

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MTTI)



UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

MOUNT ELGON NATIONAL PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2009-2019



July 2009

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) prepared this General Management Plan with own internally generated funds. Consultations were held from all relevant stakeholders as shown in the appendices. Furthermore an analysis of stakeholders was done which gave guidance on the consultations made.

Uganda Wildlife Authority highly acknowledges the communities and the entire Mount Elgon region leadership who were candid in giving there comments during the Planning process.

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Guidance from: Uganda Wildlife Authority Top Management staff

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FOREWORD

Mt. Elgon was gazetted as a national park in 1993 having been initially gazetted a central forest reserve in 1938. The change in status from a forest reserve to a national park was in recognition of its water catchment, biological, cultural, historical and other values. Mt. Elgon National Park has become an island in a densely populated area. Its management and conservation is therefore a great challenge to Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the nation as a whole.

Since gazettement, UWA has met resistance during implementation of some programmes, especially those related to boundary management. Through UWA's strategy of community based conservation and through discussions in various fora, attitudes have gradually changed culminating in better community participation in the preparation of this management plan.

This document presents a ten-year management plan for Mt. Elgon National Park, which has also been recognized internationally as a Man and Biosphere Reserve. UWA is committed to the continued sustainable management of the Mt. Elgon ecosystem. This can only be achieved through proper long term planning which government has already identified and provided for in the Uganda Wildlife Act (Cap 200). Anyone reading this management plan will easily find out that it was prepared through a rigorous consultation process involving all stakeholders to ensure its acceptability and therefore ease of implementation. This General Management Plan also has captured the Business aspects (Business plan) to enable us improve on the revenue generation capacity to be able to sustain our operations.

I would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly to prepare this General Management Plan. Special thanks go the Planning team for the time and effort put into the process.

Allow me to also express my gratitude to the entire Board of Trustees for their valuable comments, which enabled us to improve the document.

Lastly, I duly entrust the Conservation Area Manager, Mt. Elgon Conservation Area with the authority to implement this plan, which is a pilot, having business sections incorporated for concurrent implementation.

Moses Mapesa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APPROVAL

The Board of Trustees of Uganda Wildlife Authority at their meeting of 10^{th} July 2009 approved this General Management Plan for implementation.

Moses Mapesa Kasirye Andrew
Executive Director Chairman Board of Trustees

July 2009

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BDM	Business Development Manager	NGOs/CBOs	Non Governmental Organizations/Community Based Organisations
CAM	Conservation Area Manager	NRO	Natural Resources Officer
CCAM	Chief Conservation Area Manager	PA	Protected Area
CDO	Community Development Officer	PM	Procurement Manager
CLC	Chief Legal Council	RS	Revenue Sharing
CM	Concessions Manager	SW	Senior Warden
DC	Director Conservation	SPEIAC	Senior Planning and Environment Impact
DCO	District Commercial Officer	UBOS	Assessment Coordinator Uganda Bureau of Standards
DEO	District Environment Officer	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
DISO	District Internal Security Officer	UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
ED	Executive Director	WA	Warden Accounts
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment	WCC	Warden Community Conservation
FACE	Forests Absorbing Carbon Emissions	WLE	Warden Law Enforcement
FEC	Forest Exploration Center	WMR	Warden Monitoring and Research
GISO	Gombolola (subcounty) Internal Security Officer	WP	Warden Plantation
GMPs	General Management Plans	WR	Warden Restoration
GoU	Government of Uganda	WT	Warden Tourism
HR	Human Resource		
HRM	Human Resources Manager		
ICTU	Information Communication Technology Unit		
IUCN	International Union for the conservation of		
LEC	nature Law Enforcement Coordinator		
LG	Local Government		
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation		
ME	Mount Elgon		
MECA	Mount Elgon Conservation Area		
MENP	Mt. Elgon National Park		
MM	Marketing Manager		
MoUs	Memoranda of Understanding		
MRC	Monitoring and Research Coordinator		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Mount Elgon National Park (MENP) is one of the six national parks that were formally forest reserves that Government in the early 1990s upgraded and gazetted as National Parks because of the threat of loss of biodiversity and degradation due to increasing human use. Mt. Elgon National Park is a forested montane ecosystem gazetted in 1993 as a national park and covering an area of 1,121km². Dense human population in the six districts of Bududa, Manafwa, Mbale, Sironko, Kapchorwa and Bukwo surrounds the park. The park forms a continuum with Mt. Elgon National Park on the Kenya side and a forest reserve.

Overall park management purpose

The overall purpose of Mt. Elgon National Park has been defined as: To conserve in perpetuity, Mt. Elgon National Park as Man and Biosphere Reserve, its fragile ecosystem, water catchment properties and diverse biodiversity that supports livelihoods for the national and global community.

The Planning Process

The Planning process for MENP started with the selection of a multi-disciplinary team, which was involved in the solicitation of views and identification of proposals for management of the Park. A planning team was composed of 16 people including 8 representatives from the local government and community leaders as shown below.

