EP Uganda has committed to developing the project in conformance to national legislation and international standards particularly International



David Ochanda is also the Winner of the 2020 award of the Outstanding Young Professional Award by the International Association of Oil And Gas Producers (IOGP).

Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards on Environment and Social Sustainability.

TotalEnergies EP Uganda overall mission and commitment is to leave **Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) and the surrounding landscape in better condition than if the project had not taken place by achieving positive effects for biodiversity and communities**. The company is working in collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) as well as other mandated institutions, partners, and stakeholders in designing and implementing appropriate mitigation measures and conservation actions that positively contribute to and promote coexistence of Oil and Gas development with wildlife conservation, tourism development, and enhanced livelihoods. The Tilenga Biodiversity Program was officially launched in June 2022 to achieve this objective and since then a number of pilot projects have been initiated.

Adherence to the mitigation hierarchy to achieve positive, measurable and long-lasting outcomes for conservation and communities requires a robust strategy. As such, the company rigorously applies avoidance, minimization, and restoration measures to address impacts throughout the project lifecycle (design, construction, operations, and decommissioning). This is done consistently whilst compensating for any remaining impacts that may persist.



Figure 1: The Tilenga Project follows the Mitigation Hierarchy to Achieve Biodiversity Net Gain

The Tilenga Project has already avoided a lot of the preliminary adverse impacts through project design, working with contractors to further minimize impact through various control measures and ensure full restoration during and after the construction phase.

In addition, the company has started implementing actions designed to finally compensate for any remaining residual impacts on a pilot basis. This is a key commitment of the project in line with the National Environment Act 2019 and the IFC performance standards as detailed in the project's Environmental and



Social Impact Assessment report approved by the authorities on $15^{\rm th}$ April 2019 (certificate no. 12805).

The project avoided adverse impacts by carefully placing infrastructure while avoiding sensitive sites, optimising footprint by reducing the number of wellpads to bare minimum from 75 to 29 at final design, use of technology such as Horizontal Directional Drilling, avoiding sensitive seasons of animal species, and relinquishing part of the project area within the park. Out of the 29 wellpads, only 10 will be located within the park. Additionally, several physical and operational control measures described within the various Biodiversity Management Plans are being implemented to minimise and restore construction impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The Tilenga Project is operating in a critical habitat and is, therefore, committed to achieving biodiversity net gain within the Murchison Falls Protected Area which includes MFNP and the adjoining Bugungu and Karuma Wildlife Reserves, to enhance species populations, habitat quality and extent, while also improving tourism and livelihoods of communities. In consultation with UWA and other stakeholders, the company has identified four key pillars for the program as described with the Project Biodiversity Action Plan. Each of these pillars has specific objectives to achieve the Tilenga Biodiversity Program vision.



Figure 2: The Tilenga Biodiversity Programme Pillars for achieving Biodiversity Net Gain.

These pillars are dedicated to longterm conservation actions in and around Murchison Falls Protected Area (MFPA), premised around support to law conservation, enforcement. resource community conservation, and monitoring and research. TotalEnergies EP Uganda is working closely with the UWA and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in piloting one of the actions involving snare removal and improving effectiveness of ranger patrols through use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) technology in MFNP. The aim is to support and build capacity of UWA in managing poaching and other illegal activities within MFNP. Lessons from this pilot will inform scaling up the activities to the entire park, ensuring poaching and other illegal activities are mitigated, as animal populations, their habitats and tourism in MFNP continue thriving.

(L-R) Haruna Kulu Kiirya, Warden Law Enforcement of UWA at Murchison Falls National Park (L), David Ochanda, Biodiversity Manager Rangelands (2nd L), Denis Muhereza, Head of Intelligence Unit UWA (2nd R) and Isaac Kiirya, Project Manager WCS (R) during one of the field supervisions of Snare Removal and Ranger Patrol Effectiveness Project.

The pilot project involves four main activities:

- Running monthly snare removal, extended patrols, and water operations to detect threats to wildlife;
- 2. Anti-poaching campaigns through community awareness meetings and radio talk shows;
- 3. Procuring SMART equipment; and,
- 4. Training and equipping UWA rangers in use of SMART for effective field patrols,

Majority of poachers in MFNP use wire snares and metal traps to catch mainly antelopes and buffaloes. However, these snares indiscriminately trap anv animal including elephants and lions, causing immense pain, suffering and death to wildlife of MFNP. To reduce poaching threat to wildlife, UWA has to physically search and systematically remove snares and other traps in the park.

Together with UWA law enforcement unit and with support from TotalEnergies EP Uganda, WCS organizes monthly snare removal operations within the northeastern section of the park. This involves UWA





rangers moving within a selected area and removing any wire snares and other kinds of traps encountered. Out of 52 patrols conducted within 8 months (March 2023), 1932 wire snares, 7 spears, 5 wheels traps, 16 canoes, 16 illegal fishing nets have been retrieved and arrested 47 poachers and rescued 3 wild animals live from wire snares.



A wire snare dislodged and retrieved by an UWA ranger in Murchison Falls National Park

So far, 50 UWA rangers have been trained and mentored in use of SMART which has been very helpful in collecting data on illegal activities while patrolling, and the Ranger outposts have been boosted with 12 smart phones, 3 solar systems, 3 external drives, and 2 laptops to aid data collection, processing, analysis, and transmission to UWA Headquarter. Additionally, TotalEnergies EP Uganda is also working with UWA through Biodiversity Solutions Uganda to implement another pilot conservation project aimed at improving quality and extent of habitats of MFNP through management of invasive species of flora. This one-year pilot project involves working with local communities to manually remove invasive species around Bugungu Airstrip, a predetermined area highly infested with *Chromolaena Odorata*, and continuously monitor and manage the site to ensure full eradication of the invasive species. Lessons learnt will be replicated to other sites with the same species.

Over the years, TotalEnergies EP Uganda through its implementing partners has collected significant amounts of data on biodiversity of MFNP, forming a robust baseline. This data has to-date informed all the mitigation strategies and will be the basis for future monitoring of progress towards achieving Tilenga Project's Netgain targets. About seven (7) years ago, TotalEnergies EP Uganda successfully implemented the exploration and appraisal phase of this project with utmost adherence to environment and social safeguards, and best practices, particularly the mitigation hierarchy. To-date, it is unnoticeable that oil and gas exploration ever took place in the park because all impacted areas were fully restored. Through experience from other projects across the globe and particularly the exploration phase of this project, TotalEnergies EP Uganda is highly confident that together with support from Government of Uganda, partners, and stakeholders, Tilenga Project will be a success and subsequently a model project to demonstrate coexistence of oil & gas development with wildlife conservation, tourism, and community livelihoods.

TotalEnergies EP Uganda remains committed to working closely with all relevant stakeholders and partners to achieve its long-term mission and commitments in MFNP,

and wishes to thank the Government of Uganda, UWA, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, Joint Venture partners, all its implementing partners, and other stakeholders for the support rendered towards development and implementation of the Tilenga Biodiversity Program, and the Tilenga Project at large. TotalEnergies EP Uganda and its partners are committed to pro-active communication and collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and achievement of net gain for biodiversity and community livelihoods.

Written by:

David Ochanda, Biodiversity Manager Rangelands, TotalEnergies E&P Uganda, and an awardee of the 2020 Outstanding Young Professional Award by International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP).



An Elephant in Murchison Falls National Park.

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MAKING MORE POSSIBLE









The Semuliki National Park

emuliki National Park is famed for the picturesque Sempaya Hot Springs, where mesmerised tourists gaily use the backdrop of the crystal white waters when taking photographs and recording videos.

The hot springs have high temperatures of up to 100 degrees Celsius, and are hot enough to boil eggs, which is part of the adventure for that are mesmerized by the natural attraction. They are located about 30 minutes' walk from the main road into Semuliki National Park forest tracks.

Once at the springs, tourists savour their force, strength, and heat and the impact of their natural and rare underground geographic forces.

The hot springs are designated male and female and have local names; the male is Biteete and is approximately 12 metres in width, while the female hot spring is called Nyansimbi for gushing water into the air to a height of approximately two metres.

According to Bamaga folklore, local women spotted an unknown man with a spear and a dog in the forest. The men of the village brought him home, and he married one of the women. But one day he failed to return from hunting, and all that was found was his spear stuck in the ground next to what is now known as the 'male' hot spring. These fables and legends of a spring that gives everlasting life to whomever drinks from it are heard worldwide.

Uganda boasts of some seven major hot springs that attract several tourists on their Uganda safaris, namely Kitagata Hot Springs, Sempaya Hot Springs, Rwagimba Hot Springs, Amoropii Hot Springs, Burring Hot Springs, Ihamba Hot Springs, Kidepo Kanangorok Hot Springs, and Kibiro Hot Springs. Some of them are believed to have healing powers and their neighbouring communities believe they have therapeutic divine powers and perform miracles. As such, some people worship them, while others bathe in them for healing.

The Semuliki River marks the western boundary of the park and the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) arm of the Rift Valley, just below the northern ranges of the Rwenzori Mountains, in Bundibugyo district.

Semuliki is the only park in Uganda, which is primarily tropical lowland forest characterised by grassland clearings, bits of swamp, isolated stands of oil palm, acacia, or ironwood, and glimpses of a bamboo swamp.

The wild animal species in the park include elephant, buffalo, leopard, civet, scaly-tailed flying squirrel, bushbabies, hippopotamus, crocodiles, and primates, including the black-and-white colobus, red-tailed monkey, Uganda Mangabey, Debreza's monkey, olive baboons, and vervet monkeys. In Uganda, Dent's Mona monkeys and Semuliki red colobus monkeys are only found in this park.

It is a birder's destination, with approximately 576 species of birds according to the Avibase Clements bird Checklist. In Semuliki, a huge number of mostly central African species reach the eastern edge of their range and are absent from the rest of Uganda. They include the Lyre-tailed Honeyguide, Long-tailed Hawk, Nkulengu Rail, Congo Serpent Eagle, and Black-wattled Hornbill.

Longtailed Hawk, Only known in Semuliki Forest



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Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)

ACHIEVING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BY IMPROVING PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND LIVELIHOODS

onversation Through Public Health (CTPH) is a grassroots Ugandan-based NGO and non-profit established in 2003. It promotes biodiversity conservation by enabling people, gorillas and other wildlife to coexist through improving their health and livelihoods in and around Africa's protected areas. CTPH envisions a "thriving gorilla populations with thriving local communities" and achieves this by promoting the health and wellbeing of people, gorillas and other wildlife in Africa which, in turn, reduces threats to gorillas and their habitats".

CTPH's approach to conservation is holistic, recognizing that conservation cannot be achieved without meaningfully engaging, and improving the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of, people living in proximity to the wildlife and habitats we are conserving. Similarly, people's health and wellbeing is intrinsically linked to ecosystem health - without clean air, water, healthy soil and flora, people's health, wellbeing and livelihoods will suffer. The spread of diseases between wildlife and people and their livestock is also more likely when wildlife is unhealthy, stressed, overexploited or when people engage in risky behaviors such as eating bush meat, typically due to poverty or limited livelihood choices.

Strategic and effective partnerships are critical to realizing a holistic One Health approach to conservation. Benefits of strategic, purposeful partnerships include greater expertise, flexibility and reach for a common goal and enable a more rounded delivery of services. Over the years, CTPH has worked with a number of organisations and other stakeholders, through meaningful partnerships, which have enabled us to reach more beneficiaries and meet their holistic needs better.



CTPH Founder and CEO Dr. Gladys Kalema - Zikusoka (3rd left) and CTPH team tracking Nkuringo Gorilla group - Photo by CTPH

Through partnerships with government, NGOs and the private sector, the mountain gorillas are no longer critically endangered," CTPH's Founder and CEO, Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka affirmed at a recent Public Lecture on state of wildlife in Uganda: The Role of Partnership in Wildlife Conservation. The lecture was convened by the Ugandan Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities in partnership with Nature Uganda at the Uganda Museum to commemorate this year's World Wildlife Day under the theme: Partnership For Wildlife Conservation. Dr. Gladys, who was a keynote speaker at the lecture, concluded that partnerships are vital to wildlife conservation.

How CTPH has leveraged its partnerships

Under Dr. Gladys Kalema- Zikusoka's leadership, CTPH has established partnerships with the Government of Uganda through The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), The Ministry of Health, and The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries as well as with community members, conservationists, tour operators, likeminded organizations and networks at both local and global scenes as a holistic strategy to increasing impact. Thanks to concerted and sustained efforts amongst all partners and stakeholders, we have witnessed one of the greatest conservation successes to date - with the mountain gorillas having recently, in 2018, been reclassified by the IUCN from critically endangered to endangered, in recognition of their sustained population growth. This is all the more impressive given that they were once widely predicted to be extinct by the year 2000. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) registered an increase of gorillas from 300 to 459 between 1997 and 2018. This figure is expected to increase in the next census. BIFNP is home to almost half of the world's 1063 wild mountain gorillas.



Our partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) has helped to place Uganda at the forefront of the One Health field. Working with Village Health and Conservation Teams (VHCTs), originally known as Village Health Teams under the Ministry of Health, CTPH has leveraged VHCTs to consolidate our One Health work as a CTPH Model Household Approach, to support MOH to promote improved health through the provision of integrated community based services to individual households. The Model Household Approach promotes 12 health-seeking behaviors including improved hygiene and sanitation practices, infectious disease prevention and control, reproductive health, voluntary family planning, nutrition, as well as conservation education and values. These are presented as an index, with 12 achievable indicators which allow households to assess themselves against the indicators and monitor their progress to becoming

'Model Households'. Through this approach, CTPH, in partnership with MOH, is currently engaging 7,616 and 1,506 households around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mt. Elgon area respectively.



VHCT applying family planning method to a woman from the community.

