



Report of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative



in Uganda

**Country report on Uganda
Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI)
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1. Introduction

The world is facing serious environmental challenges. Increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are causing increasing earth's average temperatures, influencing patterns and amounts of precipitation, reducing ice and snow cover, raising sea levels, increasing acidity of the oceans, increasing frequency, intensity, and/or duration of extreme events and shifting ecosystem characteristics.¹



Biodiversity loss is also a serious issue. The current loss of biodiversity and the related changes in the environment are now faster than ever before in human history and there is no sign of this process slowing down.² For indigenous peoples who depend wholly on healthy ecosystems, this is a cause for serious concern. For centuries, indigenous peoples have been stewards of conservation, but their conservation efforts be resilient amid the present challenges?

To answer this question, the National Alliance of Professional Environmentalist (NAPE) teamed up with the Global Forest Coalition to undertake a community conservation resilience assessment in Uganda. This report summarizes the assessment in Uganda.

2. The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative

Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations.³ With a goal of sustaining and strengthening the resilience of community conservation practices, an informal alliance of national and international Indigenous Peoples' organizations, non- governmental organizations and social movements began the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI). The alliance share a joint belief in community stewardship, governance and rights-based approaches to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and restoration. The goal of the Initiative is to sustain and strengthen the resilience of community conservation practices, including Indigenous Peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs), in light of existing or potential external and internal threats.

¹ Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Change at <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/science/future.html#increasinggreenhouse%20gas>

² Green Facts, What are the current trends in biodiversity loss at <http://www.greenfacts.org/en/biodiversity/>

³

The main objectives of the initiative are twofold:

- a) *to perform a bottom-up assessment the resilience of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' initiatives and approaches to conservation and restoration and*
- b) *to perform a bottom-up assessment the legal, political, socio-economic, financial, technical, and capacity-building support that could assist in sustaining and strengthening such initiatives and approaches, and subsequently to secure those forms of support through strategic advocacy efforts.*

3. Uganda

The republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. It measures 241, 038 square kilometres (93 065 squares miles). Uganda has a population currently estimated at 37 million⁴ with a gross domestic product of US \$ 26.31 billion.⁵



4. Biodiversity in Uganda

Uganda has 90 natural and semi-natural vegetation types that range from high montane moorland, forests, forest-savanna, savannas, thickets, grasslands, wetlands and plantations.⁶ Uganda has 506 protected forest reserves⁷ and 60 protected areas.⁸ Biodiversity contributes an estimated US \$ 1,112 billion annually to Uganda's economy, with wood forest resources, non-wood forest products, tourism, fisheries wetlands plants and land-based plants.⁹ However, Uganda is losing its biodiversity at an alarming rate.

For example, Uganda's forest cover declined from 35% to 15% of Uganda land surface between 1890 and 2005 with an estimated annual forest cover loss of approximately 88,000ha/year.¹⁰ In 2008, Uganda's Total Ecological Footprint stood at 1.38 gha per

⁴ World Bank, Uganda <http://data.worldbank.org/country/uganda>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Republic of Uganda, First National Report on the Conservation Biodiversity in Uganda, January 1998. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ug/ug-nr-01-en.pdf>.

⁷ For a list of forest reserves in Uganda, please see

⁸ For a list of protected areas in Uganda, please see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_protected_areas_of_Uganda

⁹ L. Emerton and E. Muramira, Uganda Biodiversity: Economic Assessment, 1999. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/financial/values/uganda-economicassessment.pdf>

¹⁰ Republic of Uganda, REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal For Uganda, May 2011. Available at http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Jun2011/Uganda%20Revised%20RPP%20May%2031,%20%202011_0.pdf

person, whereas the Biocapacity stood at 0.94 gha per person, leaving an ecological deficit of -0.44 gha/person.¹¹ The reasons attributed to the loss of biodiversity include rapid population increase agriculture¹² monoculture plantations, oil mining among others.