	Designation	Institution
1.	Senior Planning & EIA coordinator (Team Leader)	UWA Headquarters
2.	Conservation Area Manager (Co-Team Leader)	MECA
3.	Community Conservation Officer	UWA Headquarters
4.	Senior Planning & EIA Officer (Kapere Richard)	UWA Headquarters
5.	Warden in charge of Forest Restoration	MENP
6.	Warden, Tourism	MENP
7.	Warden, Community Conservation	MENP
8.	Warden, Law Enforcement	MENP
9.	District Environment Officer	Bukwo
10.	Community Development Officer	Kapchorwa
11.	Sipi Ecotourism Association	Kapchorwa
12.	Regional Land Officer	Mbale
13.	District Agricultural Officer	Bududa
14.	District Forest Officer	Manafwa
15.	Secretary for Production & Natural	Sironko
	Resources/Community Link representative	
16.	Resident State Attorney	Mbale

The team went through a series of planning steps to come up with this Plan. Among them was the field reconnaissance where members were exposed to all issues in the field, stakeholder consultation process where various members of the communities including the user groups, community leaders, District leaders, were consulted regarding their views on the park management. Thereafter a proposal generation workshop was held for the planning team to harmonize views received from various stakeholders and agree on proposals for the general management plan.

Conservation Values

The conservation values are those unique characteristics of an area that cause that area to be set aside for conservation purposes. A variety of biological, physical and cultural characteristics contribute important and unique attributes to the protected area. Mount Elgon National Park has a lot of these values for which MENP was set aside for conservation. Some of them are:

- Water catchment
- Support to community livelihoods (e.g. bamboo shoots, firewood, medicinal plants, etc.)
- Biodiversity conservation (fauna and flora)
- Largest caldera in the world and 2nd highest mountain in Uganda
- Carbon sink
- Cultural and historic sites (e.g. caves)

International recognition

Man and Biosphere Reserve

Management programs and summarized priority actions

During the planning process, a number of priority actions under different management programs were identified and are summarised here below:

Resource conservation

Land conflicts

- 1. Implement recommendation contained in the verification reports and reports from the steering committee
- 2. Expedite court cases where possible

Restoration of degraded areas

- 1. Assess the extent of degraded areas
- 2. Develop restoration plans
- 3. Source for funding
- 4. Restore the areas following the restoration plans

Plantation establishment and management

- 1. Tree nursery establishment
- 2. Tree planting
- 3. Preparation of the harvesting plan

Community conservation

Boundary management

- 1. Mark the remaining boundary sections with pillars and live markers
- 2. Regularly maintain the park boundary
- 3. Sensitize the communities on the boundary marking exercise
- 4. Involve local leaders in Monitoring the implementation of the MoUs on boundary management

Resource access

- 1. Participate in district planning meetings
- 2. Liaise with LG's and other partners to promote alternative resources outside the park
- 3. Organize exchange visits for communities
- 4. Liase with relevant partners to establish on-farm conservation demonstration activities
- 5. Develop MoUs for accessing cultural sites
- 6. Develop some sites for cultural tourism
- 7. Carry out resource availability inventories for resource access
- 8. Identify alternative resources outside the park

Conservation awareness

- 1. Engage the relevant companies to pay for ecosystem services
- 2. Use music dance and drama focusing on MENP conservation
- 3. Introduce conservation award schemes
- 4. Rejuvenate Mount Elgon focus magazine
- 5. Introduce road shows about conservation
- 6. Encourage district councils to hold meetings/outings within MENP
- 7. Organize Cooperate social responsibility events

Problem animal & vermin management

- 1. Lobby the districts to recruit vermin guards
- 2. Implement vermin/problem animal management control innovations in areas affected
- 3. Create community awareness in vermin control methods

Alternative livelihoods

- 1. Support alternative livelihood initiatives
- 2. Develop capacity for communities for proposal writing
- 3. Lobby the LG to co-fund the district officials to monitor community projects

Community-park relations

- 1. Target surrounding communities for employment
- 2. Organize/participate in social activities and contribute during community events (sports, weddings, burial, church)
- 3. Support implementation of district programmes where appropriate and possible

4. Organize inter district forum to discuss the conservation of MENP

Park operations

Park infrastructure

- 1. Renovate staff accommodation at Wanale, Gamilo, Kapkwata, Suam
- 2. Complete construction of IUCN/Wanale block for office
- 3. Secure ownership and renovate information office at Budadiri
- 4. Construct new offices at Kapkwata and Suam
- 5. Contruct gates in Suam, Kapkwai, Kapkwata, Bumagabula
- 6. Construct outposts at Bumbo, Bubwala Bushiyi, Bumagabula, Zesui, Sisiyi, Zanzasi, Piswa, Kortek, Sasa,
- 7. Construct new outpost at the Calidera/hotspring, Chepkwsta
- 8. Construct senior staff accommodation on plot 23, Mbale town
- 9. Construct junior staff accommodation at Wanale, & Gamiro
- 10. Construct offices and staff accommodation at Budadiri for WT, Information clerk, and guides.