Through our partnership with UWA, we have promoted community - led conservation. It has enabled us to continually engage 119 gorilla guardians in Bwindi through training them on non-invasive gorilla fecal sample collection for health analysis in our field laboratory in Buhoma, the Gorilla Health and Community Conservation Centre, and on how to observe them for clinical signs of illness as part of routine health monitoring. Routine health monitoring is critical to gorilla health and protection as, being so closely related to humans, they are very susceptible to human diseases. Routine health monitoring provides an early warning system for disease outbreaks in the gorilla population, enabling action to be taken early, if needed. The Gorilla Guardians are also trained to safely herd gorillas back into the forest when they have strayed outside into community land, preventing potential human-wildlife conflict. It is one of several examples of community-led conservation being championed by CTPH in partnership with UWA.

Alternative Livelihoods

Consultative meetings on alternative livelihoods with reformed poachers have also resulted into a win-win situation for ex-poachers and CTPH. Some of the 525 reformed poachers CTPH is working with are small scale coffee farmers who have been guided on how to expand and grow their coffee businesses in partnership with CTPH's social enterprise, Gorilla Conservation Coffee, which seeks to bring the benefits of the global coffee market to coffee farmers in Bwindi. Gorilla Conservation Coffee engages over 500 farmers in sub counties bordering Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and pays a premium of \$0.50 per kilo above the market price to the coffee farmers who previously did not have a steady market or fair price for their coffee improving their livelihoods. Through establishing the award-winning Kanyonyi coffee blend, Gorilla Conservation Coffee social enterprise is supporting farmers around Bwindi to access the benefits of an increasingly consumer conscious global coffee market, passing on the higher price point that people are willing to pay for a quality, ethically sourced coffee with a cause. By improving incomes and livelihoods, Gorilla Conservation Coffee also reduces dependence on natural resources to meet basic needs for food and fuelwood.

In addition, Village Health and Conservation Teams have been supported with group livestock projects, whereby groups co-own cows, sheep, goats or pigs, lessening the cost burden on individuals and creating a resource for share profits which can be re-invested in more livestock or into Village Savings and Loans Associations, a community-run and managed loan and credit facility. These initiatives have helped to reduce their dependence on natural resources to meet basic needs, reducing threats to biodiversity and contributing to the increasing gorilla population in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Gorilla health monitoring and animal health

Our Gorilla Health and Community Conservation Centre at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park which started as the one-roomed Gorilla Research Clinic has today in 2023, been upgraded to a fully furnished laboratory, health monitoring and community education center through our partnership with Tusk Trust and individual donors. This has expanded our work to include tests including parasitology and bacteriology, and to process samples for virology and histopathology. Coupled with donations of vaccines, anesthetic and antibiotic drugs and veterinary supplies, our partnerships have enabled our team at the Gorilla Health and Community Conservation Centre to vaccinate pet and stray animals including cats and dogs against rabies, as well as offer neutering and spaying services for domestic animals in the communities around Bwindi.

The expansion of the Gorilla Research Clinic enabled CTPH to conduct more tests in gorillas, livestock and people, enabling routine analysis of zoonotic diseases and putting in place a rapid warning system so that quick action can be taken should a disease of concern be identified. Routine analysis, and treatment where needed, helps to reduce wildlife, human and livestock disease transmission. The centre also provides a meeting place for community training and sensitization on interrelated conservation, health and livelihood issues.

CONSERVATION THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH (CTPH)

Research

Research is central to CTPH's work. In partnership with the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), UWA, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Health and Makerere University and support from International Development Research center (IDRC), CTPH is currently implementing zoonotic disease surveillance under the Collaborative One Health Research Initiative on Epidemics (COHRIE) project. The project aims to improve control of diseases at the human-animal-wildlife interface in the cattle corridor of Uganda. To better understand current knowledge, attitudes and practices around zoonotic diseases and their modes of transmission, the team has collected data from all targeted landscapes of Queen Elizabeth National Park (684), Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (623), Lake Mburo National Park (507), Murchison Falls Conservation area (368) and Kidepo valley National Park (214) and Pian Upe wildlife reserve (727), where a total of 3,123 people were engaged. Additionally, a total of 2,632 specimens have been collected from livestock including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and camels from Pian Upe wildlife reserve (817), Kidepo valley National Park (509), Lake Mburo National Park (880) and Murchison Falls National (426) for the same. The findings will help to guide and inform the project planning and implementation.

Conclusion

Conservation Through Public Health promotes biodiversity conservation by enabling people, gorillas and other wildlife to coexist through improving their health and livelihoods in and around Africa's protected areas and wildlife rich habitats. Partnerships have been critical to achieving this, right from the grassroots to the international levels. CTPH will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in September this year, which is an opportunity to reflect on, and showcase, all milestones and achievements made in partnership with different stakeholders since establishment. At CTPH, we value the partnerships we have at different levels and take this opportunity to thank our partners, donors and friends of CTPH for their support, guidance and advice over the last 20 years. The success of the mountain gorillas is testament that wildlife conservation is possible through collective and collaborative effort. We look forward to continuing to work together and enhancing partnerships as we look towards the next 20 years.



RWENZORI MOUNTAINEERING SERVICES

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RMS Vision: RMS is committed to improvement of the tourism standards and facilities on Mt. Rwenzori and enhancing the quality of people's livelihood and fostering development of the community through conservation of the existing mountain physical and biological resources for sustainable tourism business.

CONTACTS US

Kampala Reservations & Bookings Office; Kasese Reservation & Bookings Office; Nyakalengijo Reservation & Bookings Office; Call us, Whatsapp: +256 (0)784 308425

Kampala Office: Kampala Reservations and Bookings Office; Rwenzori Mountaineering Services; Post Office Building-Kampala Road; 4th Floor Room 402. Telephone: +256 (0) 756678224

Kasese Office: Kasese Reservation and Bookings Office; Rwenzori Mountaineering Services AK complex, Second Floor 30mtrs off Kasese roundabout – Kilembe road



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- · Transfers to and fro Kasese town and Base camp

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The new terminal extension at Entebbe International Airport



Artistic impression on the Interior of the Airport Terminal Building.

n line with the Uganda Vision 2040, Government developed a 20-year National Civil Aviation Master Plan covering the period up to 2033. The Master Plan covers Entebbe International Airport and other airfields in the country.

The project for the upgrade and expansion of Entebbe International Airport is critical to the development of the air transport industry in light of the growing passenger and cargo traffic figures. While Entebbe International Airport handled 118,000 international passengers in 1991 at Uganda Civil Aviation Authority's

(UCAA) establishment, the Airport handled 1.8 million passengers in 2019. The passenger traffic growth trend was only halted in 2020 when the figure reduced to 565,541 owing to the effects occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the airport registered 1.57 million passengers. In the first quarter of January to March 2023, Entebbe International Airport recorded 402,314 passengers compared to 414, 431 in the same period of January 2019, before the pandemic. The revival and commencement of flights by the national airline, Uganda Airlines, is expected to further grow this traffic (in

subsequent years), and promote the

country's tourism potential. In addition, traffic is also expected to be boosted by the coming on board of new operators like Airlink, which commenced flights to South Africa in September 2021, Air Arabia, which commenced flights from Entebbe to Sharjah, UAE in October 2021, among others.

In terms of cargo, Entebbe handled 6,600 metric tonnes of cargo in 1991, and 61,000 metric tonnes in 2022. Uganda's major exports, include fresh produce, especially fish, flowers, vegetables and fruits, which are consumed by markets in Netherlands, Belgium and the Middle East, among others. The new state-of-the-art cargo Centre with capacity to handle 100,000 metric tonnes annually is aimed at addressing this demand. Cargo operations have already shifted to the new facility.

The overall project for upgrade and expansion of Entebbe International is at 85% level of completion and also includes, among others;

- Strengthening of the main runway 17/35 and associated taxiways complete
- Strengthening and rehabilitation of the alternative Runway 12/30 and the associated taxiways – completed
- Rehabilitation of Aircraft Parking Apron 4 and Reconstruction of Aircraft Parking Apron2– completed
- Expansion of the main Aircraft Parking Apron 1 ongoing
- Construction of a new Terminal building is currently ongoing in the area where cargo operations were previously undertaken. Annual capacity of the current terminal facilities will then increase from 2 million passengers a year to atleast 3.5 million passengers by end of 2023.

The current terminal has also been re-modified to create more room for departing passengers. The departure area is already in use, and the departure road has been re-instated. At the end of June 2023, departing passengers will be dropped off at the entrance to the terminal building.

A Terminal Operations Control Centre has also been erected by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to ensure automation of operations as part of a USD 9.5 Million grant by the Government of South Korea. KOICA is the implementing agency of the project. The project, which was commissioned in September 2022 has also delivered the following:

A Computerized Maintenance

Management System (CMMS) Airport Operational database (AODB) system Implementation of ATS Message Handling System (AMHS)

Improvement of Flight Procedures efficiency through Air Traffic Management Capacity building, including training of Ugandans in Korea.

In the area of legislation, H.E. the President assented to the CAA Amendment Act, 2019 and it was published in the Uganda Gazette as CAA Act No. 7 of 2019. Most of the amendments were aimed at ensuring harmonization of Uganda's regulations and practices with the universal practice across the globe.

In an effort to expand connectivity, Uganda recently signed Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASAs) with Finland, Colombia and Nigeria (reviewing of the route schedule). Uganda has so far concluded 51 BASAs of which 27 have already been operationalized. This shows commitment to open new air routes and to attract more operators to Uganda.

UCAA and Entebbe International Airport retained the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems (QMS) Certificate in 2021 following compliance with stringent requirements for the internationally recognized certification by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Other aerodromes operated and managed by UCAA in Gulu, Arua, Soroti, Mbarara, Tororo, Kisoro, Pakuba, Kasese, Jinja and Kidepo were also awarded ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certification for a period of three years up to 2024.

Other major achievements recently accomplished by the Authority include the following:-

Implementation of the new Electronic Government Procurement System (eGP) which went live in November 2020. UCAA was one of the ten pilot entities..

Approval of additional Aviation Training Organizations (ATOS), including Bar Aviation Academy, Kubis Aviation Academy and additional training programmes by Morea. The number of Approved ATOs is now 9.

A flight procedure design unit for air navigation services operations was established. Instrument fright procedure designers have been trained and the unit equipped with relevant software and hardware.

One of UCAA's strategic objectives is to promote the development of an Air Navigation System aligned to the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP). It is in line with providing airspace users with improved capacity and efficiency. In this respect, the Air Traffic Management system has undergone various system improvements and upgrades as follows;

Air Traffic Management (ATM) has made a transition from conventional navigation using ground aids to the use of satellite based navigation. Since 2020, arrival and departure procedures in Entebbe are based on the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), which has improved the safety, efficiency and capacity of the Ugandan airspace.

Due to the ATM improvements above, UCAA has been able to implement free routing airspace within the Entebbe Flight Information Region (on request from IATA). Using this technology, a pilot can safely fly from point to point within the Ugandan airspace without following the published routes.

In relation to upgrade and improvement of Navigation Aids infrastructure and systems, UCAA adopted a phased approach, which has involved;

Installation of High Frequency (HF) Radio system for the Rescue Coordination Centre at Entebbe International Airport was completed. This facilitates the provision of Search and Rescue Services to aircraft in need of the services within the Flight Information Region (FIR).

The Non Directional Beacon (NDB) at Port Bell, Luzira, was installed and two Distance Measuring Equipment installed at Entebbe.

The new Cargo Centre at Entebbe Airport



Uganda's Mountain Gorilla Home

windi Impenetrable Forest National Park is home to more than 400 mountain gorillas, a population that accounts for more than half of the world's sought-after jungle primates, Uganda's most popular wildlife attraction.

With a size of 331 square kilometres, the national park located in southwestern Uganda, is a United Nations (UNESCO) Natural World Heritage Site. It is situated in Kisoro, Southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Rift Valley. The park neighbours the Uganda-Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) border. It is rich in biodiversity, making it the perfect home for the gorillas. The thick forest has over 400 plant species, including an extensive stand of bamboo of six square kilometres and over 163 species of trees, 10 of which occur nowhere else in Uganda and 16 of which show limited distribution elsewhere in Uganda.

In Bwindi Forest and national park, you will find 120 wild mammals; chimpanzees, bush pigs, giant forest hogs and two types of duiker. There are a few elephants as well as beautiful waterfalls.

If you care for birding, Bwindi is inviting with some 350 bird species, of which 184 are typical forest species. Several trails cut through the park, including one along Munyanga River as it tumbles down the steep slopes southeast of nearby Buhoma, flowing through waterfalls.

The Democratic Republic of Congo's Parc National des Virungas provides a spectacular backdrop, and on

Leisurely; a Bwindi Impenetrable Forest gorilla family in a jolly disposition (AfricaMecca Safaris photo).

rare clear days, Lake Edward and the Rwenzori mountains are visible. The forest is the source of five rivers that flow in Lake Edward and offers a vantage view of the draughty Ruhija sector and the beautiful rift valley.

You can get to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park by road (about nine hours) or by air. Eagle Air has daily flights. By road, you can book through a tours and travel company.

To access the park, you will part with US 700 if you are a foreign nonresident, US 600 for foreign residents and UShs250, 000 for East African residents. The fees are payable to Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), to track the gorillas. With the cost comes an informed guide.

After trekking the mountain gorillas, visit the Bakiga and Batwa communities, the people who previously lived in Bwindi Forest. They are natural entertainers.





S-MAG

Welcome To The Crested Crane Bwindi Hotel

Located in the hills of South Western Uganda, 525km from the capital city Kampala, The Crested Crane Bwindi Hotel offers accommodations within 14.7 km (15 minutes drive) of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park - Buhoma Sector, a Gorilla tracking starting point of Bwindi forest. At the Crested Crane Bwindi Hotel, we provide modern and unique facilities with a touch of African architecture. Our detailed architect and ambience will create a tranquil relaxing and inviting impression in your life time.

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US Ambassador to Uganda; H.E. Natalie Brown enjoys the company of a shoe bill, at UWEC celebration of 70 years leadership in wildlife conservation.

wildlifelorg

UWEC Promotes Wildlife Protection Dr Musinguzi

r James Musinguzi is the Executive Director of Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC), a fun and exciting place to be and learn about Uganda's animals and the ecosystems in which they live. This magazine engaged him on UWEC's involvement in conservation.