5. The CCRI Initiative in Uganda

The Community Conservation Resilience Assessment (CCRA) in Uganda begun in 2014. It was implemented by the National Association of Professional Environmentalist (NAPE), an action organization committed to sustainable solutions to most challenging environmental and economic growth problems in Uganda.¹³ The CCRA were implemented in Bukaleba, Kalangala, Kihagya and Butimba villages in Eastern, Central and South Western Uganda respectively. Communities found in these territories are mostly forest dependent but also practice shifting cultivation and fishing. The communities rely on the lands, territories and forest resources for medicine, cultural practices and spiritual nourishment among other traditional uses.

6. Community Conservation in Uganda

Community conservation efforts in Uganda appear in many forms and landscapes. While many of them are based on customary practices, there is a deliberate push to promote and increase community conservation in Uganda. Various laws and policies recognize and promote community conservation and community partnerships in conservation are increasing. However, this has not been developed in an integrated manner, rather through a combination of park specific activities, supported by donor and NGO funded projects, and the attempts, of the conservation authorities to respond to political pressure to meet legitimate needs of rural communities.¹⁴

“We have lived in Bukaleba for centuries. It is the only home we know and will ever know. But despite this historical connection, our land rights have never been recognized. Our land is classified as public land and the government has leased out to a private investor to establish a plantation. Our livelihoods, cultural sites, sacred trees are gone and gone forever! “

*Mohamad Ndikulwange
Village elder, Bukaleba*

7. Community Conservation Resilience Assessment in Uganda

To successfully undertake the community conservation resilience assessment in Uganda, NAPE utilized the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative methodological

¹¹Derek Pomeroy and Herbert Tushabe, The State of Uganda's Biodiversity 2008. Available at <https://static.zsl.org/secure/files/uganda-biodiversity-report-2008-1054.pdf>

¹² Republic of Uganda, FIRST NATIONAL REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION BIODIVERSITY IN UGANDA, January 1995 at page 5. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ug/ug-nr-01-en.pdf>

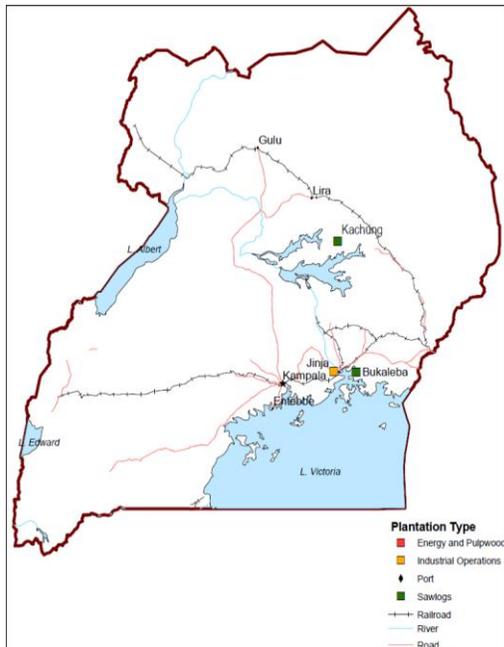
¹³ For more on NAPE, See <http://nape.or.ug/index.php>

¹⁴Edmund Barrow, Helen Gichohi, and Mark Infield, Rhetoric or Reality? A Review of Community Conservation Policy and Practice in East Africa, January 2000. Available at <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/7807IIED.pdf>

framework that comprised of 5 crosscutting principles and 9 key components.¹⁵ The crosscutting principles include Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Rights, including the right to free, prior and informed consent, indigenous & community ownership, adaptive facilitation, participation & representation and lastly women and gender.

NAPE undertook several consultative visits to different communities that included communities in Bukaleba, Kalangala and the Batwa. To objective of the visits was ascertain community willingness and obtain their free, prior and informed consent to participate in the community conservation resilience assessments. During the visits, NAPE looked at the different roles that community members could play in the assessments. However, NAPE made it clear that the initiative was not bringing financial resource to the communities, but to work with them on how they can themselves withstand external and internal pressures threatening their communities and their conservation efforts.

For the assessment, NAPE visited Bukaleba, Kalangala and the Batwa villages. But at the time of NAPE's visit, the king of the Batwa was away for three weeks. The absence of the King could not allow NAPE to engage with the community. And because of distance and time limit for the project it was hard for NAPE to continue with the Batwa. Instead, NAPE proceeded to Kakindo village, a community that derives most of their livelihoods from Kihagya forest.