Administration

- 1. Attend security meetings as and when called upon
- 2. Visit the local leaders and security agencies to share experiences
- 3. Carry out joint patrols with security agencies
- 4. Formalize ownership of plot 21B and 23, Budadiri, Bufumbo road and others and Acquire land titles
- 5. Recruit a legal officer/assign a specific officer for MENP

Security

- 1. Assess the relevance of the access routes to and through the park
- 2. Use the access route from Suam through the caldera to Kenya for tourism activities
- 3. Work with GISO and DISOs to collect intelligence information
- 4. Identify open markets for illegal products from the park
- 5. Provide incentives for surrendering poachers

Capacity development

- 1. Decentralize specific trainings for MENP in the training plan
- 2. Evaluate the impacts of the decentralized training

Transboundary collaboration

- 1. Develop and implement joint patrol plans and surveillance
- 2. Carry out joint marketing and monitoring of wildlife and wildlife products
- 3. Work with other agencies to develop a joint management plan for ME region
- 4. Explore areas of collaboration with LATIF, & Siyo-Malaba-Malakisi

Ecological Monitoring and Research

Monitoring and evaluation

1. Procure appropriate equipments for ecosystem monitoring and evaluation

- 2. Develop back ups and alternative approaches for data processing
- 3. Update existing databases
- 4. Encourage researchers (internal and external) to do research in and around the park
- 5. Develop an internal M&E system for conservation strategies

Emergencies

- 1. Equip key weather stations (Kapkwai, Kapkwata, Suam, Sasa, Bumbo, & Wanale)
- 2. Liaise with the relevant LG department on the management of disasters
- 3. Develop a fire and disaster preparedness plan
- 4. Procure First Aid kits for ranger posts and at the campsites

Inventory

- 1. Collect relevant data on biodiversity and other parameters
- 2. Conduct inventories of resources for community access
- 3. Establish a data bank

Development impacts

- 1. Prepare environmental status report every 5 years for MENP
- 2. Review EIAs and other environmental reports for developments in and around the park
- 3. Conduct audits for existing developments
- 4. Develop a waste management plan

Financial requirements

For the first six years (2009/2010 to 2014/2015) of the implementation of this plan there will be a negative financial gap as shown below. It is assumed that this gap shall be bridged by contributions from GoU, NGOs and Development partners in order to fully implement the planned actions and be self-sustainable for the remaining four years as shown below. Therefore the future is to implement the planned investments to ensure continued tourist increase hence increasing internal revenues. These shall be boosted by revenues from the tree plantation when ready for harvesting as shall be captured in the next GMP (2015/2025).

Projected revenues, tourist numbers and the expected financial gap

	Trojected for charge, tearlet frameere and the expected infarious gap									
YR	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	1018/19
Tourist (>200) numbers	4059	4259	4459	4659	4859	5059	5259	5459	5659	5859
Recurrent costs	370m	370m	370m	370m	370m	370m	370m	370m	370m	370m
Investment costs	232m	481m	270m	405m	280m	491m	25m	50m	50m	50m
Total exp.	602m	851m	640m	775m	650m	861m	395m	420m	420m	420m
Internal revenues	422m	476m	530m	584m	638m	692m	746m	800m	854m	908m
Gap (+/-)	(180m)	(375m)	(110m)	(191m)	(12m)	(169m)	351m	380m	434m	488m

Priority marketing strategies on tourism for revenue generation

Tourism Infrastructure

- 1. Identify tourism investment opportunities in and around the park
- 2. Organise 2 meetings with LGs on potential tourism investments outside the park
- 3. Construct one campsite midway along Bushiyi trail
- 4. Construct one campsite along Wanale nature trail (Nabuyonga loop)
- 5. Work with LG to rehabilitate Wanale access Road to the park
- 6. Re advertise Kapkwai cottages for private management
- 7. Renovate the Cottages and Tents and incorporate the necessary facilities at Kapkwai
- 8. Replace the current interpretative centre structure at Kapkwai
- 9. Establish a picnic site at Chebonet falls
- 10. Construct a canopy walk in the natural high forest at Kapkwai
- 11. Construct hanging bridges on Suam and Simu gorges
- 12. Construct additional facilities at Piswa camp
- 13. Establish a 5km nature trail at Kapkwata
- 14. Establish a camp site at the Caldera (Mukutano point), 3km from the Hot spring
- 15. Establish a tourism trail (38km) from Suam to Wagagai through the Hot spring
- 16. Establish an 8km nature trail through Ashower cave at Suam
- 17. Establish 4 camp sites along Suam to wagagai trail
- 18. Establish viewing platforms at the Hot spring and on the rock at Mudde camp
- 19. Establish a short trail from the hot spring to Siyo cave and water falls
- 20. Construct Visitor centre, curio shop, and interpretation area at UWA Suam office
- 21. Establish a camp site and the associated facilities on top of Tutum cave and redesign the trail
- 22. Establish a picnic site 7km between Kajeri campsite and Tutum cave
- 23. Construct additional 4 tent pads, bathrooms & latrines at Kajeri camp site and 6 tent pads at Muyembe, 10 at Sasa river camp and 10 at Hunters' camp)
- 24. Install ladders at the steep slope on the way to Kajeri camp and wall of death
- 25. Construct huts for porters (1) and tourists (1) at Kajeri camp site, Muyembe, Tutum, Mudde, Sasa and Hunters camp)
- 26. Improve the ladders in slippery areas on the mountain
- 27. Put boardwalks in boggy areas (caldera, Sasa trail)
- 28. Improve access to the tourism products by constructing bridges (river Dirigana, Caldera, Piswa trail, Tasakya river)

