



# UGANDA COUNTRY STRATEGY

## *Executive Summary*

Uganda has some of the greatest animal and plant diversity in the world and is especially rich in mammalian species. This biodiversity, much of which is found in protected and conserved areas, underpins Uganda's economy and provides critical ecosystem services. But the Pearl of Africa's natural capital is threatened by population growth and a push for development, as Uganda is eager to increase per capita income and provide jobs to its burgeoning population.

AWF has supported conservation in Uganda since 1968, working in virtually all protected areas. Strategies have focused on reducing threats to wildlife through community empowerment, infrastructure development in parks, community/private partnerships, improved habitat management, capacity building, and tourism development. Most recently, AWF implemented a USAID-funded biodiversity program in protected areas of Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls, Kidepo Valley, Budongo, and Kalinzu. These efforts sought to achieve sustainable conservation in concert with economic growth.

**AWF ENVISIONS A PROSPEROUS UGANDA WHERE WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS THRIVE AS THE BEDROCK FOR PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**



AWF's strategy in Uganda is shaped around three interrelated goals:

- Ugandan leaders drive shifts in policy, planning, and finance that leverage wildlife and their habitats as essential to development
- The ecological integrity, connectivity, and resilience of the ecosystems in Uganda's priority landscapes are improved and support sustainable development
- Uganda's wildlife is conserved in situ, with poaching and trafficking reduced as major causes of decline

AWF delivers on these goals through a combination of country-level engagement with government leaders, businesses, civil society organizations, and youth and women's groups, as well as through the implementation of field-level programs in priority landscapes.

## MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

AWF's comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system tracks key performance indicators linked to our organizational goals of supporting African conservation leadership and policy decision-making at all levels of government, implementing landscape-level strategies, and protecting wildlife in their habitats. The process, which includes annual and 10-year targets, helps us to demonstrate whether we are on track to meet our goals, identify areas of improvement, and replicate successful strategies at scale. Importantly, it allows us to be responsible partners and ensure we deliver on our commitments.

## AWF PROJECTS IN PRIORITY LANDSCAPES

AWF selects large landscapes that support viable populations of target species and form sizable economic units in which strategic use of natural resources can support sustainable livelihoods. We prioritize landscapes that align with the Uganda Wildlife Authority's Conservation Areas and meet criteria such as significant threats to wildlife and potential for economic development. These priority landscapes include Murchison Falls, Kidepo, and Lake Mburo.

With support from USAID, AWF has assisted with the development of land-use planning in two sub-counties of Lobalaganti and Karenga (Kidepo). To address human-wildlife conflict, we supported farmers in growing chili crops (which deter elephants from raiding), and we trained community wildlife scouts in human-wildlife conflict mitigation techniques. To enhance the capacity of wildlife rangers and forest guards, we

conducted training in protected-area management and leadership. Through AWF's Classroom Africa initiative, students in two primary schools in the area are receiving a quality education and, through extracurricular activities, learning more about wildlife and conservation.

AWF also has partnered with communities to pilot replicable human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies. Initiatives have included training and equipping

community wildlife scouts in mitigation strategies and supporting wildlife-friendly enterprises such as chili farming. AWF also helped park managers build staff capacity in ecological monitoring, with a special focus on creating effective systems for monitoring and mitigating biodiversity threats. Finally, AWF supported a new canine unit on the periphery of Murchison Falls National Park that is helping to turn the tide on poaching and wildlife trafficking in Uganda.



LEADS TO

**GOAL 1**  
Ugandan leaders drive shifts in policy, planning, and finance, leveraging wildlife and wild lands as essential to development.

BY 2030 RESULTS IN

Uganda is implementing a national development strategy that embraces and secures its biological diversity and ecosystem services for current and future generations.

Uganda's leadership champions the integration of national biodiversity priorities in national development plans and regional and international instruments.

All-inclusive and vibrant CSO movements and networks in Uganda advocate for and participate in the implementation of policies that support conservation as a premise and an integral part of sustainable development.

The Ugandan government adopts and promotes sustainable business enterprise and targeted investment in conservation enterprise as a viable model for enhancing sustainable development.

**GOAL 2**  
The ecological integrity, connectivity, and resilience of the ecosystems in Uganda's priority landscapes are improved and support sustainable development.

BY 2030 CATALYZES

The Uganda Wildlife Authority protected-area network is well managed and financially self-sustaining.

Land-use plans incorporate ecosystem and conservation needs that support sustainable development approved by the government and implemented in AWF priority landscapes.

AWF priority landscapes support the development of wildlife-friendly enterprises and contribute to the micro-economy and Uganda's prosperity.

The area under game farms/conservancies has increased, is well-managed, and contributes to wildlife economies and protected wildlife habitat.

**GOAL 3**  
Conserve Uganda's wildlife in situ and reduce poaching and trafficking as major causes of decline.

BY 2030 RESULTS IN

The target population of species is stabilized and increasing in five key conservation areas in Uganda.

Black rhino re-introduction in at least two conservation areas.

Uganda is no longer a significant transit country for international wildlife trade.

Uganda has developed all necessary national species action and recovery plans.

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Murchison Falls Landscape  
Lake Mburo Landscape



**AFRICAN WILDLIFE**  
FOUNDATION

*African Wildlife Foundation's mission  
is to ensure wildlife and wild lands  
thrive in modern Africa.*

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