Communities in Bukaleba, Kalangala and Kihagya agreed to participate in the assessment. The assessment meetings brain stormed on the objectives of conserving their territories, land rights, gender and women roles among others.

i. Bukaleba area.

The community in Bukaleba practices sustainable small-scale agriculture and grazing. The area also has significant cultural sites, graveyards and sacred trees,¹⁶ which the community conserves. The communities in Bukaleba are affected by activities of Green Resources, a Norwegian forest plantation Africa's largest forestation company and a

leader in East Africa in wood manufacturing.¹⁷ In Bukaleba, Green Resources runs a 9,165 ha of *Pinus caribaea* and *Eucalyptus* spp. The plantation is located on the shores of Lake Victoria in Mayuge district, 120 km east of Kampala, 40 km south east of Jinja

¹⁵ For the CCRI Methodological Framework, see http://globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/New-Last-CCR-Initiative-methodology_May-2014.pdf

¹⁶ Green Resources, March 2010. *Bukaleba Forest Project* [online] Available at http://www.greenresources.no/Portals/0/Carbon/PIN%20Bukelaba_27_04_2010.pdf [Accessed 9 July, 2015].

¹⁷ See Green Resources at <http://www.greenresources.no/Home.aspx>

and 120 km from the Kenyan border. Bukaleba is believed to be the second largest forest plantation in Uganda and is located closer to the capital than any of the other large plantations and is the best-located plantation for exports to Kenya.¹⁸ Bukaleba plantation was validated and verified under the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) in 2012, delivering 25,350 tCO₂e of Net Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) which Green Resources is marketing at the international market.¹⁹ The project is expected to deliver 100,000 tCO₂e from 2012 – 2015.

On community development in Bukaleba, Green Resources is explicit that: -

“The plantation is located within an old forest reserve and rented from the Government. Thus, Green Resources Uganda does not have the same community development obligations, as is the case in Mozambique and Tanzania. However, the company has provided medical equipment for health centers, expanded a dispensary, drilled two bore holes to provide drinking water, and supports female education by sponsoring girls through secondary education. With financial support from NORAD, the company has implemented HIV/AIDS awareness activities. Seedlings are given away to local communities along with basic training in tree establishment, but the relative high population density has led to moderate uptake. The company is implementing Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) programme in three parishes coupled with training of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in organizational development. Training aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills of CBOs for livelihood improvements and sustainable resource management.”



The darker side of green in Bukaleba - Kristen Lyons

¹⁸ Green Resources, Bukaleba Plantation, Uganda at <http://www.greenresources.no/Plantations/Uganda/Bukaleba.aspx>

¹⁹ See Green Resources, Bukaleba Carbon Credits for Sale, Green Investments in Uganda at <http://www.greenresources.no/News/tabid/93/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/49/Bukaleba-carbon-credits-for-sale-Green-investment-in-Uganda.aspx>

ii. Kalangala

Kalangala district is located in south-west central Uganda. According to figures provided by Uganda's travel guide, Kalangala covers an area of 9,066.8Km². Only 432.1Km² (4.8%) is land and the rest is water. Total population is 34,766 (20,849 male and 13,917 female). Kalangala district is entirely made up of a total of 84 Islands widely scattered in Lake Victoria. The biggest Island is Buggala and covers an area of 296Km².²⁰ As Most of Kalangala is in Lake Victoria with the communities utilizing traditional knowledge to manage fisheries resources and grazing areas in their territory. This includes regularly migration following the seasonal movements of fish.²¹

However, the Kalangala community's practices have been disrupted by palm oil plantation activities by Bidco Oil, an oil seeds company based in Kenya in which Wilmar International has a controlling share. Palm oil activities in Kalangala are financed by IFAD.²² Communities' lands were taken without compensation or consultation. Where compensation has been given, communities allege that the money they received is insufficient for the value of the land lost and the food that has been destroyed. Some farmers claim they were coerced into signing for the money.²³

iii. Butimba

In Butimba, communities have partnered with other conservation organizations to undertake sustainable activities contributing to protection of the landscapes. These include restoration of regional forests and waterways and improved farming practices. In the pilot phase, NAPE consulted the Kihagya forest community found in Kakindo village, Bulindi Parish, Kyabigambire sub-county Hoima district in western Uganda. The site is recognized by Bunyoro kingdom as under the Bafunjo, Abahagya and Abazira clans. The communities in Kihagya value the forest as a home of their "gods" and source of livelihoods and medicine.