Marketing

- 1. Liase with travel agents to market the park
- 2. Put in place a marketing task force
- 3. Produce marketing materials e.g. brochures, guide books, local calendars, fact sheets, car tyre covers, and resale items
- 4. Brand MENP as a tourist destination

- 5. Organise annual fora with hoteliers, tour agents and other stakeholders to promote marketing
- 6. Develop partnerships for Cross border tourism

Capacity

- 1. Carry out specialised training for staff, guides and hotel staff
- 2. Arrange exchange visits for tour guides to other PAs

Tourism Equipment

- 1. Procure the necessary equipments
- 2. Develop a maintainance, replacement and disposal plan

Rescue and safety

- 1. Form, train and equip a search and rescue team (including guides)
- 2. Establish a network of informers
- 3. Prepare and distribute safety tips to visitors
- 4. Introduce a rescue fee

Tourism activities

- 1. Carry out assessment of potential attractions in and around the park
- 2. Introduce rock climbing and abseiling, sunrise/sunset viewing, canopy walks, tree climbing,
- 3. Introduce Cultural tourism (circumcision, bull fighting, cultural dances)
- 4. Start Butterfly viewing, Mountain biking, and Horse riding
- 5. Introduce Bird viewing at Sasa

Tourism products

1. Develop the following as tourism products; Canopy walk, Rock climbing using bolts, Hanging bridges, and Cliff swings

Tourism partnership

- 1. Identify areas for cooperation and hold progress meetings with tourism partners
- 2. Develop and implement MoUs for tourism based services with partners

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PART 1: BACKGROUND

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The conservation of MENP is of local, regional and international importance given the various values issues and challenges especially the dynamic parkpeople interactions associated with the park. The management plan therefore is important to guide the Managers and other stakeholders in the effective management of this ecosystem.

This plan identifies the desired conditions over the next 10 years in form of management programs and objectives and goes further to identify strategies and actions to enable managers achieve the management objectives.

1.2 LOCATION AND ACCESS

Mt. Elgon, from which the National Park derives its name, is a large mountain massif in eastern central Uganda. Most of the caldera of this extinct volcano lies within Uganda. However, a large part of the southern and eastern slopes of the massif lies within Kenya.

The Mt. Elgon massif (Including the lands on both sides of the international border) extends for about 80 km north to south and about 50 km west to east. The highest point on the crater rim is 4321 meters above sea level, making Mt. Elgon the eighth highest massif in Africa and the second highest in Uganda, after the Rwenzori.

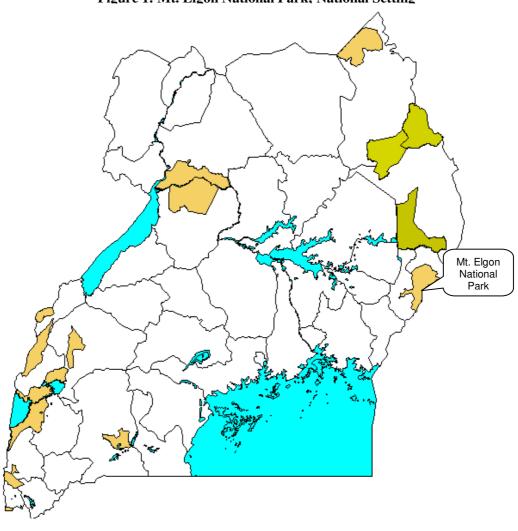
Mt. Elgon's caldera is located at approximately 1°09' North latitude and 34° 33' East longitude. Mt. Elgon summit is about 100 km NNE of Lake Victoria and 235 km ENE of Uganda's capital city of Kampala. The area of Mt. Elgon National Park is **1,121 square km**.

Six districts comprised of 31 subcounties that border the park are given below;

District	Subcounty	
Bukwo	Suam	
	Bukwo	
	Kabei	
	Chesower	
Kapchorwa	Chema	
	Sipi	
	Kaptanya	
	Benet	
	Kwanyiny	
	Tegeres	
	Kwosir	
Sironko	Bumasifwa	
	Zesui	

District	Subcounty
	Bugitimwa
	Masaba
	Buluganya
	Bulago
	Buginyanya
	Masira
Mbale	Busano
	Wanale
	Bufumbo
Manafwa	Bupoto
	Bumbo
	Tsekululu
Bududa	Bushika
	Bulucheke
	Bududa
	Bubiita
	Bumayoka
	Bukibokolo

Figure 1: Mt. Elgon National Park; National Setting



1.3 PARK DESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT

1.3.1 Park management history

Mt. Elgon was first gazetted as a forest reserve in 1938. It remained so under the management of the Forest Department, with several relatively minor changes in designation, until 1993 when its status was upgraded to a National Park.

During the period from 1938 - 1993 the reserve was managed primarily for the protection of its water catchment values and for limited exploitation of its timber resources by commercial harvesting operations and pit-sawyers. From 1993 until now (2008), the national Park is being administered in accordance with Uganda Wildlife laws and regulations, especially the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap 200. To further increase its conservation status, Mt. Elgon National Park was designated as Man and Biosphere (MAB) Reserve in June 2005 in Paris, France.