The excerpts:

Please take the reader through Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC)'s mandate.

UWEC's mandate includes conservation education, which involves the enlightenment about the environment and sustainable development. Education is carried out on-site at the zoo in Entebbe and through outreaches in communities, schools, corporate organisations and interactions with policymakers.

UWEC personnel traverse the county, educating and engaging the people about the value of biodiversity conservation, especially its linkage to their livelihoods. We urge the public to conserve natural resources because they are important in growing the national economy.

UWEC's other mandate is to rescue and rehabilitate the wild animals we find trapped by conflicts and those rescued from trafficking. They are transferred to Entebbe for rehabilitation and then returned to the wild to enjoy their natural life.

Where does UWEC find the animals it keeps?

The animals kept at UWEC are rescued and rehabilitated wild animals. Many have been confiscated from traffickers at Entebbe International Airport and taken in for rehabilitation while some are exhibits for pending court cases.

UWEC also gets involved in translocations with UWA, like the

Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre Executive Director, Dr. James Musinguzi.

translocation of giraffes from Murchison Falls National Park to Kidepo Valley National Park. The two also partner in rescuing animals caught up in conflicts.

Many chimpanzees have been

rescued from the Bunyoro subregion and brought to Entebbe for rehabilitation pending their eventual return to the wild.

UWEC and UWA work together to mitigate the wildlife trafficking effects, whereas the centre has provided land to the Uganda Wildlife Authority to establish a canine unit. The sniffer dogs assist to curb the illicit wildlife products, especially rhino horns, ivory, and hippo teeth traffic and effecting the smugglers arrests at the airport.

What do you do with the animals which are not ready to return to the wild?

Some rescued animals come with broken wings and legs and are so traumatized that they cannot feed themselves. UWEC retains them for education and tourism purposes. It also undertakes the breeding of endangered wild animal species, fulfilling its other mandate of ensuring the continuity of wildlife.

The conservation organs also collaborate in the tour guides' capacity building and conservation ideas exchange in our country.

Please elaborate on the centre's educational component.

UWEC's edutainment focuses on children through established structures and the animals' hosting exhibits.

They were built based on Uganda's ecosystems; exhibits in the savannah ecosystem are savannahs, and so are the wetland, forest, mountain, and beach line, which is the longest in Entebbe.

Uganda's ecosystem model teaches all visitors about ecology and human and animal interactions. The other side of the ecological systems illustrates the symbiosis of plants and animals.

Talk of the UWEC and UWA synergies

There is synergy between UWEC and UWA, which are integral to the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and the political leadership they are responsible for.

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UWEC endeavours to promote Uganda's protected areas under UWA, the exhibits at UWEEC are themed on Uganda's protected areas. They are Lake Mburo Exhibit, Budongo Exhibit, Queen Elizabeth Exhibit, and Murchison Falls National Park Exhibit.

The animals in these exhibits live in protected areas to promote Uganda's protected areas through the centre. Visitors to Uganda either begin at UWEC or end their excursion at the centre. Those who start at UWEC can decide on the national park to proceed to, having learned much about those national parks and their details.

Partnerships for wildlife conservation are this year's wildlife day theme; please discuss.

This year's United Nations (UN) theme is about partnerships: using and working through partnerships to promote wildlife conservation. No



one can go it alone in Uganda or elsewhere in the modern world.

By working together, pooled scarce resources achieve much more, which is the case with the UWA relationship - by hosting the canine facility; the incidences of wildlife smuggling have considerably reduced.

The partnership has attracted private sector partners and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to support conservation in Uganda.

What else can strengthen wildlife conservation?

We need more community involvement through the neighbours to the wildlife sanctuaries, affected when animals break loose. There is a need for (quarterly) exhibition galas in each national park with music, dance and drama and cooking for the communities. Their involvement will inculcate a feeling of participation in conservation.

While monitored communities' non-

timber forest products harvesting could be allowed, communities need to know that their lives depend on wildlife, which they need to defend against poachers.

There is a further need to sensitise communities about wildlife conservation approaches and empower them with proper economic choices and strategies.

UWA's policy of recruiting rangers from the communities will enhance the love for the protected areas.

> Chimpanzees at UWEC Photo: Eve Muganga




Reflections of Africa





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The Avian Wonders of Kidepo Valley National Park

idepo Valley National Park is the most remote and pristine birding destination in Uganda. This park is a must-see for birding enthusiasts, as it is home to over 450 avian species, including uncommon and endemic eastern species.

Kidepo Valley National Park is situated in the rugged valleys of the Karamoja sub-region, on the northern border with South Sudan, and offers unparalleled opportunities to observe and appreciate a wide variety of avian species.

As you approach Kidepo, you may begin birding in the village of Katenga, which is home to a large rock outcrop that attracts cliffdwelling birds such as lanner falcons and rock martins, while at Apoka Lodge and Park Headquarters, with a view of the beautiful Narus Valley.

Amidst the thorn trees, observe silverbirds, yellow-billed shrikes, vinaceous doves, and other species. Attracting swallows and seedeaters, including the yellow-rumped Seedeater, are nearby waterholes.

Explore Katurum Lodge for a breathtaking view of the Narus Valley, where cliff-dwelling species such as the fox kestrel, rock martin, and red-winged Starling can be found. Observe swifts and swallows in mixed colonies early in the morning and soaring raptors later in the day.

Clapperton's francolin, the redwinged lark, and colourful bishops inhabit the Narus Valley's verdant grasslands. Observe waterbirds such as Dwarf Bitterns and Greater Painted Snipe along the Narus River.

Large populations of elephants and buffalo provide opportunities to spot piapiacs and oxpeckers, which are associated with large herbivorous mammals. With some luck, you could spot the globally endangered Karamoja Apalis in Kidepo Valley, as well as the Pygmy Falcon, Heuglin's Francolin, and Rufous Chatterer.

At the Imilliny ranger outpost close to the South Sudan border, look out for the elusive Stone Partridge and other species such as the Red-tailed Chat and Yellow-spotted Petronia.

Kidepo Valley National Park is home to an abundance of fauna in addition to birdwatching. Elephants, buffalos, giraffes, zebras, and antelopes can be found in the park's verdant Eurasian Hoopoe, a migrant that winters in Africa. Superb Starling. (Photo by Musiime P Muramura)



plains and shrubby regions. You may encounter lions, leopards, cheetahs, and hyenas if you are fortunate. Other interesting varieties of fauna include warthogs, bush pigs, patas monkeys, and jackals.

The ideal time to visit Kidepo Valley National Park for bird viewing is between December and March and June and September, during the dry seasons. The park receives less precipitation during these months, and the vegetation is less dense, making it easier to spot and identify bird species.

In addition, the dry season coincides with the reproductive season for a number of avian species; so, you may be able to observe courtship displays and nesting behaviours. Additionally, the park's grasslands and savannahs make it simpler to identify birds poised on trees and termite mounds.

It is crucial to note, however, that Kidepo Valley National Park can be visited throughout the year for bird viewing, as the park's avian biodiversity is present throughout the year. Even during the rainy season, from April to May and October to November, birding can be rewarding, albeit more difficult due to heavier precipitation and denser vegetation.

Ultimately, the decision regarding when to visit Kidepo Valley for bird viewing is determined by personal preferences and priorities. The dry season provides excellent birding opportunities and agreeable weather. whereas the rainv season offers a lush and vibrant landscape with the possibility of observing migratory birds.

Kidepo Valley National Park offers the ideal combination of birdwatching and wildlife viewing in the centre of Africa's wilderness. Discover the hidden treasures of a remote jewel in Uganda and create indelible memories surrounded by nature's marvels.

Common Ostrich is native to Kidepo Valley National Park.

Engineering in Wildlife Conservation at Queen Elizabeth National Park

Guereza-Black & White Colobus Monkey (Beyonder Travel photo).



By Celsius Cankobuko, Head of Queen Elisabeth National Park Engineering

ne would naturally wonder how engineering relates to wildlife conservation work, yet the two are closely related and are generally hand in hand. The cue is that operating in a wildlife conservation environment involves patrols that ensure the animals' safety and their habitats' security.

Rangers need mechanically sound and road-worthy vehicles and good passable roads through the park, which calls for engineering to ensure that mobility is at all times unencumbered. Further, our staffs in all national parks and game reserves need accommodation and offices. The civil engineers ensure that the office buildings and staff accommodation are habitable and decent, as mechanical engineers maintain the national park's vehicle fleets and machines.

It happened that upon the completion of my diploma in Civil Engineering, I could not find a job in my home area Pakwach because much of Northern Uganda was a battleground. Government forces were fiercely fighting the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels.

Fortunately, I got an opening at Murchison Falls' Para Lodge as a porter, without realizing that I had started on a journey to wildlife conservation life. My interest in animals and a longing to join the wildlife conservation service to protect wildlife from poachers grew steadily.

I got a break from work in 1997, during which I was recruited as a mechanic by Uganda Wildlife Authority and posted at Murchison Falls National Park. I was transferred to Queen Elizabeth National Park in 2013, where I have since served.

UWA is a statutory institution operating as a paramilitary organisation, the reason most people do not understand what we do. Ordinarily, all work is in the form of emergencies, because animals will never give an appointment or a timetable to respond to.

In doing my work, the biggest challenge is the small number of technical staff in the engineering



department about the vehicles fleet and machines in the park. Technicians are only a handful for the volume of expensive equipment requiring trusted technical skills to maintain.

However, I have meditated on the matter and realised we can work with the poachers rather than constantly fight them by enrolling young people from the community in our workshop as apprentices; easily hitting two birds with one stone.

We will train them using the Engineering syllabus for two years after which they could register for the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations for their certification. I believe the community would appreciate, and instinctively join conservation for the potential benefits.

I have also thought of encouraging technical institutes to send their students to Queen Elisabeth National Park for an internship. If UWA is agreeable, it would reduce conflicts with the communities and reduce the manpower shortage in technical areas like mechanics. The other way of solving this challenge is by outright recruitment.

I have also encountered a challenge in the technology used by those we protect the animals from. UWA needs to invest in technology without which we cannot cope with the poachers because they use the GPS systems to track the animals and get intelligence of wildlife rangers who could frustrate their raids. It is time UWA acquired modern equipment to track their activities and protect the animals even without the rangers' physical presence.

The highly educated staff snobbery is another challenge. Most lack practical skills yet are too proud and reluctant to learn, which often leads to conflict in the team. I appeal to UWA management to furnish all graduates with applicable skills before their dispatch.

That said, I must appreciate management for improving our welfare, which has made work more enjoyable unlike in the past, and the entire team is more determined to work more conscientiously to protect wildlife.



A curious spotted hyena (Pamoja Safaris Uganda).











n March 18, 2020, Uganda's tour operators woke up to the reality that they would for an indefinite future have no work. Every country in the world had closed its doors to tourists.

The days were long and the times hard, but they stayed home and watched as business disintegrated. Some had international tourist bookings and plans for investment, but they lost the money.

As the president kept announcing lockdown extensions, many decided it was time to be extremely frugal and cut down on their employee size. As much as this was the right thing to do at the time, it was not the best because our employees had nowhere to go. In any case, something had to be done, or we would all fail.

Nancy Ogwal, Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO) public relations officer, says this was a time of panic. The pandemic had never happened in our lifetime before. Europe, America, Asia, Australia, and all other countries on the vast continents had closed. It was new for everyone, with nowhere to benchmark.

In time, many closed offices, and some died. Vehicles need to be regularly serviced, and this is normally a very expensive thing, but we had to endure it in order to see ourselves at the end of the pandemic.

In time, after the first lockdown, tour operators and hospitality facilities saw that it was counterproductive for sector players to focus on foreign guests, as hotel rooms and other facilities gathered dust, yet the potential of local guests could be fully exploited to sustain the sector.

And since Uganda has a young population and a rising middleclass, sector players decided to design packages that attract local tourists because only then could the sustainability of the sector be guaranteed, even in times of crisis.

Before the pandemic, she says

tourism and hospitality were the biggest contributors to Uganda's gross domestic product (GDP), accounting for more than 7.75 percent and approximately 6.7 percent of total national employment.

But as the would-be guests never turned up in compliance with the global lockdowns instituted to curb the spread of the pandemic, the sector's performance slid to two percent of the hotel bookings.

The European Union and the Ugandan government supported the tour operators with a grant of six million euros to recover from the effects of the global pandemic and sustain the existing jobs.

The grant was channeled through the Uganda Development Bank (UDB), where actors accessed it at a discounted interest rate of 8 percent.

It was also intended to give operators access to working capital to fasttrack the post-COVID-19 lock recovery and support initiatives to become more environmentally friendly.



"But since the passing of the pandemic, we have seen a great deal of recovery, as our members walk towards pre-pandemic levels," Ogwal says.

The high number of gorilla tracking permits being processed bears testimony to this recovery, as does the growing number of airport arrivals in contrast to what it was two years ago.

We have also learned to leverage the local tourists, and no matter what lies ahead, the sector will never face the kind of difficulties it faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have learned much, like saving for a rainy day, which in times past was not even entertained by our members for discussion. Employees fired during the lockdown have started their own companies, which are apparently doing quite well and greatly expanding their membership.

The other innovation is to diversify the sources of earnings by creating new products because we are competing with many markets around the world.

During the pandemic, AUTO's subscription plummeted because of the members' incapacitation, hence the waiver of the subscription fees in 2020 to enable the members to retain a bona fide status, considering the challenge of membership depletion at the time, a situation that has been reversed.

But in spite of the recovery we are making, a number of challenges still remain. For instance, the infrastructure is still bad, although the government is trying to work on it. The roads, especially to some national parks and scenic sites, are very bad. These need to be improved.

The other one is access to capital. As you are aware, most of our tour companies are still small and need support to grow. However, access to capital is too expensive. Banks charge very high rates that we can't afford most of the time. This means that the government should inject money into the sector to support our growth. The private sector needs to be supported not only financially but also in marketing itself in the external source market.