²⁰ See Uganda Travel Guide at <http://www.ugandatransitguide.com/kalangala-sseseisland.html>

²¹ Ibid

²² See Friends of the Earth, Land grabs, forests and Finance: Palm oil landgrab in Uganda: Wilmar International's violations in Kalangala Island, Issue brief #5 at [http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/7b/3/3078/Issue Brief 5 - Wilmar in Uganda.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/7b/3/3078/Issue%20Brief%205%20-%20Wilmar%20in%20Uganda.pdf)

²³ The Guardian, Ugandan farmers take on palm oil giants over land grab claims, 3rd March 2015 at <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/mar/03/ugandan-farmers-take-on-palm-oil-giants-over-land-grab-claims>

8. Law and Policy Framework

Uganda has a number of laws and policies that are aimed at conserving the environment. These laws and policies also provide an enabling framework for community conservation.

For example, Uganda's constitution obligates the State to protect important natural resources including land, water, wetlands, minerals, oil, fauna and flora on behalf of the people of Uganda.²⁴ Clearly, the government of Uganda has a constitutional duty to protect forests in the CCRI sites from destruction by all including the private investors.

There is currently no data available on the biological impact of these community conservation initiatives.

Under Article 245, the constitution mandates parliament to enact legislation to preserve and protect the environment from abuse, pollution and degradation; to manage the environment for sustainable development; and to promote environmental awareness.²⁵ Uganda's parliament has enacted several legislations to further these constitutional objectives. Some of the legislations adopted include the National Environment Statute (1995)²⁶ that establishes a National Environment Management Authority, which shall ensure the observance of national environment management principles among others responsibilities. The principles include assurance of fundamental right to a healthy environment, public participation, equity, benefit sharing and conservation of cultural heritage. Under the National Environment Statute communities including those in the CCRI sites can exercise significant powers over their local environment by establishing Local Environmental Committees (LAC)²⁷. Among other powers, the LAC's are "entitled to bring legal action against any other person whose activities or omissions have or are likely to have a significant impact on the environment." Such legal action²⁸ can be aimed at

- a) *Prevent, stop or discontinue any act or omission deleterious to the environment;*
- b) *Compel any public officer to take measures to prevent or to discontinue any act or omission deleterious to the environment;*
- c) *Require that any on-going activity be subjected to an environmental audit in accordance with section 23 of this Statute;*
- d) *Require that any on-going activity be subjected to environmental monitoring in accordance with section 24 of this Statute;*
- e) *Request a court order for the taking of other measures that would ensure that the environment does not suffer any significant damage.*

Public participation in the formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes is also guaranteed by the Constitution.²⁹ The Environmental Impact

²⁴Constitution of Uganda, 1995 Article XIII.

²⁵Constitution of Uganda, 1995 Article 245.

²⁶Section 18 (1)

²⁷ Section 17

²⁸ Section 3 (a) – (e).

²⁹Constitution of Uganda, 1995. Article XI.

Assessment Public Hearing Guidelines (199) ensure that that public hearings are part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project being assessed.³⁰ In view of this communities in the CCRI sites ought to have participated in the EIA towards the establishment of the tree plantations and in relation to the oil exploration activities.

Opportunities for community forest management seemingly exist through the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act No. 8 of 2003. The law classifies forests into central, local, community, and private forests reserves.³¹ Central and local forest reserves are held in trust by the national and local governments respectively. The governments are legally obligated to protect the forests for ecological, forestry and tourism purposes, for the benefit of the people of Uganda including the communities in the CCRI sites.³² However, collaborative forest management arrangements can be entered into between a respective government and a local community for the management of central and local forests. Though community forests are designated as such by the minister in consultation with a District land board and a local community,³³ the law still gives immense powers to the minister. This include the powers to appoint a responsible body to manage a community forest, and powers to consent to the use of community forests for any other purpose other than forest conservation.³⁴ It through such provisions those communities in the CCRI sites lack tenure to the forests in their territories. The Land Act of 1998 provides a framework for recognition of community land rights as it recognizes customary land tenure,³⁵ applicable to a specific area of land and specific description or class of persons.³⁶ Under the Act, customary land is managed according to customary regulations.