1.3.2 General Management Planning for MENP

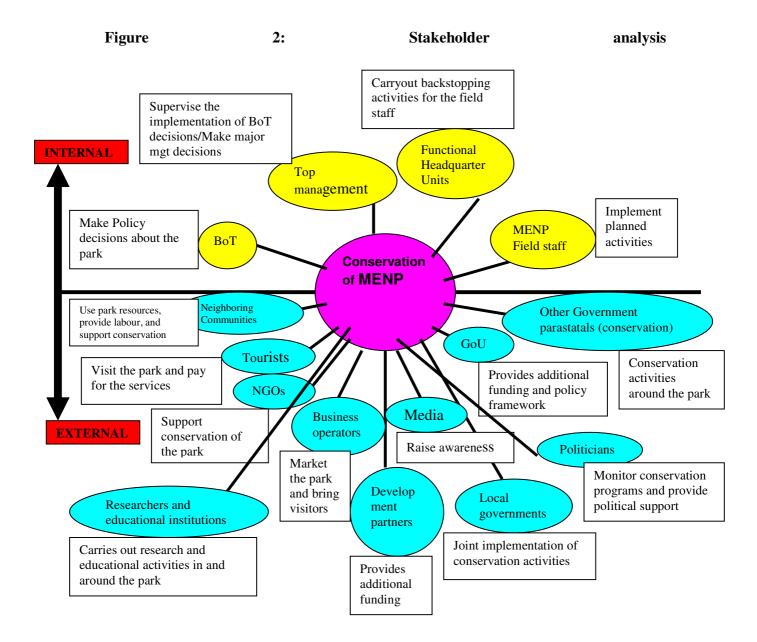
The General Management Plan is a tool that guides the management of Mt. Elgon National Park. The plan identifies Park values and management challenges that need to be addressed. Management objectives and prioritized actions to address these issues are outlined. The plan is thus a primary tool to be used in the subsequent preparation of annual operational plans and provides the basis for evaluating operational performance in achieving management objectives.

The previous General Management Plan was prepared in 2000 and was expected to expire in 2005. In 2005, a performance evaluation of the GMP was carried out and results indicated that some of the planned activities had not been implemented. Management therefore made a decision to extend the expiry period to 2007.

The revision process for the GMP was started in September 2007 and a new General Management Plan that incorporates the Business Plan (2009-2019) was finalized in August 2009. This was a pilot project that incorporates the business ideas with the conservation ideas for sustainable management. It is envisaged that this combination will help UWA save resources in terms of time, financial and human that would have been spent preparing the two documents at different times. The new GMP will be user-friendly to the field staff during implementation.

1.3.3 Stakeholder analysis

Managing Mt. Elgon National Park requires deep understanding of the stakeholders who play different roles for the successful implementation of the planned activities. These include both internal and external stakeholders. The chart below illustrates the different stakeholders and their core activities in relation to the conservation of the park.



The external stakeholders can be grouped further according to their power of influence and their interest. This will help to strategically design actions to address each of the stakeholders concerns. The table below summarizes the above;

	High	Keep satisfiedPoliticians	Engage closely, and influence actively			
	• Media		 Local Governments Development partners Communities NGOs/CBOs GoU 			
POWER	Low	Monitor with minimum	Keep informed			
		effort	Tourists			
		Other Government parastatals	Researchers and educational institutions			
(conservation		(conservation)	Business operators			
		Low	High			

INTEREST

1.4 ENABLING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

It is essential for PA managers to understand some of the relevant laws that empower them and the legal notices by which the park was established. With this knowledge, they can effectively conduct law-enforcement work, ensure appropriate stakeholder participation in the management of the PA and address any challenges to its integrity. Some of the laws and policies pertaining to wildlife and biodiversity conservation in Uganda are summarized below.

The Constitution of Uganda (1995)

Overall government policy on natural resource conservation is enshrined in the Constitution, which provides that the State shall protect important natural resources such as land, water, wetlands, minerals, fauna and flora on behalf of the people of Uganda. Furthermore, the State shall create and develop parks and reserves to protect the biodiversity of Uganda (objectives XIII and XXVII).

The Uganda Wildlife Policy (1999 Draft)

The draft Uganda Wildlife Policy of 1999 is a revision of a 1995 version prepared prior to the enactment of the 1996 Uganda Wildlife Statute. This policy aims at making wildlife management more acceptable to Ugandans by ensuring that resources contribute to the well being of present and future generations. The policy seeks to conserve areas with great biological diversity which are representative of the major habitats of Uganda and which, together, include all indigenous species.

The Uganda Wildlife Act (Cap 200)

The management of wildlife and protected areas including MENP, is guided by the Uganda Wildlife Act¹ of 2000 (Chapter 200 in the Laws of Uganda, 2000), which states, "A National Park shall be an area of importance for wildlife conservation and management". The Act authorizes UWA to assume responsibility for wildlife management in Uganda, both inside and outside its protected areas. Under the Act, a Board of Trustees is appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry as the governing body of UWA. Section 13 of the Act requires the Executive Director to prepare a management plan for each protected area. The Act also includes all the Schedules of the repealed Game (Preservation and Control) Act, 1964, (the principal legislation of the former Game Department), and the National Parks Act, 1952.