Lastly, the taxes levied on Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) entry permits are punitive and should be somehow slashed to facilitate a faster recovery of the sector. In a time such as this, heavy taxation only works counterproductively, and this is not what we want.

If the government can aggressively invest in marketing, especially in source markets, the sector's full recovery would happen in less than two years because people only go where they know.

The government also promised to establish international hotel chains and support the private sector in providing low-cost accommodation facilities in protected areas and tourism zones to increase the stock of tourist accommodation rooms.





Skills Excel

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UHTTI Transforming Lives through Skills Training

he Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) is a Government-owned Institute specialized in Hospitality and Tourism Training. Established in 1994 as The Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (HTTI), the Jinja-based Institute was re-established in 2015 by an Act of Parliament, UHTTI Act, 2015 as The Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) and had its mandate expanded to include research.

The Institute has since established itself as the leading Institution in the field of Hotel and Tourism Training in Uganda in line with its motto "Skills Excel" and has had its students' population grow from 60 students in 1996 to over about 600 in 2023.

Located about one-and-a half kilometers on Nalufenya Road, opposite Nalufenya Children's Hospital, the Institute has since graduated over 4,000 students with Diplomas and Certificates in Tourism and Hospitality related

disciplines, including Diploma in Tourism Management (DTM), Diploma in Hotel Management (DHM) and Diploma in Pastry and Bakery (DPB). The Certificate courses include; National Certificate in Hotel Operations (NCHO), National Certificate in Tour Guiding and Driving (NCTGD) and a National Certificate in Pastry and Bakery (NCP&B). The Institute also offers training in tailored made and short courses like Food Production skills, Front Office operations, Culinary Art, Pastry and Bakery skills, Bar Tending (Barista) and House Keeping, Leadership skills, Entrepreneurship, Driving skills, Tour guiding, among others.

Currently, the Institute that falls under the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, is undergoing upgrades and repositioning itself to a Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality training through a number of partnerships and collaborations at both national and international level. At the local level, the Institute is in collaboration with Makerere University,,



MR. WAKADALA JAMES Chairperson Board UHTTI

Bank of Uganda and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) that has helped train Tourism students in Paramilitary skills that are a vital component of their training.

Other local collaborations include partnerships with Uganda Hotel Owners Association (UHOA), Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU) and Ministry of Tourism Agencies and bodies



such as Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute (UWRTI) and Uganda Tourism Association (UTA), among others.

At the regional and international level, the institute has signed MOUs with Metropolitan University in Norway, Utalli College in Kenya, Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (ITH) Salzburg in Austria, Koksidje Hotel School in Belgium and Noorderport Tourism College in The Netherlands, among others. It is also a member of the Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools in Africa (AHTSA). The Institute with support from Government and the World Bank has also embarked on infrastructural development starting with the construction of an ultra-modern hotel facility that is nearing completion and plans are also underway to erect a multi-billion structure that will house Offices, Language and Computer laboratories and Lecture rooms, among others.

At a time when hands-on training is becoming the golden goose in the modern competitive society, UHTTI has established its niche in this evergreen area and has its products spread across the Hotel and Hospitality sector in the country.

About UHTTI

The Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) started in the mid 1980's after a feasibility study under the UNDP/ILO/UG/30 project. The Institute was first established at Fairway Hotel in Kampala in 1989 as a pilot school under the ILO/UNDP. And when Fairway Hotel was repossessed by its original owners in 1991, ILO/UNDP pulled out of the project, leaving it entirely to the Government of Uganda that transferred it to Jinja in 1994 at the current Crested Crane Hotel.

The Institute is committed to supplying competent and skilled manpower to the entire Tourism and Hospitality Sector.

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Uganda Tourism Board enforces *Classified Hotels Standards*

By Maureen Nakatudde and Sarah Nabakooza

ganda Tourism Board (UTB) has embarked on an aggressive drive to classify the tourism facilities and enforce the implementation of the required industry standards, a strategy for minting billions of dollars for the country.

Hotels classification

Whereas a five-star hotel is synonymous with class, immaculate and exquisite services other hotel classes' ratings range from one to four stars, reflecting the quality of their services.

Justine Ojambo, a co-founder of Coconut Beach in Busia, explains that the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) with the Ministry of Tourism is charged with classifying and rating the hotels, guided by a tourism officer.

Uganda Tourism Act mandates UTB to classify the hotels, thus "Reform, consolidate and streamline the law relating to tourism; provide for licensing, regulating and controlling of the tourism sector; give effect to the implementation of the tourism policy of Government; reconstitute the Uganda Tourist Board to make it private sector driven; establish a tourism development levy and provide for the establishment and management of a tourism development fund."

Assessor

An inspector and Licensing officer at UTB, Innocent Asiimwe says assessors classify the hotels. To become an assessor, one must have a degree in tourism and some work experience. They train for eight weeks and must pass exams at the East African secretariat.

Each of Uganda's regions has an assessor selected on competency and merit because of the responsibility to grow the quality and efficiency hospitality industry in the regions under their charge.

Classification criteria

The classification criteria focus on evaluating the tangible and nontangible hospitality enterprises' characteristics that impact customer satisfaction.

The facilities must possess an occupation permit, valid operating licenses, certified drainage, designated rooms, safe deposit boxes, wash hand basins and rooms, waste and refuse storage and disposal systems, and sewerage treatment and management systems.

Other 'must' requirements are vermin proofing, water supply, communication systems, fire safety and protection measures, which are electrical safety standards, first aid provisions, and qualified and experienced staff.

They subject the employees to health and medical examinations, have emergency evacuation plans, offer comprehensive restaurant menus and bar lists, and have hotel or lodge insurance.

Asiimwe elaborates that the minimum classification requirement is that the facility must have a soft and printed approved building plan, which is a factor in licensing and sensitisation.

The assessor points out the facility's services and infrastructure

The facilities must possess an occupation permit, valid operating licenses, certified drainage, designated rooms, safe deposit boxes, wash hand basins and rooms, waste and refuse storage and disposal systems, and sewerage treatment and management systems.

limitations during the inspection and subsequently conveys their findings to the proprietor besides publishing them in national newspapers and the Gazette.

Three East African Community Certified Assessors check on your inventory and rate the facility's quality by awarding marks. UTB then conveys the classification exercise results to the hotel management, when there is no objection UTB



organizes and provides a certificate of classification and a plaque to the hotel; the facility meets the certificate and the plaque cost.

Classification Advantages

Irene Sumba, a Tourism officer in Busia says a facility's classification indicates what the hotel offers, creates comfort for clients and enables them to make informed decisions and informs the hotel managers of what is expected of them.

Declassification

Asiimwe adds that UTB undertakes annual and impromptu inspections to establish that the conditions that warranted the classification still prevail. If a hotel's performance is below expectations, it will be declassified .

Notwithstanding the classification requirement, it is not mandatory in Uganda but dependent on an investor's readiness to be classified.

One Star rating

A one-star facility may be small and independently owned with a family atmosphere. It might be a family business on an informal basis. The meals may be simple, and the reception area modest and functional. Some bedrooms may not have a suitable bathroom or shower room.

The maintenance, cleanliness and

comfort should be of acceptable standards to qualify for a one-star rating. The facility earns 100 points out of the essential items and 50 per cent points out of 2,250 points marked on that criterion.

Two Star

It should be small to medium and offer more extensive facilities than the one star. It must be comfortable, well-equipped, overnight accommodation with an ensuite bathroom or shower room.

The reception and other staff must be more professional than those at the one-star level, and the facility should offer a wide range of straight forward services, including food and drinks. To qualify for a two-star classification, a hotel should score 100 per cent on essential items and a minimum of 60 percentage points out of 2,440 points.

Three-star

The accommodation facility shall be of a size that supports higher staffing levels and significantly greater quality and range of facilities than the lower star classification.

All departments and sections expected in a hotel shall be functional, including the front office, housekeeping, food and beverage service and food production.

To qualify for this category, a hotel shall score 100 per cent on essential items, a minimum of 30 per cent of the total points under each main section and a minimum of 60 percentage points out of a possible total of 4,180 points.

Four- Star

The accommodation facility at this level offers luxury and quality in the furnishing, décor and equipment in every area of the establishment. Bedrooms offer more space than at the lower star levels and welldesigned, coordinated furniture and décor.

It has a high ratio of staff to guests to provide services like porterage, 24hour room service, laundry and dry cleaning.

A four-star classification hotel scores 100 per cent on essential items; a minimum of 40 per cent of the total points under each main section and a minimum total of 80 per cent points out of a possible total of 4,980

Five -Star

This is the best among all the ratings. Asiimwe says there should be spacious and luxurious accommodations matching the best international standards. The interior design shall impress with its quality and attention to detail, comfort and elegance.

Furnishing is expected to be immaculate; services are formal, well supervised and flawless in attention to guests' needs without being intrusive. The restaurant demonstrates a high technical skill, producing dishes to the highest international standards.

The staff is knowledgeable, helpful and well-versed in customer care, combining efficiency with courtesy. To qualify, the hotel scores 100 per cent on essential items; a minimum of 50 per cent of the total points under each main section and a minimum of 80 per cent points out of a possible total of 5,560 points marked.

Fairway Hotel & Spa – Kampala (Prime Safaris photo).

Hospitality The Industry's Recovery Challenges

 ntil the COVID-19 outbreak, Uganda's hospitality industry was lucrative, as evidenced by records of surging profits and investments.

However, since the lifting of the COVID-19 lockdowns in January 2022, the industry has been undulating, consequent to the Ebola outbreak in the wake of the lifting of the COVID-19 lockdown and the recent arguments with the West over its desire that Uganda should desist from ostracising the LGBTQ fraternity.

When COVID-19 struck Uganda in 2020, the hospitality industry could only shamble along, as scared hotel owners froze with fright over the prospect of a devastating impact on investment and the unknown unknowns such as its impending duration.

> The Uganda Hotel Owners' Association (UHOA) has had to be innovative and quickly adaptive to cope with the extraordinary business circumstances prompted by the COVID-19 lockdown. It was the reason for lobbying the Ugandan government and development partners for support.

> > "We got some conditionality money, including the requirement only to meet workers' salaries, who were most affected by the lockdown; mostly women and youths aged 18 to 30 years. It was the first time the hospitality industry had such a unique product," Jean Byamugisha says.

> > > The Western media was at the time churning out daily statistics of the dead, especially in China and Uganda, a developing country, would inevitably record its first death in a matter of days.

> > > > The impact of the pandemic on the hospitality industry

Jean Byamugisha CEO Uganda Hotel Owners Association would be catastrophic, as hoteliers would fail to recoup their investment in time, whereas many had bank loans to service.

When the Uganda government quarantined the COVID-19 patients in hotels, UHOA still panicked in the belief that clients would never have the appetite to use the hospitality facilities again, even after the pandemic.

At the time, some international tourists were stuck in hotels because they had failed to get out of the country before their own countries closed entry at the airports. The hotels then incurred their upkeep costs as they did not have extra money due to the circumstances at the time, notwithstanding the other maintenance costs.

"We have since developed the



The Crested Crane Bwindi Hotel.

means to cope in the future with similar occurrences. We have created rainy-day and contingency funds and urged all hotel owners to take up insurance. The European Union facilitates the rainy-day fund through the Uganda Development Bank, where UHOA members can borrow to cope with the challenges of the times at a reasonable interest,"



the UHOA chief executive officer says.

The industry has learned the value of insurance, especially considering the high cost of treating the staff that contracted COVID-19 on duty. The industry is talking with several insurance companies to secure the future against unforeseen catastrophes.

UHOA has also engaged with the government to create a tourism development levy from which they can borrow at a reasonable interest rate to expedite the coverage of emergencies.

"Our staff needs additional income, hence the association's restructuring of its training to include skill development, especially baking, cooking, music, and other survival skills, in the event of an inability to work due to circumstances beyond everyone's control," Byamugisha says.

Nevertheless, despite the industry's investment in solutions to a number of problems, a slow and uneven post-COVID-19 recovery

will be hindered by poor visibility in source markets. Uganda is yet to be competitive against Rwanda and Kenya, whose local and source market investment is aggressive despite having unrivalled weather, culture, and nature.

Byamugisha bemoans the fact that although Uganda is significantly more beautiful than Europe, very little effort is put into marketing it, and that a lot of money is spent on ineffective platforms rather than on our champions, innovators, local media, and other things that would add the most value.

Hotel owners heavily rely on local customers to maintain their businesses as they wait for a recovery in the number of international tourists. Local customers supported the hotel industry during the COVID-19 lockdown and have since done so again, but industry stakeholders initially disregarded them.

Local guests were given special rates and could pay in Ugandan shillings. This was done to encourage them to stay longer, and it has worked better than anyone could have imagined. All of the hotels in the area were full over Christmas, New Year's, and the Easter holiday this year.

On the political level, the minister for Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities started Tulambule (let's tour) campaigns to get Ugandans to enjoy their own country, which is working. Some ambassadors from developing countries that are working with Uganda to improve tourism and protect wildlife have spent time in Uganda's hotels and lodges and tweeted about the country.

Upbeat Byamugisha says, "UHOA's lobbying and advocacy have led to great partnerships, and they have seen and been a part of the work of the associations." The European Union ambassadors in Uganda went to Kisoro to see how their countries' contributions to the COVID-19 relief fund have helped, and to enjoy the country. Uganda has a lot of potential that should be used."

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UGANDA POLICE FORCE

TOURISM POLICE UNIT

Tourism Police, UWA Guarantee Tourists' Confidence



Major General Katsigazi Tumusiime Deputy Inspector General of Police



AIGP Abas Byakagaba Director Counter-Terrorism



IGP Martin Okoth Ochola Inspector General of Police of the Uganda Police Force

By Our Reporter

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hile tourism earns a considerable foreign exchange for Uganda, it is a delicate and fragile sector. An incident of lawlessness can lead to bookings and visit cancellations.