Other biodiversity related laws in Uganda include the Uganda Wildlife Act Cap 200 (of 1996), the Local Government Act 1997, the Agricultural Seeds and Plant Act (1994), the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003, the Environment Impact Assessment Regulations, 1998, Regulations on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing 2005, Regulations on Wetlands, Riverbanks, Lakeshores, Hilly and Mountainous areas (2000 among others. Biodiversity related policies include the Decentralization Policy of 1997, the Wildlife Policy of 1999, the Forestry Policy of 2001, the Fisheries Policy 2003, the National Tourism Policy 2003, the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy (2008), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2002), he National Forest Plan (2001), the Wetlands Sector Strategic Plan (2001), the National Development Plan.



Land Being cleared for palm oil in Kalangala - Jason Taylor/FOE

Uganda is also a signatory to major international biodiversity related conventions.

³⁰ National Environmental Impact Public Hearings Guidelines of 17th May 1995

³¹Section 1

³²Section 5 (1)

³³Section 17 (1)

³⁴Section 17 (4)

³⁵Section 2

³⁶Section 3 (1)

Uganda is party to the Convention on Biological Diversity,³⁷ Cartagena Protocol,³⁸ Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing,³⁹ Convention Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971),⁴⁰ and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973), commonly known as CITES.⁴¹ To operationalize this international instruments, Uganda, a dualist state,⁴² has enacted various legislations and polices at the national level.

The laws of Uganda hardly recognize sacred natural sites. Sacred sites are potent areas where people get cleansing for blessings, wealth among others to communities, they regard the forest as an important site but the government does not recognize their forest as an important community resource, communities pointed out

9. The gender dimension

In the CCRI project sites, gender roles are evident in community conservation. In the Kakindo-Kihagya forest for example, women, youth, elders and non-clan residents play different roles in community conservation efforts. Women are in charge of looking after homes, babies, farming, gathering firewood from the forest, as well fetching water and cooking for the family members. Men are in charge of looking after animals (grazing, watering) and construction works at household level among others. Elders are responsible for decision making often without the consent of women and children as a result of deeply rooted negative cultural practices, which excludes women from decision-making. Communities in the CCRI sites are aware of government efforts at gender balancing and involving women in decision-making processes. However, though the communities acknowledge the need to change, this may take time. Under Uganda's Constitution, any custom, practice, usage or tradition, which detracts from the rights of any person, as guaranteed by the Constitution, shall be prohibited.⁴³

When a woman assumes power in the house, the house is as good as destroyed because all sorts of people will seize the opportunity to confuse it." (a sexist Kiswahili proverb)

In kakindo Kihagya community, very few women have ownership to land. This has been the challenge when it comes to who gets what from the proceeds of the farm out puts. Women till the land and when the crops are harvested, men tend to sell and little is returned to the women. When asked why, the women said, that is how it has been working from time immemorial. However women were not happy with the selling of the crop.

A report by the World Bank confirms that in Uganda, "women often lack a voice in decision-making in the household as well as in the public sphere. Women often lack control over income, even when they provided the labor for it. Women lack incentives to

³⁷Party since 29th December, 1993

³⁸Party since 11th September, 2003

³⁹Party since 12th October, 2014.

⁴⁰Party Since 04th March, 1988

⁴¹Accession on 18thJuly, 1991.

⁴²Constitution of Uganda, 1995 Article 125.