The National Environment Act (Cap 153) 2000²

The National Environment Act establishes the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) as the principal agency in Uganda for the management of the environment. Section 37(1) of the Act provides for the identification and sustainable management of wetlands. Wetlands according to Section 37 (2) can be of "local, national and international importance as ecosystems and habitats of species of fauna and flora…"

The Third Schedule of the Act requires that environmental impact studies be carried out when national parks, game reserves (now wildlife reserves) and buffer zones and several other developments are being established. Guidelines for this process are given in the National Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 1998.

The Tourism Policy of Uganda 2003

The Tourism Policy recognizes that in the 1960's Uganda was a main tourism destination in Eastern Africa and therefore tourism was one of the major economic sectors for the country. Unfortunately the turmoil of the 1970's and 1980's drastically reduced wildlife numbers and destroyed infrastructure resulting into reduced numbers of tourists. This policy is aimed at ensuring that tourism becomes a vehicle for poverty eradication in the future to the extent possible within the resource base and market limitations. It further recognizes UWA's role and contribution towards the achievement of this objective. This is mainly in the area of managing and developing the extensive resource base as well as developing and marketing various products. The policy further emphasizes the need to facilitate the flow of tourists within the region and promotion of East Africa as a single tourist destination.

The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003

The Act provides for among other things, the conservation, sustainable management and development of forests, and the promotion of tree planting for

¹ First enacted as the Uganda Wildlife Statute No. 14 of 1996

² First enacted as the National Environment Management Statute No. 4 of 1995

the benefit of people of Uganda and the international community. It classifies forests in Uganda as central forest reserves, local forest reserves, community forests and forests forming part of a wildlife conservation area declared under the Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996. The Act recognizes various stakeholders in the management of forest reserves, which should be guided by the Management Plan prepared by the responsible body. In addition the Act aims at ensuring that forests and trees are conserved and managed in a manner that meets the needs of the present generation without comprising the rights of future generations by safeguarding forest biological diversity and the environmental benefits that accrue from forest and trees.

The Wetlands Policy 1995

Wetlands cover about 13% of Uganda's total land surface and provide a range of biophysical and socio-economic functions. The National Wetlands Policy for the conservation and management of wetland resources seeks to promote the conservation of wetlands in order to sustain their values for the present and future well being of the people. The Policy sets five goals:

- To establish the principles by which wetland resources can be optimally used now and in the future
- To end practices which reduce wetland productivity
- To maintain the biological diversity of natural or semi-natural wetlands
- To maintain wetland functions and values
- To integrate wetland concerns into the planning and decision making of other actors

International Conventions and agreements

The following conventions are some of the most relevant to the conservation of biodiversity in Uganda:

- **1.** <u>Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992:</u> In 1993, Uganda became a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which in Article 8, obliges member states to:
- Establish a system of protected areas
- Develop guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas
- Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings
- **2.** <u>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</u>: Uganda is a party to CITES, which obliges member states to adhere to the recommendations of the Conference of Parties with respect to trade in endangered species.

- **3.** Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971: The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands emphasizes the need to conserve wetlands and requires member states to include possible wetlands on the list of Wetlands of International Importance. Uganda already has the following designated Ramsar sites and more are being proposed:
 - i. Lake Bisina wetland system
 - ii. Lake Mburo Nakivali wetland system
 - iii. Lake Nakuwa wetland system
 - iv. Lake Opeta wetland system
 - v. Lutembe Bay wetland system
 - vi. Mabamba Bay wetland system
- vii. Murchison Falls-Albert Delta wetland system
- viii. Nabajjuzi wetland system
- ix. Sango Bay-Musambwa Island-Kagera wetland system
- x. Lake George
- xi. Lake Nabugabo wetland system

Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls and Lake George are fully/partly located in wildlife protected areas.

4. <u>Convention on migratory species of wild animals (CMS):</u> Realizing that animal migration is a global phenomenon in response to biological requirements, several countries have come together under the CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, to cooperate in the conservation of animals that migrate across national boundaries and between areas of national jurisdiction and the sea. The Convention aims to improve the status of all threatened migratory species through national action and international agreements between range states of particular groups of species. Agreements can range from legally binding multilateral treaties to less formal memoranda of understanding. The object of such agreements is to restore the migratory species to a favourable conservation status or to maintain it at that status.

The Convention has two appendices: Appendix I lists endangered migratory species, Appendix II lists migratory species to be subject to agreements. It also establishes a scientific council to provide advice on scientific matters.

1.5 THE ECOLOGY OF MT. ELGON

Volcanism

The rocks of the Elgon massif are entirely volcanic in origin and include tuffs, coarse agglomerates, basalts, and mudflow materials (Davenport, 1996). The volcanic activity associated with Mt. Elgon is dated to early Miocene times, 10 - 25 million years ago. The base of Mt. Elgon covers an area of about 4000 square km, more than the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It is thus thought that at one time, Mt. Elgon may well have been higher than Kilimanjaro. Following a major eruption at some time in the past, the summit of Elgon collapsed into the chamber from which volcanic material had been expelled. The resulting Elgon caldera is about 8 km in diameter, making it one of the larger examples of this type of feature in the world.

