

AWF in Uganda

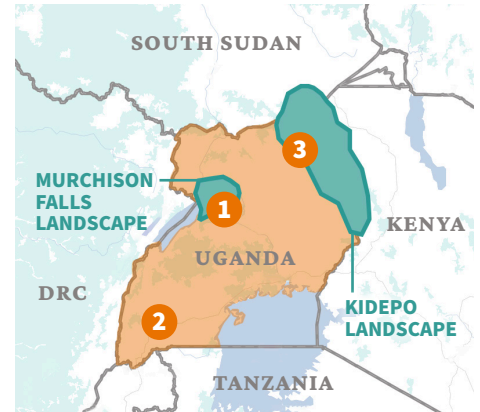


UGANDA IS HOME TO HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION OF MOUNTAIN GORILLAS.

Uganda comprises less than one percent of the total land area of Africa, yet it ranks as one of the continent's top ten most biodiverse countries. This biodiversity, much of which is found in more than 60 protected areas including ten national parks, is an important driver of Uganda's economy. It is part of ecosystems that provide essential resources to people, such as fresh water, healthy soil, and clean air. However, population growth and rapid development threaten the ecosystems that wildlife—and people—depend upon.

Since 1968, AWF has worked in virtually every protected area of the country, recognizing the crucial role of local communities in developing long term conservation solutions that create value for people. By empowering communities, investing in conservation education, fostering partnerships, developing infrastructure in parks, improving habitat management, building capacity, promoting tourism, and supporting nature-based enterprises, we have been able to make a significant impact in protecting Uganda's biodiversity.

Conservancies



- 1 Murchison Community Conservancy
- 2 Rurambira Conservancy
- 3 Karenga Community Wildlife Area

Our Work Today

We are supporting a prosperous Uganda in which wildlife and healthy ecosystems are the bedrock for community and national development through a people-centered approach to conservation. We work at the national level and in rural areas connected to important areas of biodiversity, with a focus on:

- Supporting nature positive conservation policies and promoting effective operating environments for conservation.
- Increasing ecosystem and livelihoods resilience to economic, social, and climate change pressures on wildlife and wildlife habitats outside protected areas.
- Protecting at-risk wildlife and improving management of wildlife habitats.



Our Impact in Uganda

1975

AWF launches **Wildlife Clubs of Uganda**, modeled after the success AWF's launch of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. The goal of wildlife clubs is to empower youth to find a connection to conservation through knowledge-building, engagement, and leadership training.

1991

The International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP) is formed. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International and the World Wide Fund for Nature, AWF supports the launch of this transboundary collaboration covering the entire mountain gorilla range in Rwanda, DRC, and Uganda.

1999

AWF launches a landscape approach in the **Virungas transboundary Landscape**. This program was among the first to consider the potential for community conservation tied to lodges and ecotourism as a method to combat habitat decline.

..... 1990

AWF helps Uganda National Park set up a new community-conservation base at **Lake Mburo National Park**, sensitizing local communities to the importance of conservation and ecosystem integrity.

..... 1996

AWF supports the transformation of the governmental department of Uganda National Parks into the **Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)**. The move strengthens conservation efforts in the country with an aim of protecting important biodiversity, promoting tourism, and moving conservation efforts towards benefiting the people of Uganda.

..... 2004

AWF, UWA, and IGCP are instrumental in directing and supporting the formation of the **Nkuringo Conservation Development Foundation**, bringing together community members from 23 villages near Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to engage in conservation that creates value for local people.

2006

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park Ntebeko Visitors Center opens with AWF support. The center serves as the starting point for gorilla trekking, enhancing tourism services and educating local and international visitors about conservation of mountain gorillas.

2008

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge opens with AWF support and is the main source of income for **Nkuringo Conservation Development Foundation (NCDF)**, which has designated more than US \$700K* of income from the lodge to the local community. *2008-2020

2013

AWF helps to **establish Uganda's first conservancy**, Rurambira Conservancy.

2014

AWF is a key player in the development of the **Uganda Wildlife Policy 2014**, a first of its kind effort to reduce the rate of habitat destruction outside protected areas. Since its implementation the country has enhanced community engagement through wildlife-based tourism sharing, improved management of human-wildlife conflict, and experienced gains in wildlife populations.

2015

AWF plays a pivotal role in the formation of the greater **Virunga Transboundary Collaboration**, bringing together officials and partners from Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for better coordination and communications around conservation efforts for mountain gorillas.

An outcome of the Uganda Wildlife Policy 2014 is a proposal by AWF to **establish conservancies** in Uganda. Conservancies consist of private or community owned land set aside for conservation use to strengthen and expand habitat protection, diversify tourism experiences, and engage landowners and communities directly in wildlife conservation.

2016

Murchison Community Conservancy is established with AWF support.

AWF helps to establish the **East African Wildlife Prosecutors Coalition**, of which Uganda was a collaborator. The program builds capacity to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes, prosecuting 202 cases in eight years.

AWF provides detection dogs and trained UWA dog-handlers to counter wildlife trafficking at **Entebbe International Airport**.

AWF supports development of **Guideline Regulations for Wildlife Conservancies in Uganda**.

2018

Karenga Community Wildlife Area is established with AWF support.

2021

AWF opens **Kidepo and Sarachom Primary Schools**. These schools are part of conservation covenants with local communities and include after school conservation education programs.



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