⁴³Article 246 Constitution of Uganda, 1995.

raise cash crops, because men tend to control the resulting income. Despite the introduction of universal primary education in Uganda, girls may not receive the same educational opportunities as boys.”⁴⁴

This is despite strong legal and policy frameworks that protect the rights of women. For example, the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy under Uganda’s constitution promote the protection and promotion of gender balance⁴⁵ and the recognition of the important role of women in society in particular.⁴⁶The Uganda Gender Policy is in place with a goal of ensuring the achievement gender equality and women’s empowerment as an integral part of Uganda’s socio-economic development.⁴⁷

During the assessment, several roles and needs of women emerged. However, it was critical to mobilize women in groups and increase their capacity to work towards achieving their common goals. These could be achieved by amplifying their messages through radio programs, establishing wider networks of communication and exchange visits between communities and women. Women also need to be involved in decision-making, including those of resource management. At the national workshop, participants also felt that it was important for women to have some source of income/livelihoods to ensure their well being, empowerment and ability to demand a right to be heard in their communities. At a national level, implementation of current laws and formulation of better laws is needed to address gender issues. Both the community and the government must work together to develop practices that will keep young girls (and other youth) in school. Many women felt that they do not get enough support from the men, particularly husbands. It is important therefore for women to involve men in their activities so as to sensitize and teach them better about the needs of entire families.



⁴⁴ AMANDA ELLIS, CLAIRE MANUEL, AND C. MARK BLACKDEN, **Gender and Economic Growth in Uganda: Unleashing the Power of Women**, The World Bank, 2006. Available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRREGTOPGENDER/Resources/gender_econ_growth_ug.pdf

⁴⁵Objective VI, Constitution of Uganda, 1995

⁴⁶Objective XV, Constitution of Uganda, 1995.

⁴⁷ See Uganda Gender Policy 2007 at <http://mglsd.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/policies/Uganda-Gender-Policy.pdf>

10. Internal and external threats to community conservation

The three communities face numerous internal threats. These include highly centralized decision-making that is susceptible to corruption and compromise, exclusion of women in decision-making and the lack of capacity and resources to fully pursue and defend their rights. External threats jeopardise communities land tenure and food sovereignty. The external threats include oil exploration activities in Butimba and the Albertine region generally,⁴⁸ forest plantation activities in Bukaleba area by Green Resources, a private Norwegian forestation company, running a 9, 165 ha plantation forestry and carbon trade project,⁴⁹ and oil palm plantations in Kalangala district by Oil Palm Uganda Limited.⁵⁰ At the national workshop, participants from the various CCRI sites identified internal and external challenges specific to their sites as follows: -

a) Butimba

▪ *Internal threats*

- i. Poor cultivation methods/close to water sources*
- ii. Biofuel demands for charcoal, firewood and timber, construction,*
- iii. Bush burning which destroys indigenous plants,*
- iv. Encroachment on forest,*
- v. Cultivation on water catchment area,*
- vi. Irresponsible leadership, including but not limited to local leaders, religious leaders, cultural leaders and CSOs,*
- vii. Business community is promoting crop production rather than conservation,*
- viii. High birth rates leading to population pressure, land fragmentation, and forest and wetlands depletion.*

▪ *External threats*

- i. Pressures from external business communities who promote tobacco production, logging, land sales and charcoal burning*
- ii. Investors buying/grabbing steep slopes to plant pine trees,*
- iii. Erosion of cultural heritage by migrant workers,*
- iv. Government officials and agencies protecting investors against local people's resources in environment,*
- v. Unfair compensation for land allocated to the oil refinery, including their crops, labour housing units.*

▪ **Specific recommendations to address these challenges:**

⁴⁸The Daily Monitor, 18 June, 2013. *Banyoro form associations to fight for their land rights.* [Online] Available at <<http://www.monitor.co.ug/artsculture/Reviews/Banyoro-form-associations-to-fight-for-their-land-rights/-/691232/1885814/-/ipc271/-/index.html>> [Accessed 6 July, 2015].

⁴⁹Green Resources, 2013. *Bukaleba Plantation, Uganda.* [online] Available at <http://www.greenresources.no/Plantations/Uganda/Bukaleba.aspx> [Accessed on 6 July 2015].

⁵⁰The Guardian, 3 March 2015. *Ugandan farmers take on palm oil giants over land grab claims.* [Online] Available at <<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/mar/03/ugandan-farmers-take-on-palm-oil-giants-over-land-grab-claims>> [Accessed on 6 July, 2015].