The floor of the caldera lies at about 3500 metres, or some 800 metres below the highest point on the crater rim. That high point is Wagagai at 4321 metres. Just north of Wagagai is Jackson's Peak at 4160 metres.

The general outline of Mt. Elgon is that typical of a shield volcano, with very gentle slopes in the order of 3° - 4°. In detail, however, the lower part of the mountain is made up of a series of benches separated by prominent cliffs. This characteristic terrain is the product of differential weathering of the various volcanic materials. At a micro-scale, therefore, the result is a very broken, rugged landscape of cliffs and mesas.

Caves

There are numerous caves on Mt. Elgon, some of them up to 300 or more metres in length. These caves are the result of differential weathering of various volcanic materials. Some of Mt. Elgon's caves are the result of small-scale salt mining operations in the period before European contact. Many of these mining caves and others as well, were used as semi-permanent shelters by peoples of the region until well into the 20th century (Robinson, 1993).

Other Mt. Elgon caves have been created or enlarged by the action of animals, with the objective again being to gain access to salts of sodium, calcium, and magnesium. Buffalo, bushbuck, waterbuck, giant forest hogs, monkeys, and baboons are all known to obtain salt from these caves (Weltzien, 1997).

Notwithstanding the unusual importance of this mining action by humans and other animals, however, most of Mt. Elgon's caves are the result of mechanical weathering and solution or chemical weathering. On this volcanic massif, solution action has dissolved calcites that act as cements, holding together the agglomerated pyroclastic materials that make up the bulk of Mt. Mt. Elgon. With the cement of these agglomerates dissolved, the result has been the collapse or rock-fall of residual material, and thus the creation of caves.

Glaciation

Unlike Mts. Kilimanjaro and Kenya, and the Rwenzori Mountains, Mt. Elgon has no active glaciers. However, there are extensive signs of glaciation on the upper reaches of Mt. Elgon, with the last glaciers having disappeared perhaps 10,000 years ago. Moraines are present both within Mt. Elgon's crater and on the outer slopes of the mountain. On the northern slopes, moraines occur as low as 3350 metres. One terminal moraine feature within the crater rim is some 150 metres high and 3 km long (Miriam, 1995).

The numerous tiny rock basin lakes that are particularly attractive features of the upper mountain are also legacies of glaciation. Finally the effects of past glaciation on distribution of parent material continue to have a very important influence on the distribution of Mt. Elgon's plant communities above 3500 metres.

Climate and Hydrology

The main influences on the amount of rainfall in Mt. Elgon National Park are firstly the orthographic effect of the mountain massif itself, and secondly the proximity to Lake Victoria. Rainfall in the Park ranges from 1500 - 2500 mm per year. Mid-slope locations at elevations between 2,000 and 3,000 metres tend to receive more rainfall than either the lower slopes or the summit.

The main moisture bearing winds are from the southwest and the enormous expanse of Lake Victoria. Thus rainfall tends to be higher on the western and southern slopes of Mt. Elgon than on eastern and northern slopes. Rain falls on the mountain during all months of the year. However, July - August and December - February tend to be relatively dry periods.

Not only is rainfall abundant on Mt. Elgon, it is also highly dependable. There is a more than 90% probability that sites on Mt. Elgon will receive at least 1000 mm of rainfall in a given year. Thus moisture deficits are rare occurrences in the Mt. Elgon region.

Soils

The soils of Mt. Elgon are primarily volcanic in origin. They are relatively young and fertile, being high in calcium, sodium, and potassium. Under natural conditions, these soils support a varied tropical forest. Cleared of forest cover, these same soils support a highly productive agriculture and a high population density, although landslides are a hazard on steeper cleared slopes during rainy periods. The soils of Mt. Elgon's forest belt are brown to red-brown clay-loams. They are up to a metre or more deep. Above 3,000 metres, however, shallow black humus soils predominate.

1.6 VALUES AND OTHER BENEFITS FROM THE PARK

The values of Mt. Elgon National Park are numerous and diverse. Some are primarily local or regional in character, while others are significant at the national or international/global levels. These values also range from those that are of critical importance for the economic well being of residents of the region to those that are less tangible and more aesthetic in character.

1.6.1 Water catchment

Mt. Elgon has great value for local residents as a source of water. It receives large amounts of rainfall, which is of critical importance for it's vegetation and the surrounding farming communities. In addition to the direct benefits of regular and reliable rainfall for agriculture, the forests and soils of Mt. Elgon intercept rainfall and runoff, retain it, and subsequently release it at a rate that can be effectively used by farmers and other residents of the region living both near the mountain and further down-slope or downstream. The mountain is the main catchment for Lake Kyoga in Uganda via the Mpologoma River and Lake Turkana in Kenya via the Suam and Bukwa Rivers. It is the source of water for the people of Kapchorwa, Bududa, Sironko, Bukwo, Busia, Butaleja, Katakwi, Mbale, Kumi, Pallisa, Tororo, Soroti, Budaka, Bukedea and Nakapiripiriti Districts via its many streams. Water from the mountain then flows into the Nile River and thus contributes to water supplies further downstream into Sudan, Egypt and finally to the Mediterranean Sea. The critical importance of Mt. Elgon as a water catchment area is thus obvious. Within Bugisu and Sebei region alone, over one million people in an area of about 4,000 km² are directly dependent upon water sources that originate from Mt. Elgon.