The Uganda government has deemed it prudent to form a specialized police unit, the Uganda Tourism Police Unit, which has delivered a lot since its formation in 2012. It collaborates with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and other government agencies to build tourists' confidence and trust that Uganda is safe.

Uganda Police Force established the Tourism Police Unit to protect tourists' sites and tourists in the country in the wake of an incident in which a tourist went missing in a western Uganda forest.

Uganda Tourism Police Unit is among the country's Anti-Terrorism Forces. It effectively deploys at and secures the hospitality areas and the historical and religious sites that interest the tourists. Tourists also enjoy protection in border areas and parks which the police perceive as high-level risks.

Whereas the tourist was later found, the incident sensitised the police to protect tourists outside of UWA's jurisdiction as well. On a single tour in a country, tourists often visit areas outside their planned wildlife areas itinerary without UWA's jurisdiction, among them the historical sites.

Tourists, like other visitors, are concerned about the security of their destinations. They are particularly keen about their person and belongings' safety guarantee along their itinerary.

Suspicion or the actual occurrence of insecurity incidents, whether in protected areas or outside, would sabotage and compromise the Uganda Wildlife Authority's (UWA) mandate of securing the wildlifeprotected areas.

The scenario of a tourist kidnap, even when out of the bounds of a wildlifeprotected area, or loss of belongings or money from hotel hundreds of miles outside of a national park would threaten the tourism industry and harm the country's image.

It would negatively impact UWA and the tourism sector's performance.

Commissioner of Police (CP) Frank Mwesigwa, the commandant of the Tourism Police Unit, focuses his unit on ensuring that tourism, tourism sites and tourism operators are safe.

"We appreciate that the tourism sector is a critical contributor to Uganda's Gross Domestic Product by 10 per cent and employs at least 600,000 people. We prevent the threats to the sector," Mwesigwa said.

He said countering terrorism is



foremost in the overall police operations psyche, considering the al-Shabab and Allied Democratic Forces terrorist operations history.

The unit also deals with common criminality against tourists such as robberies, petty thefts and fraud to ensure their safe environment.

An incident anywhere impacts the other areas, which Mwesigwa said necessitates the Tourism Police Unit and UWA operations coordination. The Tourism Police Unit profiles all crimes against tourists, fraud, and petty thefts, the leading offences.

The unit coordinates with tour operators and hospitality facilities operators and sensitises the diverse players in the tourism and hospitality value chain about security necessities. It also investigates and arrests the conmen tour operators who fleece tourists.

Following consultations with tourism sector stakeholders, standard operating procedures have been instituted and shared with Uganda Tourism Board, Uganda Wildlife



Commissioner of Police Frank Mwesigwa The Commandant of Tourism Police

Authority and other stakeholders.

The Very Important Persons (VIPs) on a tour of specific areas are escorted, which gives a sense of security and confidence at the hotels and other tourist sites.

Tourists tend to spend longer time where they find security personnel, increasing the chances of more money in hospitality centres. Kazinga Channel. Uganda Police Force established the Tourism Police Unit to protect tourists' sites and tourists in the country. Speeding smugglers caused an accident at Kitala along Entebbe road during a pursuit by UWA officers. They had 40kg of contraband ivory.



www.ugandawildlife.org

Police Train UWA Crime Investigators

By Our Reporter

ganda Police Force is a longtime Uganda Wildlife Authority partner in staff training, conducting refresher courses and coordinating and effecting criminal investigations.

The Police Training School at Kabalye in Masindi district hosts specialised training which skills the trainees in critical analysis, investigation and reports writing to support decision-making in their organisation.

This is a component of UWA's staff capacity building to equip them to address wildlife-related crime.

The learners, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

rangers get the practical skills for combating wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife and its products. This is part of curbing insecurity in the protected areas under their jurisdiction.

Uganda's tourism, which is under UWA's docket is nature-based; hence its success depends on wildlife conservation, security and good communication infrastructure.

Before the Covid-19 outbreak, tourism was Uganda's leading foreign exchange earner, for which reason it is a matter of national interest.

Tourism will thrive, money will flow into Uganda's economy and immensely benefit the country when criminals are apprehended and incarcerated or reformed.

DUIFE MACLZIFIE 2023 Page 96

Shooting range competition; inter forces games bring together staff and helps them to keep fit and share knowledge on operational aspects.

Inter-forces Games Boost Police, UWA Collaboration

Armed forces Chiefs after preparations for joint games with UWA.

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Inter-forces Games Boost Police, UWA Collaboration

By Our Reporter

he Inter-forces Games and Championships, which are hosted on a rotational basis, are an important channel for inculcating and boosting collaboration, trust and mutual friendship among Uganda's armed forces.

Uganda Police Force participates in these games with Uganda People's Defense Forces, Uganda Prisons Service and Uganda Wildlife Authority. The competitions are in darts, volleyball, netball, handball and football in the male and female disciplines.

Uganda Wildlife Authority hosted the 16th and latest edition of the games last September, which Uganda Police Force won overall. Held in the Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area in the Kasese district, the games were under the theme, 'Inter-force collaboration is a key to effective wildlife protection.' The Uganda Police Force will host the 2023 edition.

The games aim to promote human resources and talents in the forces, build teamwork and promote discipline. They build the participants' minds by assisting the brain's proper functioning.

Through sports, officers gain physical fitness, psychological competence and positive attitudes. The participants are encouraged to love and have passion for the assignment and team spirit for a healthy competition.

The Inter-forces games promote discipline, professionalism, command and control and administration of the respective armed forces.

They promote mental and physical fitness towards their respective missions and mandates' achievement, cooperation, collaboration and teamwork among the security forces.

They also encourage the good

relations between the armed forces and the public.

The Inter-forces games aside, Uganda Police Force collaborates with Uganda Wildlife Authority in arresting suspects outside the national parks especially where there is a need for a search for such suspects. Search certificates are issued under their statutory mandate after the execution of a warrant of arrest.

The police detain suspects arrested from numerous wildlife crime scenes and take the exhibits for safe custody or confer permissions to UWA to keep the same.

Police officers thus testify as investigative officers in the courts of law to aid the prosecution of wildlife crimes.

Furthermore, Uganda Police Force is collaborating with UWA to develop a training curriculum for the latter's intelligence staff.

> UWA hands 2023 Interforces Games hosting to Uganda Police (UWA photo).

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Nabbed for possessing marabou stocks for unknown intents.

Uganda Police in *Wildlife Conservation*

By Our Reporter

ganda Police Force's role in Uganda's wildlife conservation is important because of its position in the national economy.

Before the Covid-19 outbreak and its disruption of global travel, tourism was Uganda's largest source of foreign exchange, indeed Uganda's largest export.

A large percentage of income through tourism is from visits to protected wildlife areas, national parks and wildlife reserves, community wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries.

Uganda Police Force has committed two specialized units, the Environment Police and the Tourism Police to support the protection and conservation of wildlife and the environment.

They protect the wild animals (fauna) and plants (flora) and contribute to our national natural and cultural heritage preservation, which are critical to the national economic growth and development and

national pride.

Because Uganda's borders are porous, other police units contribute to wildlife conservation and economic development by manning the customs points, regular patrols and intelligence gathering and sharing with other government departments and agencies.

However, the international criminal cartels take advantage of Uganda's weak and less-deterrent laws and penalties to traffic their contraband from Central, West, Southern and Eastern Africa to the lucrative wildlife market in Asia.

Nature has blessed Uganda with a variety and density of animals and plants, abundant rainfall, fertile arable land, plenty of sunshine and even snow close to the Equator.

She has 54 per cent of the world's remaining population of mountain gorillas, inhabiting Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Mgahinga National Parks in southwestern Uganda.

Uganda is also home to 50 per cent of Africa's bird species (11 per cent of the world's recorded species), 39 per cent of Africa's mammals (7.8 per cent of global mammal diversity), and 19 per cent of Africa's amphibian species.

Fourteen per cent of Africa's reptile species are Ugandan, and so are 1,249 species of butterflies and 600 species of fish.

However, this biodiversity faces enormous threats from the rapid human population growth and propensity to break the law, which makes Uganda Police handy as one of the law enforcement arms of the government.

Cases of encroachment on forests, wetlands, water bodies and steep mountain slopes have increased, leading to climatic disasters like flash floods, landslides and prolonged droughts.

The police mitigate the challenges by enforcing the law and undertaking rescues in the event of natural and man-made disasters. It is not uncommon for police aircraft to rescue people or supply relief items in otherwise inaccessible disaster areas.

Wildlife Crime Coordination Taskforce Assesses Member Institutions Needs

By Our Reporter

ganda's government established a highly secure information-sharing platform, the National Wildlife Crime Coordination Taskforce (NWCCTF) in 2018. Comprising 12 law enforcement agencies, the platform was set up with the help of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and launched in 2020.

Uganda Police and Uganda Wildlife Authority are among the participating security and law enforcement institutions dedicated to fighting wildlife crime.

The NWCCTF members include the Uganda People's Defense

Force, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Revenue Authority and the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control.

Others are the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, Financial Intelligence Authority, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Internal Social Organization, External Security Organization, National Forestry Authority, National Environment Management Authority and Uganda Wildlife Authority.

The task force coordinates and promotes cooperation among the member institutions. They share information, undertake joint operations and expedite the prosecutions to combat wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife in Uganda.

The platform aims to improve timely information channelling amongst the entities and raise individual officers' efficiency in their respective tasks and assignments.

Uganda has registered high poaching and illegal wildlife trade rates, particularly in ivory, pangolin scales and hippo teeth. This is due to the high trophies, pets, and medicines demand in East Asia and the isolationist nature of the law enforcement agencies operations.

Each institution task force member contributes its unique technical and technological expertise and networks to the common platform. They efficiently and expeditiously leverage their respective capacities to tackle wildlife crime and involve the communities in combating crime.

The task force has undertaken a capacity needs assessment survey to appreciate each member institution's capacity and weaknesses and design targeted interventions to enhance the wildlife crime combating coordination.

It has also developed standard operating procedures and contributed to the National Strategy for Combating Poaching, Illegal Trade and Trafficking of Wildlife and Wildlife Products.

At its launch in 2020, Maj. General Leopold Kyanda of the UPDF noted that its creation was urgent. Curbing wildlife crime requires teamwork, hence inter-agency collaboration in addressing wildlife illegal trade and poaching.

The initiative is consistent with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which



Maj. Gen. Leopold Kyanda, "curbing wildlife crime requires teamwork."

established the Horn of Africa Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (HAWEN) in November 2017.

It is mandated to promote law enforcement and ensure effective cross-border illegal wildlife trade control by sharing information, intelligence, facilities and equipment and raising awareness against wildlife crime. The United Nations has categorized wildlife trafficking among the serious crimes alongside drugs, human and arms trafficking.

Tackling crime requires combined law enforcement agencies' capacities to outsmart and contain the organized and increasingly sophisticated criminal gangs across the globe.

> "If you are found inside a wildlife protected area without permission, you can be jailed up to 10 years," UWA's Bashir Hangi.

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A crater lake on one of the Rwenzori mountains (NEMA photo).

Guests love their treat spiced

By Titus Kakembo and Lydia Labanya

The assumption that Ugandans do not have money to go places for a holiday when they are flooding Mombasa in Kenya, Mauritius and South Africa is a misconception," the state minister for tourism Martin Mugarra has advised.

Speaking at the Court View Hotel inauguration during the Elgon Region promotion as a tourist destination, the minister noted his ministry aims to have Uganda Airlines take Ugandans to the coast and return with Kenyans to consume what Uganda has in store.

"Pamper your guest the way your counterparts do elsewhere they go.

Perfect your act to the standards they desire. I am told when they book a place in Mombasa, the bars double their stocks of wines; beers and nyama-kyoma (roast beef). Ugandans love their treat spiced with music," Mugarra implored tourism sector players.

"Prove to the guests that besides being celebrated as the most hospitable destination, we have the world-class hotels in place offering high-quality services expected of what you claim to be," Mugarra suggested.

Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) wants hotel owners to embrace their hotel grading to promote Uganda's competitiveness in the global tourism market. The hotel's grading and classification inform consumers



In his element, the State Minister for Tourism is Hon. Martin Mugarra Bahinduka promotes destination Uganda.

on how to recognize quality, differentiate the facilities and service levels and offer greater transparency, a vital requirement for business and leisure tourists.

Uganda Tourism Board Chief Executive Officer Dr Lilly Ajarova says the grading will be an annual exercise, "It is for your benefit," she told hoteliers from across Uganda at the Golden Tulip workshop.

"You will increase customer satisfaction and give your business credit in a competitive industry. They will book knowing what to expect and willingly part with their cash," She elaborated, noting that out of the more than 6000 Uganda hotels, less than 50 are licensed. She advised that it will be mandatory to be qualified by UTB to operate a catering business. The requirements will call for strict adherence before which one will need UTB clearance to be licensed.

Samora Machel, the UTB Quality Assurance Manager stressed that Uganda is creating awareness among the tourism sector players to understand the new tourism destination brand agenda; "quality Assurance inspection in the hospitality industry is to ensure that accommodation maintains the expected levels of the service standards, amenities, staffing, location, parking lots, delivery and waste management quality throughout the property."

He tipped hotel owners to make sure their facilities ensure good quality sleep, bedding, linen, well-equipped bathroom and strong shower and lately WI-FI; smooth connectivity, superfast, uninterrupted access in all areas, avail cutting-edge technology and entertainment.

He advised that recognition of clients or sending them happy birthday wishes bonds the service provider and the consumer, encouraging them to return or recommend your facility to others.

Determined to streamline the entire industry, UTB called upon more trademarks of repute to plough their capital in destination Uganda to have their loyal clients get the desired and preferred service.

Hotel Branding Options



The Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo (POATE) participants at Munyonyo were tipped about boosting their trademark presence or operating under a franchise. Samantha Muna of Trianum Hotels, a leading independent operator in EAC countries, tipped participants about executing innovative solutions.

"Among the concerns the people considering starting their business face is the fear that their business might crumble. Many factors contribute to business flops; a lack of demand or the unsustainability of a given business model due to its quality of services," Munah stated.