- i. Development of by-laws to guide agricultural methods, wood extraction and bush burning,*
- ii. Develop a land use plan,*
- iii. Sensitizing all stakeholders on land rights, civic duties, climate change mitigation and adaptation,*
- iv. Carry out environmental education in schools,*
- v. Introduce nursery beds at community centers e.g. schools and churches,*
- vi. Promotional campaigns championed by schools, churches, cultural institutions,*
- vii. Strengthen membership of associations with inclusion of resourceful persons. E.g. lawyers, civil servants, religious leaders, cultural leaders, paralegals, etc.*

b) Bukaleba

- **Internal challenges:**
 - i. *Community members have no land titles,*
 - ii. *Poor leadership in communities,*
 - iii. *Land grabbing,*
 - iv. *Increasing poverty among community members,*
 - v. *Lack of corporate social responsibility by companies,*
 - vi. *Lack of management plan for Bukaleba forest,*
 - vii. *Limited awareness by the communities of their rights to benefit sharing*
- **Specific recommendations to address the challenges**
 - i. Community members should be facilitated to get land titles,
 - ii. Demarcation of community land and sensitize community members on their right to own that land,
 - iii. Build capacity of the community on governance issues,
 - iv. Promote income generating projects and facilitating women groups with seed money to promote Corporate Social Responsibility
 - v. Formulate management plan for natural resource use,
 - vi. Increase awareness raising among the communities on their rights regarding the natural resource use.

c) Kihagya

- **Internal threats**
 - i. Encroachment due to land pressure,
 - ii. Charcoal burners/firewood,
 - iii. Building/construction materials,
 - iv. Growing use of drugs by the youth,
 - v. Religious mismatch with culture

- **External threats**

- i. Proposal for an airfield which would cause cutting of the forest,
- ii. Urban development and population growth in neighboring areas,
- iii. Climate change/natural calamities/long droughts/strong storms which destroy trees.

- **Specific recommendations to address the challenges**

- i. Establish a clear boundary and planted boundary trees,
- ii. Clan meetings resolutions and bans to charcoal/firewood activities
- iii. Restrictions to use the forest as a source of materials,
- iv. Collaboration with and community policing to stop planting of crops used to make drugs.
- v. Resist the forest clearing for the airfield
- vi. Negotiate for its preservation as part of as a traditional nature reserve,
- vii. Legal action against agencies and individuals who harm the ICCA

d) Kasenyi

- **Internal threats**

- i. Deforestation in private and central reserves by both internal and external actors
- ii. Take over of public property by external agencies,
- iii. Poverty and ignorance within the community,
- iv. Denial of traditional resource use in the name of protection,
- v. Conflict of interest within the community,
- vi. Distant or absent landlords,
- vii. Lack of collective and common voice against threats to the ICCA,
- viii. Culture of corruption and bribery,
- ix. Dysfunctional policies and acts,
- x. Excessive use of unsustainable technologies like power saws and fertilizers,

- xi. Illegal fishing,
- xii. Food insecurity.

Specific recommendations to address the challenges

- i. Enhancing collaborative forestry management group initiatives (like agroforestry),
- ii. Creating awareness on land rights, understanding and exercising of those rights,
- iii. Advocating for pro-poor policies,
- iv. Strengthening/enhancing collective voices to address community issues of concern,
- v. 5. Advocating for equitable inclusion in community investments for sustainable income generation for example in tourism and cage fishing,
- vi. Holding government, leaders and duty bearers accountable,
- vii. 7. Convince government and donor partners to invest in afforestation for environmental conservation,



11. Challenges

The following challenges were recognized as common in all the CCRI sites: -

- i. **Land tenure** - In all the CCRI sites, there was no recognition of community land rights. There is and grabbing by companies due to lack of formal rights and forest lands being encroached on. The community assessment suggested the following strategies:
 - Planting of trees to mark farm and forest boundaries,
 - Engaging with government to grant land title to communities
 - Restitution of lands and/or compensation where lands have been taken away from communities,
 - Formation of communal land associations,
 - Strengthening community(s) cultural beliefs and traditions,
 - Planting nurseries to restore forest areas and fighting against unsustainable use of natural resources in any way including by fishermen and
 - Facilitating greater gender participation.
 - And ensuring the recognition of ICCAs by the government
- ii. **Elite capture of natural resources** – Elites from the communities sell out community natural resources to investors without obtaining any consent from the communities. For instance, a community member talked about her neighbour who was cutting down forests for profits and destroying their water source. There was a feeling that felt that grassroots involvement, solidarity and advocacy was the only way forward. People have to talk to their community members to make them understand the overall welfare of the community and sometimes social pressure can stop local elite from misusing their power.
- iii. **Lack of interest in the environment** - lack of interest in the environment is a major concern. Youth especially migrate to the cities and care less about their environments at home. This trend is most marked with the youth in all the communities. There is a strong need to sensitize the youth of their heritage and encourage them to take pride in their traditional way of living. In this, education and awareness, especially amongst children is important. Children should be taught to involve themselves more with their communities by volunteering for specific tasks. However, the lack of employment is a serious concern and it does lead to migrations to the cities. We need to think about grassroots sustainability and livelihoods. Developing appropriate market linkages for non-timber forest produce could create additional employment and livelihoods in a sustainable manner.
 - **A huge gap between law, policy and practice** – despite the law providing for community rights including land rights, there is a huge gap in implementing the

legal provisions. Generally, rural communities and women in particular, lack information about their legal rights and access to mechanisms to enforce them.⁵¹ This calls for massive legal capacity building, training of paralegals and hiring of a lawyer to support the communities.

- iv. **Community expectations.** Communities were skeptical about the details on bio-resources. One community person insinuated by saying that, “even that’s how people of oil came to persuade us to give them our land” meaning that if information on their bio-resource is put to public domain, then they are likely to be on the loose out. Their main concern was they didn’t want oil companies to displace or relocate them

12. Solution oriented approaches, strategies and policies

Amidst these threats, communities are organizing themselves in ways that will ensure effective responses. NAPE is advocating for building communities capacities to demand their rights to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), lands, water and sanitation, gender inclusion among others. NAPE is also creating linkages between the communities with national institutions and government officials and international organizations for example the National Environment Management Authority, Wetlands Management Department, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat. NAPE is also pursuing bottom up approaches through district level meetings with policy makers and administrative officials to inform policy makers at the national level.

The development and use of information materials in local languages fosters understanding of issues at the community level. NAPE is also advocating for the recognition of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in Uganda, while fundraising for post-CCRA activities.

Recommendations

- I. Support for the communities, through NAPE, to map their territories and resources. Community conserved areas (ICCAs) should also be clearly marked and protected.
- II. Clearly document the community conservation initiatives and methods as a way of clearly showing the role communities play in conservation.
- III. Undertake research to determine the biological impact of community conservation initiatives.
- IV. Strengthening communities representative structures through capacity building, development of community collective vision, visits to other communities to learn,

⁵¹ AMANDA ELLIS, CLAIRE MANUEL, AND C. MARK BLACKDEN, **Gender and Economic Growth in Uganda: Unleashing the Power of Women**, The World Bank, 2006. Available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRREGTOPGENDER/Resources/gender_econ_growth_ug.pdf

and developing conflict management structures. The development of community bio-cultural protocols would also be necessary.

- V. Promoting the inclusion of women in decision-making processes at all levels.
- VI. Enabling and strengthening dialogue between the communities and the Oil companies and Green Resources to encourage pursuit of investment approaches that entrench rights and respect the free, prior and informed consent of the communities. This will also entail building the capacity of the companies to respect human rights in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.⁵² Community negotiation capacities also need to be strengthened.
- VII. On going initiatives to compel Uganda to respect its duty to respect and protect human rights including from actions of transnational corporations.
- VIII. NAPE should work with parliamentarians to ensure that legislations recognize community rights. New legislations that recognized community lands, community conserved areas, and traditional knowledge should also be developed.
- IX. Linkages with on-going wide scale conservation focussed dialogues, plans and discussions for example REDD+.
- X. Building legal capacity of the communities through training and legal aid.

⁵² United Nations, *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*, [Online] Available at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf, Accessed on 14th July 2105