She advised that to ensure businesses' success, invest in a proven business model like franchising.

Dr Sudhir Ruparelia of Ruparelia Group of Companies said the tourism sector would greatly blossom if the standards are appropriate.

"Business in Uganda has never been the same since Speke Resort Munyonyo hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2007). The number of rooms in the country more than tripled and Meetings Incentives Conference and Exhibitions (MICE) continue to rise. Uganda is proving to be the preferred host," Ruparelia stated.

Adding that they are still operating below pre-COVID-19 levels and when asked to name the top three factors that can drive hotel transaction volume in 2023/2024, he suggested the need for financial institutions to lower the interest rates for their credit facilities. "Besides making striking deals more expensive, rising interest rates impacts pricing for service providers, which puts deals out of reach for prospective buyers," Ruparelia argued.

The Uganda Hotel Owners Association (UHOA) Executive Director Jackie Byamugisha implored tourism sector players to exploit the existing incentives to improve their products.

"We have more than 3800 hotels all over the country and more than 30,000 beds and the occupancy is picking up since the opening of the economy after the Covid-19 lockdown. Prices were slashed; we hoteliers are getting back on our feet. The renaissance of POATE was a sign of hope in catering," she pointed out.



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Mubaku Adungu Project



Some of the pupils from Mubaku government school.



For classes, the women move the equipment outside intor the shade of a tree.

The joy of learning is infectious.

at MUBAKU COMMUNITY

Girl Child Education

Be a hero in one's life, consider these children as tomorrow's future and we thank you very much for all your supports to educate them.

There is only one government school within the village where there can be up to 100 pupils per class, therefore learning ability can be very limited. Children walk from a far distance to access school due to the far schools in the area. Through your support, we have managed to construct 4 classrooms in the primary section and 4 classes with the women empowering room at the Nursery section and we are in the dormitory.

Even though this village is positioned in a tourist hot spot, due to poor education they can't take the advantage of the tourism on their doorstep but instead, they encroach the park for bush hunting.

Women's Empowerment Center (WEC)

The Women's Empowerment Center is already enabling women and men from the village to make and sell souvenirs. The proceeds from the sales support homes and pay for their children's school fees. Our sponsorship program only gives opportunities to children whose guardians/parents can't afford to pay their tuition to attend school.

P Mubaku Adungu Project (MAP)

We had started an income-generating activity (IGA) within the locality and managed to form the group and they were given a contract to perform at Murchison River Lodge, and many other lodges on the southern bank of the river. for cultural performance, you can reach our office at Mubaku Village at the Nursery building.





THE TIGER ROARS ON

Yuti Breweriies is the proud partner of Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in its commitment to protect the majestic White Tiger from extinction.

#RiseToTheOccasion #TheTigerLives

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Uganda Wildlife

(KEY: Genus Species -- Common Name)

Mammals

- 1 Acinonyx jubatus -- Cheetah
- 2 Acomys species -- Grey Spiny Mouse
- 3 Aepyceros melampus -- Impala
- 4 Aethomys kaiseri -- Kaiser's Rock Rat
- 5 Alcelaphus buselaphus -- Common Hartebeest
- 6 Anomalurus beecrofti Beecroffs -- Scaly-tailed Squirrel
- 7 Anomalurus derbianus Lord Derbys -- Scaly-tailed Squirrel
- 8 Anubis manistricuspis -- Tree Pangolin
- 9 Aonyx congicus -- Congo Clawless Otter
- 10 Aorryx congicus -- Small-Clawed Otter
- 11 Atelerix abiventries -- Hedgehogs
- 12 Atelerix albiventris -- Four-toed Hedgehog
- 13 Bdeogale jacksoni -- Black-legged Mongoose
- 14 Bedeogale nigripes -- Jackson's Mangoose
- 15 Philantomba monticola -- Blue Duiker
- 16 Cephalophus nigrifrons -- Black-fronted Duiker
- 17 Cephalophus rufilatus -- Red-flanked Duiker
- 18 Cephalophus silvicultor -- Yellow-backed duiker
- 19 Cephalophus weynsi Weyn's -- Duiker
- 20 Ceratotherium simum -- Square-lipped/White Rhinoceros
- 21 Cercopithecus albigena -- Mangabey
- 22 Cercopithecus ascanius -- Black-cheeked Whitenosed Monkey
- 23 Cercopithecus ascanius -- Red-tailed Monkey
- 24 Cercopithecus lhoesti -- L'Hoest's Monkey
- 25 Cercopithecus mitis -- Blue Monkey
- 26 Cercopithecus neglectus -- De Brazza's Monkey
- 27 Chlorocebus pygevithrus -- Velvet monkey
- 28 Cercopithecus wolfi -- Congo Basin Wolf's Monkey
- 29 Colobus angolensis -- Angolan Colobus
- 30 Piliocolobus tephrosceles -- Uganda Red Colobus
- 31 Cricetomys emini -- Forest Giant Pouched Rat
- 32 Cricetomys gambianus -- Savanna Pouched Rat
- 33 Crocuta crocuta -- Spotted Hyena
- 34 Crocuta spp -- Stripped Hyena
- 35 Damaliscus lunatus -- Topi
- 36 Delanymys brooksi -- Delany's Swamp Mouse
- 37 Dendrohyrax arboreus -- Southern Tree Hyrax
- 38 Dendrohyrax dorsalis -- Western Tree Hyrax
- 39 Dendromus insignis Montane -- African Climbing Mouse



African Marsh Owl (Sabi Sabi photo).



African Qualfinch (Twitter photo)



Ball-Python (The Snake Guide photo).



Crimson-rumped Waxbill (eBird photo).

- 40 Diceros bicornis -- Black rhinoceros
- 41 Dologale dybowskii Pousargues -- Mongoose
- 42 Eilodon helvum -- African Straw colored Fruit Bat
- 43 Elephantulus brachyrhynchus -- Short-Snouted Elephant Shrew
- 44 Elephantulus fuscipes -- Dusky-Footed Elephant Shrew
- 45 Elephantulus rufescens Rufous -- Elephant Shrew
- 46 Epomophorus labiatus Epauletted -- Fruit Bat
- 47 Epomops franqueti Epauletted -- Bat
- 48 Erythrocebus patas Patas -- Monkey
- 49 Euoticus inustus -- Needle Clawed Bush baby
- 50 Felis aurata -- Golden Cat
- 51 Felis caracal -- Caracal
- 52 Felis serval -- Serval



Dotted Soft-shell Turtle (Animal

Sake photo).
Protected Species



African helmeted turtle (Pelomedusa subrufa) Wikimedia Commons photo.



Cheetah (Uganda Information & Business Directory photo).



Giant Pangolin (Mongabay photo).



African wild dog (Wikipedia photo).



Common Hartebeest (Alcelaphus buselaphus) Yann Prisner-Levyne photo.



Goshawk (eBird photo).

- 53 Funisciurus anerthrus -- Redness Tree Squirrel
- 54 Funisciurus anerythrus -- Thomas Tree Squirrel
- 55 Funisciurus carruthersi Carruthers -- Mountain Tree Squirrel
- 56 Funisciurus pyrropus -- Fire-footed Rope Squirrel
- 57 Galago matschiei -- Eastern Needle-Clawed Bush baby
- 58 Galago matschiei -- Matschie's galago
- 59 Galago senegalensis -- Lesser Bush Baby
- 60 Galago thomasi -- Thomas' Bush Baby
- 61 Galagoides demidoff -- Demidoff's Dwarf Galago
- 62 Gazella granti -- Grant 's Gazelle
- 63 Nanger servalina -- Servaline Genet
- 64 Genetta maculata -- Large-spotted Genet
- 65 Genetta victoriae -- Giant Genet

- 66 Giraffa camelopardalis -- Giraffe
- 67 Gorilla beringei beringei -- Mountain Gorilla
- 68 Graphiurus murinus -- African Common Dormouse
- 69 Graphiurus nanus -- East African Pygmy Dormouse
- 70 Graphiurus ocularis -- West African Common Dormouse
- 71 Heliosciurus gambianus -- Gambian Sun Squirrel
- 72 Heliosciurus ruwenzori -- Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel
- 73 Helioscurus rufobrachium -- Red Legged Sun Squirrel
- 74 Heterohyrax brucei -- Yellow-Spotted Hyrax
- 75 Hippotragus equines -- Roan Antelope
- 76 Hybomys univfttatus -- Peters Striped Mouse
- 77 Hyemoschus aquanticus -- Water chevrotain
- 78 Ictonyx striatus -- Zorilla
- 79 Idiurus zenkeri -- African Dwarf (Zenker's) Flying Squirrel
- 80 Kobus ellipsiprymnus -- Waterbuck
- 81 Kobus kobus -- Uganda Kob
- 82 Lemniscomys species -- Striped Grass Mouse
- 83 Lophiomys imhausi -- Maned Rat
- 84 Lophocebus albigena -- Grey-cheeked Mangabey
- 85 Lophuromys woosnami Woosnam's -- Brushfurred Rat
- 86 Loxodonta africana -- African Elephant
- 87 Lycaon pictus -- Hunting Dog/African Wild Dog
- 88 Madogua geuntheri -- Geuther's Dikdik
- 89 Madoqua guntheri -- Gunther's Dikdik
- 90 Malacomys longipes -- Long-footed Rat
- 91 Manis gigantea -- Giant Pangolin
- 92 Manis temminkii -- Scaly Anteater
- 93 Manis tetradactyla -- Long-tailed Pangolin
- 94 Mellivora capensis -- Honey Badger
- 95 Mus species -- Mouse spp.
- 96 Mylomys dybowski --Three-toed Grass Rat
- 97 Myonycteris torquata -- Little Colored Fruitbat
- 98 Nandina binotata -- Palm Civet
- 99 Neotragus batesi -- Pygmy Antelope
- 100 Oenomys hypoxarythus -- Rusty-nosed Rat
- 101 Oreotragus oreotragus -- Klipspringer
- 102 Oryx gazella -- Gemsbok
- 103 Oryx gazella beisa -- Beisa oryx
- 104 Otolemus crassicaudatus -- Thick-tailed Bush Baby
- 105 Ourebia ourebi -- Oribi
- 106 Pan troglodytes -- Common Chimpanzee
- 107 Panthera leo -- Lion

- 108 Panthera pardus -- Leopard
- 109 Papio anubis -- Olive Baboon
- 110 Paraxerus alaxandri -- Alexander's Bush Squirrel
- 111 Paraxerus boehmi Boehm's -- Bush Squirrel
- 112 Paraxerus cepapi -- Bush squirrel
- 113 Paraxerus ochraceus Huet's -- Bush Squirrel
- 114 Pelomys isseli -- Lake Victoria Rat
- 115 Perodicticus pofto -- Potto
- 116 Poecilogale albinucha -- Striped Weasel
- 117 Praomys species -- African Soft Furred Rat
- 118 Procavia capensis -- Cape Hyrax
- 119 Procolobus budius tephorosceies -- Uganda Red Colobus
- 120 Protoxerus stangeri -- Stanger's Squirrel
- 121 Redunca fulvorufula -- Mountain reedbuck
- 122 Redunca redunca -- Bohor's reedbuck
- 123 Rhabdomys pumilio -- Four-striped grass mouse
- 124 Rhynchocyon cirnei -- Checkered Elephant Shrew
- 125 Rousettus lonosus -- Rosette Fruitbat
- 126 Saccustomus mearnsi -- African Pouched Rat
- 127 Stratomys species -- Fat Mouse
- 128 Syncerus caffer -- African buffalo
- 129 Tartera boehmi -- Boehm's Gerbil
- 130 Tartera nigricauda -- Black -tailed Gerbil
- 131 Tartera robusta -- Fringe-tailed Gerbil
- 132 Tartera valida -- Northern Savanna Gerbil
- 133 Tarterillus congicus -- Congo Gerbil
- 134 Tarterillus emini -- Emin's Gerbil
- 135 Tarterillus harringtoni -- Harrington's Gerbil
- 136 Taurotragus derbianus -- Giant eland
- 137 Thamnomys venustus Montane -- Thicket Rat
- 138 Tragelaphus oryx -- Common eland
- 139 Tragelaphus spekii -- Sitatunga
- 140 Tragelaphus imberbis -- Lesser Kudu
- 141 Tragelaphus strepsiceros -- Greater Kudu
- 142 Xerus erythropus Geoffreys -- Ground Squirrel
- 143 Xerus rutilus Unstriped -- Ground Squirrel

Birds

- 1 Aamandava subflava -- Zebra Waxbill
- 2 Actophilonis africana -- African Jacana
- 3 Agapornis pullaria -- Red-headed Lovebird
- 4 Agapornis swinderina -- Black-collared Lovebird
- 5 Alcedo cristata -- Malachite Kingfisher
- 6 Alcedo quadribrachys -- Shining-blue Kingfisher
- 7 Alethe poliophys -- Red-throated Alethe
- 8 Amandina fasciata -- Cut-throat Finch
- 9 Amblyospiza albifrons -- Grossbeak Weaver
- 10 Anaplectes rubriceps -- Red-headed Weaver
- 11 Anhinga rufa -- African Darter
- 12 Apalis karamojae -- Karamoja Apalis



Goshawk in flight (eBird photo).



Kidepo Valley crocodile.



Lesser galago Bushbaby quences his thirst (Africa Geographic photo).



Grauer's Swamp Warbler (eBird photo).



LHoest Monkey (Venture Uganda photo).



Mongoose (Mammal Watching photo).





Grey-cheeked Mangabey (Wikipedia photo).



Red legged sun squirrel (Heliosciurus rufobrachium) Wikipedia photo.



Namaqua Dove (Pininterest photo).



Hedgehog (Wikiwand photo).



Pearl-spotted Owlet in Chobe National Park (Marnix's Bird Gallery photo).



Olive Baboon



- 13 Apaloderma narina -- Narina's Trogon
- 14 Aquila verreauxii -- Verreaux's eagle
- 15 Asio capensis -- African Marsh Owl
- 16 Balaeniceps rex -- Shoebill
- 17 Balearica regulorum -- Grey-crowned Crane
- 18 Megabyas flammulatus -- Common Shrike Flycatcher
- 19 Bias musicus -- Crested Shrike Flycatcher
- 20 Bostrychia olivacea -- Olive Ibis
- 21 Bostrychia rara -- Spot-breasted Ibis
- 22 Brandypterus graueri Grauer's -- Rush Warbler
- 23 Bubo poensis -- Fraser's Eagle Owl
- 24 Bubulcus ibis -- Cattle Egret
- 25 Bucorvus abyssinicus -- Abyssinian Hornbill
- 26 Buphagus africanus -- Yellow-billed Oxpecker
- 27 Buphagus erythrorhynchus -- Red-billed Ox-pecker
- 28 Campephaga quiscalina -- Purple-throated Cuckoo-Shrike
- 29 Bycanites cylindricus -- White-Thighed Hornbill
- 30 Bycanites fistulator -- Piping Hornbill
- 31 Bycanites subcylindricus -- Black and White casqued Hornbill
- 32 Megaceryle maxima -- Giant kingfisher
- 33 Ceryle rudis -- Pied kingfisher
- 34 Isipidina lecontei -- African Dwarf Kingfisher
- 35 Isipidina picta -- African Pygmy Kingfisher
- 36 Chloropeta gracilirostris -- Papyrus Yellow Warbler
- 37 Ciconia abdimii -- Abdim's Stork
- 38 Ciconia episcopus -- Woolly-Necked Stork
- 39 Cinnyricinclus leucogaster -- Violet-backed Starling
- 40 Cinnyricinclus sharpii -- Sharpe's Starling
- 41 Circaetus cinerascens -- Western Banded Snake Eagle
- 42 Circaetus pectoralis -- Black-chested Snake-eagles
- 43 Clytospiza monteiri -- Brown Twinspot
- 44 Coracias abyssinica -- Abyssinian Roller
- 45 Coracias caudata -- Lilac-breasted Roller
- 46 Coracias garrulus -- Eurasian Roller
- 47 Coracias naevia -- Rufous-crowned Roller
- 48 Corvus albus -- Pied Crow
- 49 Corythaeola crustata -- Great-Blue turaco
- 50 Corythaixoides personata -- Bare faced Go-awaybird
- 51 Cossypha caffra -- Cape Robin Chat
- 52 Cossypha heuglini -- Heuglin's Robin-Chat
- 53 Cossypha natalensis -- Red-capped robin chat
- 54 Cossypha niveicapilla -- Snowy-headed Robin Chart
- 55 Cossypha roberti -- White-bellied Robin Chat
- 56 Coturnix chinensis -- Blue-breasted Quail
- 57 Creatophora cinerea -- Wattled Starling
- 58 Crex crex -- Corncrake
- 59 Crypotospiza shelleyi -- Shelley's Crimson-wing
- 60 Cryptospiza reicheinovii -- Red faced Crimson-wings
- 61 Cryptospiza salvadorii -- Abbysinian Crimson-wings
- 62 Cryptospiza shelleyi -- Shelleys Crimsonwing
- 63 Cursorius species -- Couser species

- 64 Dryocichloides poliopterus -- Grey-winged Ground Robin
- 65 Casmeradius albus -- Great White Egret
- 66 Emberiza cabanisi -- Cabinis's Bunting
- 67 Emberiza flaviventris -- African Golden-breasted Bunting
- 68 Emberiza affinis -- Brown-rumped Bunting
- 69 Emberiza poliopleura -- Somali Golden-breasted Bunting
- 70 Emberiza tahapisi -- Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting
- 71 Ephipiiorhynchus senegalensis -- Saddle-billed Stork
- 72 Estrilda astrild -- Common Waxbill
- 73 Estrilda atricapilla -- Black-headed Waxbill
- 74 Estrilda crythronotus -- Black-faced Waxbill
- 75 Estrilda melanotis -- Yellow-bellied Waxbill
- 76 Estrilda nonnula -- Black-crowned Waxbill
- 77 Estrilda paludicola -- Fawn-breasted Waxbill
- 78 Estrilda rhodopyga -- Crimson-rumped Waxbill
- 79 Estrilda troglodytes -- Black-rumped Waxbill
- 80 Euplectes albonotatus -- White-winged Widow Bird
- 81 Euplectes ardens -- Red-collard Widow bird
- 82 Euplectes axillaris -- Fan-tailed Widow bird
- 83 Euplectes capensis -- Yellow Bishop
- 84 Euplectes franciscanus -- Northern Red Bishop
- 85 Euplectes hartlaubi's -- Handaibi's Marsh Widow Bird
- 86 Euplectes hordeaceus -- Black-winged Red Bishop
- 87 Euplectes macrourus -- Yellow-mantled Widow Bird
- 88 Euplectes orix -- Southern Red Bishop
- 89 Eupodotis hartlaubii -- Hartlaub's Bustard
- 90 Eupodotis melanogaster -- Black-bellied Bustard
- 91 Eupodotis gindiana -- Buff-crested Bustard
- 92 Eupodotis senegalensis -- White-bellied Bustard
- 93 Eurystomus glaucurus -- Broad-billed Roller
- 94 Eurystomus gularis -- Blue-throated Roller
- 95 Falco fasclinucha -- Taita Falcon
- 96 Falco naumanni -- Lesser Kestrel
- 97 Francolinus levaillantoides -- Orange River Francolin
- 98 Francolinus nahani -- Nahan's Francolin
- 99 Francolinus streptophors -- Ring-necked Francolin
- 100 Glareola pranticola -- White-collared Pratincole
- 101 Glaucidium perlatum -- Pearl-spotted Owlet
- 102 Guttera puchrami eduardo -- Crested Guinea fowls
- 103 Gypaetus barbatus --Lammergeiyer
- 104 Baserychia Hagedashia hagedash -- Hadada Ibis
- 105 Halcyon malimbica -- Blue breasted kingfisher
- 106 Hieraaetus ayresii -- Ayres' Hawk Eagle
- 107 Hirundo atrocaerulea -- Blue Swallow
- 108 Halycon leucocephala -- Grey-headed Kingfisher
- 109 Halycon ssenegalensis -- Woodland Kingfisher
- 110 Hyliota australis -- Southern Hyliota
- 111 Myaeria ibis -- Yellow-billed Stork
- 112 Indicator conirostris -- Thick-billed Honeyguide
- 113 Indicator exilis -- Least Honeyguide



Red-headed Bluebill (eBird photo).



Strange-nosed Chameleon (Chameleon Academy photo).





Red-headed weaver (Twitter photo).



Striped Hyena (Earthie's Animals photo)



Ugandan red colobus (Procolobus tephrosceles) Eikipedia photo.

EcoRegistros photo.

Waterbuck (Kobus ellipsiprymnus)

- 114 Lagonostica rubricicata -- African fire finch
- 115 *lagonosticta rara --* Black-bellied Firefinch
- 116 Lagonosticta rhodopareia -- Jameson's Firefinch
- 117 Lagonosticta rufopicta -- Bar-breasted Firefinch
- 118 Lagonosticta senegala -- Red-bellied Firefinch
- 119 Lagonosticta larvata -- Black-faced Firefinch
- 120 *Lamproitomis purpuropetrs --* Ruppell's long-tailed Starlings
- 121 Lamprotornis chalcurus -- Bronze-tailed Starling
- 122 Lamprotornis chalybeus -- Greater Blue-eared Starling
- 123 *Lamprotornis chloropterus --* Lesser blue-eared Starling
- 124 Lamprotornis purpureus -- Purple Starling
- 125 Lamprotornis splendidus -- Splendid Starling
- 126 Lanius excubitoroides -- Grey-backed Fiscal
- 127 Leptotilos crumeniferus -- Marabou Stork
- 128 Linurgus olivaceus -- Oriole-Finch
- 129 Lonchura bicolor -- Black-and-white Mannikin
- 130 Lonchura cantans -- African Silverbill
- 131 Lonchura cucullata -- Bronze Mannikin
- 132 Lonchura griseicapilla -- Grey-headed Silverbill
- 133 Lybius bidentatus -- Double-toothed Barbet



Regal Sunbird (iNaturalist photo).



Stripped grass mouse (Encyclopedia of Life photo).



WesternTree Hyrax (Wikipedia photo).



Spotted Genet (Encyclopedia of Life photo).



The Oribi and daughter (Dr Gunther Eichhorn photo).



Zebra Waxbill (eBird photo).

- 134 Lybius lenocephalus -- White-headed Barbet
- 135 Lybius quifsobalito -- Black-billed Barbet
- 136 Lybius rolleti -- Black-breasted Barbet
- 137 Lybius rubrifacies -- Red faced Barbet
- 138 Mandingoa nitidula -- Green-backed Twinspot
- 139 Mecrops apiaster -- European Bee-eater
- 140 mecrops bicollis -- White-throated Bee-eater
- 141 Mecrops bukocki -- Red-throated Bee-eater
- 142 Mecrops gularis -- Black Bee-eater
- 143 Mecrops hirundineus -- Swallow-tailed Bee-eater
- 144 Mecrops persicus -- Blue-cheeked Bee-eater
- 145 Mecrops supercilliosus -- Madagascar Bee-eater
- 146 Mecrops variegatus -- Blue-breasted Bee-eater
- 147 Melierax species -- Goshawk
- 148 Melittophagus pusillus -- Little Bee-eater
- 149 Merops nubicus Norchern -- Carmine Bee-eater
- 150 Microparra capensis -- Lesser Jacana
- 151 Musaphaga rossae -- Ross's Turaco
- 152 Muscicapa lendu -- Chapin's Flycatcher
- 153 Tauraco porphyreolopha -- Purple Crested Turaco
- 154 Mycteria lameligerus -- Open-billed Stork
- 155 Anastamus ibis -- Yellow-billed Stork



Golden Basket Weaver

- 156 Nactarina amathystina -- Amethyst Sunbird
- 157 Nactarina famosa -- Malachite Sunbird
- 158 Nactarina hunteri -- Hunters Sunbird
- 159 Nactarina tuccazze -- Taccaze Sunbird
- 160 Necrosyrtes monachus -- Hooded Vulture
- 161 Cyanomitra alinae -- Blue-headed Sunbird
- 162 Chalcomitra amethystina -- Amethyst Sunbird
- 163 Cinnyris bifasciata -- Purple-banded Sunbird
- 164 Cinnyris chloropygia -- Olive-bellied Sunbird
- 165 Cinnyris cuprea -- Copper Sunbird
- 166 Cyanomitra cyanolaema -- Blue-throated Sunbird
- 167 Cinnyris erythrocerca -- Red-chested Sunbird
- 168 Nectarinia johnstoni -- Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird
- 169 Nectarinia kilimensis -- Bronze Sunbird
- 170 Cinnyris ludovicensis -- Montane Double-collard Sunbird
- 171 Cinnyris mariquensis -- Marico Sunbird
- 172 Cinnyris preussi -- Northern Double-Collard Sunbird
- 173 Cinnyris pulchella -- Beautiful Sunbird
- 174 Nectarinia purpureiventds -- Purple-breasted Sunbird
- 175 Cinnyris regia -- Regal Sunbird
- 176 Chalcomitra rubescens -- Green-throated Sunbird
- 177 Anthreptes seimundi -- Little Green Sunbird
- 178 Chalcomitra senegalensis -- Scarlet-chested Sunbird
- 179 *Cinnyris stuhimanni Rwenzori --* Double-collared Sunbird
- 180 Cinnyris superba -- Superb Sunbird

- 181 *Cinnyris venusta --* Variable Sunbird
- 182 Cyanamitra verticalis -- Green-headed Sunbird
- 183 Nectarinia reichenowi -- Golden-winged Sunbird
- 184 Neophron perenopterus -- Egyptian Vulture
- 185 Nesocharis ansorgei -- White-collared Oliveback
- 186 Nesocharis capistriata -- Grey-headed Oliveback
- 187 Nigriata bicolor -- Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch
- 188 Nigrita canicapilla -- Grey-headed Negrofinch
- 189 Nigrita fusconota -- White-breasted Negrofinch
- 190 Nigrita luteifrons -- Pale-fronted Negrofinch
- 191 Oena capensis -- Namaqua Dove
- 192 Onychognathus morio -- Red-winged Starling
- 193 Onychognathus salvadorri -- Bristle-crowned Starling
- 194 Onychognathus walled -- Waller's Starling
- 195 oriolus auratus -- African Golden Oriole
- 196 Oriolus brachyrhynchus -- Western Black-headed Oriole
- 197 Oriolus larvatus -- African Black-headed Oriole
- 198 Oriolus oriolus -- Eurasian Golden Oriole
- 199 Oriolus percivali -- Montane Oriole
- 200 Ortygospiza atricollis -- African Quail Finch
- 201 Ortygospiza gabonensis -- Black-chinned Quail Finch
- 202 Oxyura maccoa -- Maccoa Duck
- 203 Pandion haliaetus -- Osprey
- 204 Pecoptera lugubris -- Narrow-nailed Starling
- 205 Pecoptera stuhimanni -- Stuhlmann's Starling
- 206 Pelecanus onocrotaalus -- Grey White pelican
- 207 Pelecanus rufescens -- Pink-backed Pelican
- 208 Phoeniculus castaneiceps -- Forest Wood hoopoe
- 209 Phyllastrephus hypochloris -- Toro Olive Greenbul
- 210 Pifta reichenovvi -- Green-breasted Pitta
- 211 Pilostomus afer -- Piacpiac
- 212 Pitta angolensis -- African Pitta
- 213 Dyaphorophyia castanea -- Chestnut Wattle-eye
- 214 Dyaphorophyia concreta -- Yellow-bellied Wattleeye
- 215 Platysteira cyanea -- Common Wattle-eye
- 216 Dyaphorophyia jamesoni -- Jameson's Wattle-eye
- 217 Plegadis falcinellus -- Glossy Ibis
- 218 Pteracles lichtensteini -- Lichtenstein's Sand grouse
- 219 Pteracles quadricinctus -- Four-banded Sand grouse
- 220 Ploceus alienus -- Strange Weaver
- 221 Ploceus aurantius -- Orange Weaver
- 222 Ploceus bicolor -- Dark-backed Weaver
- 223 Ploceus castanops -- Northern Brown-throated Weaver
- 224 Ploceus cucullatus -- Black-Headed Weaver
- 225 Ploceus heuglini -- Heuglin's Masked Weaver
- 226 Ploceus intermedius -- Lesser Masked Weaver
- 227 Ploceus jacksoni -- Golden-backed Weaver
- 228 Ploceus luteolus -- Little Weaver
- 229 Ploceus melanocephalus -- Yellow-backed Weaver
- 230 Ploceus melanogaster -- Black-billed Weaver
- 231 Ploceus nigerrimus -- Vieillot's Black Weaver





Nile Crocodile



- 232 Ploceus nigricollis -- Black-necked Weaver 233 Ploceus ocularis -- Spectacled Weaver 234 Ploceus pelzelni -- Slender-billed Weaver 235 Ploceus rubiginosus -- Chestnut Weaver 236 Ploceus spekeoides -- Fox's Weaver 237 Ploceus weynsi -- Weyn's Weaver 239 Ploceus xanthops -- Holub's Golden Weaver 240 Podica senegalensis -- African Fin foot 241 Podiceps cristatus -- Great Crested Grebe 242 Podiceps nigricollis -- Black-necked Grebe 243 Poicephalus guliemi -- Red-fronted Parrot 244 Poicephalus meyeri -- Brown Parrot 245 Poicephalus robustus -- White-necked Parrot 246 Polemaetus bellicosus -- Martial eagle 247 Porzana pussilla -- Lesser spotted crane 248 Prionops plumatus -- White-crested Helmet-shrike 249 Prodotiscus insignis -- Cassin's honey bird 250 Pseudocalyptomena graueri -- African Green Broadbill 251 Psittacus erithacus -- African Grey Parrot 252 Pyfilia afra -- Orange-winged Pytilia 253 Pyrenestes ostrinus -- Black-bellied Seed cracker 254 Pytilia melba -- Green-winged Pytilia 255 Pytilia phoenicoptera -- Red-winged Pytilia 256 Pytlia melba -- Green Winged Pylia 257 Quelea quelea -- Red billed Quelea 258 Rynchops flavirostris -- African Skimmer 259 Sagittarius serpentarius -- Secretary bird 260 Scotopelia peli Pel's -- Fishing Owl 261 Serinus reichenow -- Yellow-rumped Seedeater 262 Serinus burtoni -- Thick-billed Serin 263 Serinus citrinelloides -- African Citril 264 Serinus canicollis -- Yellow-crowned Canary 265 Serinus dorsostriatus -- White-bellied Canary 266 Serinus gularis -- Streaky-headed Serin 267 Serinus koliensis -- Papyrus Serin 268 Serinus leucopygius -- White-rumped Serin 269 Serinus mozambicus -- Yellow-fronted Canary 270 Serinus striolatus -- Streaky Serin 271 Serinus suphuratus -- Brimstone Canary 272 Smithomis rufolateralis -- Rofous-sided Broadbill 273 Smithornis capensis -- African Broadbill 274 Spermophaga poliogervys -- Grant's Bluebill 275 Spermophaga ruficapilla -- Red-headed Bluebill 276 Spreo superbus -- Super starlings 277 Vidua paradisaea -- Paradise whydah 278 Stephanoaetus coronatus -- African Crowned Eagle 279 Struthio camelus -- Common Ostrich 280 Tauraco hartlaubi -- Hartlaub's Turaco 281 *Tauraco johnstoni --* Rwenzori Turaco 282 Tauraco schutti -- Black-billed Turaco
- 283 *Terpsiphone cyanomelas --* Blue Mantled Crested Monarch
- 284 *Terpsiphone rufiventer* -- Red Bellied Paradise Monarch

285 Terpsiphone virides -- African Paradise Monarch 286 Thalassornis leuconotus -- White-backed Duck 287 Tockus alboterminatus -- Crowned Hornbill 288 Tockus erythorhynchus -- Red billed Hornbill 289 Tockus fasciatus -- African Pied Hornbill 290 Tockus jacksoni -- Jackson's Hornbill 291 Tockus nasutus -- African Grey Hornbill 291 Torgos tracheliorotus -- Lappet-faced Vulture 292 Trachyphonus damaudii -- d'Anaud's Barbet 293 Trachyphonus erythrocephalus -- Red-and-yellow Barbet 294 Trachylaemus purpuratus -- Yellow-billed Barbet 295 Treskiornis aethiopius -- Sacred Ibis 296 Trigonoceps occipitalis -- White-headed Vulture 297 Tuaraco leucolophus -- White crested Turaco 298 Turaco schuetti -- Black-billed Turaco 299 Turdus libonianus -- Kurrichane Thrush 300 Zoothera oberlaenderi -- Forest Ground-Thrush 301 Turdus olivaceus -- Olive Thrush 302 Turdus peiios -- African Thrush 303 Turdus philomelos -- Song Thrush 304 Turdus tephronotus -- Bare-eyed Thrush 305 Turnix hottentota -- Black-rumped Button Quail 306 Turtur tympanistria -- Tambourine doves 307 Turtur abyssinicus -- Black-billed Wood-Dove 308 Turtur afer -- Blue-spotted Wood-Dove 309 Turtur chalcospilas -- Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove 310 Tyto capensis -- African Grass Owl 311 Uraeginthus bengalus -- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 312 Ureaginthus lanthinogaster -- Purple Grenadier 313 Urocolius macrourus -- Blue-naped Mouse-Bird 314 Colius striatus -- Speckled Mouse-bird 315 Vanellus ajbiceps -- White-crowned Lapwing 316 Vanellus senegallus -- African Wattled Lapwing 317 Vidua chalybeata -- Village Indigo bird 318 Vidua fischeri -- Straw-tailed Wydah 319 Vidua hypocherina -- Steel-blue Wydah 320 Vidua obtusa -- Broad-tailed Paradise-Wydah 321 Vidua macroura -- Pin-tailed Whydah

- 322 Vidua paradisaea -- Eastern Paradise Wydah
- 323 Zesterops sengegalensis -- Yellow White eyes
- 324 Zoothera tanganjicae -- Kivu Ground-Thrush



- Bradypodion adolfifrederici -- Ituri Forest Chameleon 1
- Bradypodion carpenterii -- Rwenzori Mountain 2 Chameleon
- Bradypodion fisherii -- Fishers two horned 3 chameleon
- Bradypodion xenorhinus -- Strange-nosed 4 Chameleon



- Bradypodion xenorrhinus -- Rhino Chameleon 5
- Chamaeleo ellioti -- Mountain Dwarf Chameleon 6
- 7 Chamaeleo johnstonii -- Johnson's Three Horned Chameleon
- 8 Chamaeleo quilensis -- Bocages Chameleon
- Chamaeleo quilensis -- Savana chameleon 9
- Chamaeleo senegalensis -- Senegal Chameleon 10
- Chamaeleo xenorhinus -- Rwenzori Mt. chameleon 11
- Chamaeleo adolfifrederici -- No Common Name 12
- Chamaeleo bitaeniatus -- Two Lined Chameleon 13
- Chamaeleo elliotti -- Elliot's Chameleon 14
- Chamaeleo hoehnelli -- Highland Chameleon 15
- 16 Chamaeleo johnstonii -- Johnson's Three Horned Chameleon
- Chamaeleo hoehnelii -- Helmeted Chameleon 17
- Chameleo bitaeniatus -- Two Lined Chameleon 18
- Chameleo capenteri -- Carpenters chameleon 19
- Chameleo dilepsis -- Flap necked chameleon 20
- Chameleo fuelleborn -- Three horned chameleon 21
- Chameleo gracilis -- Graceful chameleon 22
- Chameleo jacksonii -- Jackson's Three Horned 23 Chameleon
- 24 Chameleo oweni -- Owens chameleon
- Chameleo rudis -- Side stripped chameleon 25

- 26 Charnaeleo laevigatus -- Smooth Chameleon
- 27 *Rhamph brevuicadatus --* Bearded pigmy chameleon
- 28 Rhampholeon species -- Stump Tail Chameleon
- 29 Crocodylus niloticus -- Nile Crocodile
- 30 Crocodylus suchus -- Kidepo Crocodile
- 31 Osteolaemus tetraspis -- Broad-snouted Crocodile
- 32 Adolfus species -- Garden Lizard
- 33 Agama species -- Agama
- 34 Cnemaspis species -- Forest geckos
- 35 Gerrhosaurus major -- Majors plated lizards
- 36 Gerrhosaurus species -- Plated Lizard
- 37 Gerrosaurus flavigularus -- Yellow Throated Lizard
- 38 *Hemidactylus species --* Common house gecko
- 39 Hemitheconyx tailory -- Fat tail gecko
- 40 Holaspis guentheri -- Blue neon lizard
- 41 *Holodactylus africanus --* Dwarf fat tail Ground Gecko
- 42 Holodactylus species -- Ground gecko
- 43 Latastia longicaudata -- Long tailed lizard
- 44 *Lygodactalus luteopicturatus --* Yellow headed gecko
- 45 Lygodactylus species -- Cape Gecko
- 46 Mabuya plainfrons -- Long tailed skink
- 47 Mabuya quinquentaeniata -- Blue tailed skink
- 48 Mabuya species -- Common Skink
- 49 Mabuya striata -- Stripped skink
- 50 Mabuya varia -- Variable skink
- 51 *Memidactylus mabouia --* Tropical house Gecko
- 52 Nucras species -- Sand lizard
- 53 Pachydactylus species-- Wall gecko
- 54 Pachydactylus species --Thick Toed Gecko spp
- 55 *Riopa femandi --* Fire Skink
- 56 Stekkui atrucikus -- Blue tree headed agama
- 57 Varanus albigularis -- White-throated Monitor
- 58 Varanus exantimaticus -- Bosc's Monitor
- 59 Varanus niloticus -- Nile Monitor
- 60 Antheris nitschei -- Great Lakes Bush Viper
- 61 Antheris squamiger -- Common Bush Viper
- 62 Atheris hispidus -- Rough scaled bush viper
- 63 Atractaspis, bibronii -- Burrowing viper
- 64 Bitis arietans -- Puff adder
- 65 Bitis gabonica -- Gabon Viper
- 66 Bitis nasicornis -- Rhino Viper
- 67 Boaedon species -- House Snake
- 68 Boiga blandingi -- Blanding's Tree Snake
- 69 Boiga pulverulenta -- Boiga Tree Snake
- 70 Bothrophtalamus species -- Striped Snake
- 71 Causus species -- Night adder
- 72 Dasypeltis species -- Egg Eating Snakes
- 73 Dendroaspis angusticeps -- Common Green Mamba
- 74 Dendroaspis jaemesoni -- Jameson's Mamba
- 75 Dendroaspis polylepis -- Black Mamba
- 76 Dipsadoboa aulica -- Cat Eyed Snake
- 77 Dispholidus typhus -- Boomslang
- 78 Duberria lutrix -- Slug eater

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- 79 Elapsoidea species -- African Garter Snake
- 80 Eryx species -- Sand boa
- 81 Hemirhagerrhis nototaenia -- Bark Snake
- 82 Leptotyphlops species -- Burrowing Blind Snake
- 83 Lycophidion capensis -- Wolf Snake
- 84 Mehelya capensis -- File Snake
- 85 Naja haje -- Egyptian Cobra
- 86 Naja melanoleuca -- Forest Cobra
- 87 Naja nigricollis -- Spitting Cobra
- 88 Naja olivaceus -- Cream bellied cobra
- 89 Natriciteras species -- Water Snake
- 90 Philotharnnus, species -- Bush Snake
- 91 Psammophis species -- Sand Snake
- 92 Pseudaspis cana -- Mole Snake
- 93 Pseudohaje goldii -- Gold's Tree Cobra
- 94 Python regius -- Ball Python
- 95 Python sebae -- Rock Python
- 96 Telescopus serniannulatus -- Tiger Snake
- 97 Thelothornis capensis -- Twig Snake
- 98 Thelothornis kirtlandii -- Vine Snake
- 99 Thrasops species -- Tree Snake
- 100 Tuphlops; bibronii -- Burrowing Snake
- 101 Cycianorbis eiegans -- Flap shell Turtle
- 102 Cycloderma frenaturn -- Dotted Soft-shell Turtle
- 103 Geohelone pardalis -- Leopard Tortoise
- 104 Kinixys belliana -- Bell's Hinged Tortoise
- 105 Kinixys erosa -- Serrated Hinge-backed tortoise
- 106 Pelomedusa subrufa -- African Helmet Turtle
- 107 Pelusios gabonensis -- African Forest Turtle
- 108 Pelusios species -- African mud turtle
- 109 Tryonix triunguis -- Nile Soft-shelled Terrapin

Amphibians

- 1 Afrixalus species -- Banana Frog
- 2 Bufo species -- Toads
- 3 Chiromantis xerampelia -- Foam Tree Frog
- 4 Cryptothylax gresfoffi -- Webbed Kassina
- 5 Hemisus species -- Pig Nosed Frog
- 6 Hyperolius argus -- Argus Reed frog
- 7 Hyperolius marmoratus -- Marbled reed frog
- 8 *Hyperolius species* -- Reed Frog
- 9 Hyperolius vilidiflavus -- Viridiflavian reed frog
- 10 Kassina maculata -- Red legged Kasiina
- 11 *kassina species* -- Running Frog
- 12 Leptopelis species -- Tree Frogs

16

17

18

13 Phlyctimantis species -- Stripe Legged Frog

Rana species -- Jumping and Bull Frog

Schoutedenella species -- Litter Frogs

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- 14 Phrynobatrachus species -- Puddle Frogs
- 15 Phrynomerus species -- Walking Frog

Xenopus species -- Clawed Frog



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- High swing
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- Breakfast at the top of the falls
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