1.6.2 Support to community livelihoods

The Mt Elgon Protected Area is located in a region of high population density owing to the fertile volcanic soils on its slopes and relatively high rainfall that favours agricultural production. Consequently, it has always had a high level of interaction between humans and nature, using it as a source of traditional medicine, food (bamboo shoots, honey, mushrooms, vegetables, fish, etc.) for their subsistence. In addition the forest has also been used as a source for building and handicraft materials and to some extent, timber mainly from the plantations of Kapkwata and Suam. Traditionally, hunting takes place both for bush meat and for skins of black and white colobus monkeys (cover page photograph) for use in circumcision ceremonies by the Bagisu and Sabiny in Uganda and Babukusu in Kenya, although legally law does not accept it.

1.6.3 Mt. Elgon fauna and flora

Flora: The vegetation of Mt. Elgon reflects the altitudinally controlled zonal belts commonly associated with large mountain massifs. Howard (1991) recognized four broad vegetation communities:

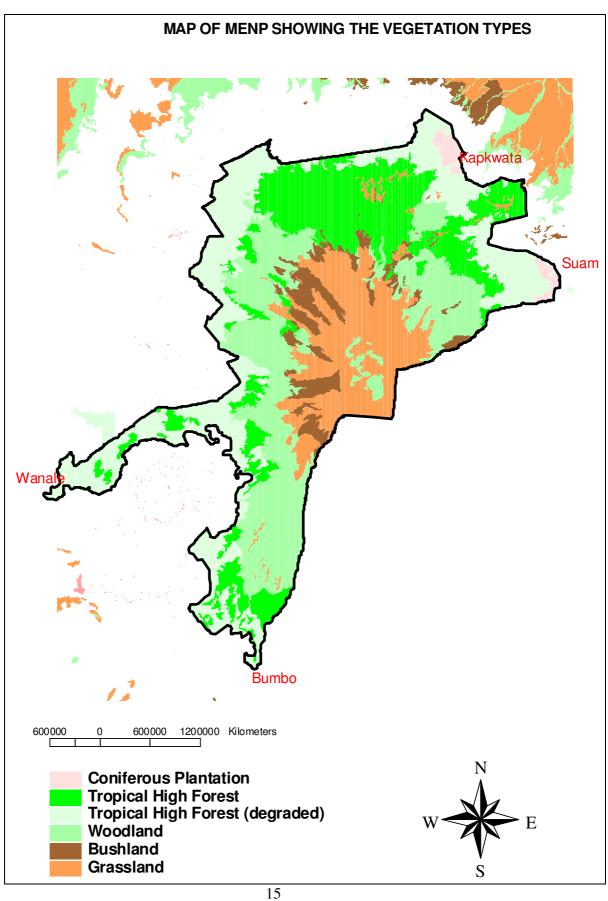
- Montane forest, up to an elevation of 2500 meters and comprising 48% of the total Park area;
- Mixed Bamboo and low canopy montane forest, from 2400 3000 meters and comprising 21 % of the Park area;
- High montane heath, from 3000 to 3500 meters and comprising 7% of the Park area:
- Moorland, above 3500 meters and comprising 24% of the Park area.

Fauna: The Park is considered to be highly significant with respect to small mammals, butterflies, and moths. A total of 30 species of small mammals (shrews and rodents) are known to occur on Mt. Elgon, consisting of a mix of highland, forest-dependent and open habitat species. In addition there are a range of larger mammals including monkeys (black and white colubus, blue and the de brazzas) leopards, elephants, bushpigs, Waterbuck, and duikers. Mt. Elgon supports a diversity of bird species normally associated with tropical mountain massifs and the resultant range of habitats.

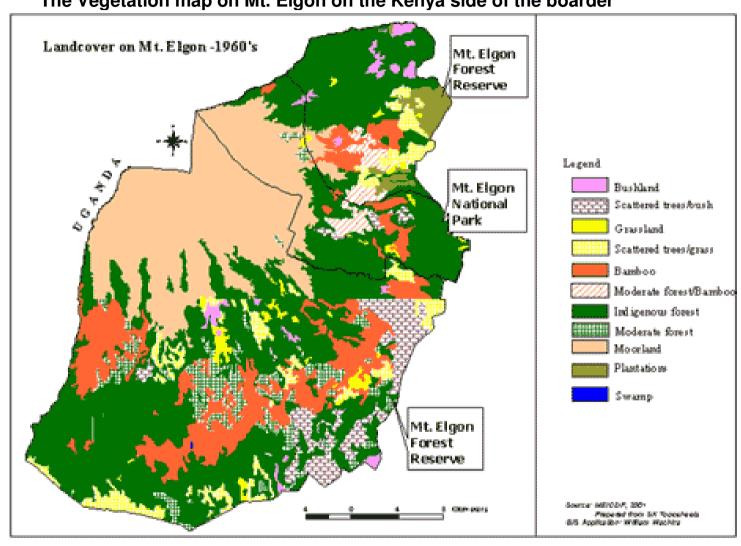
The 1996 Biodiversity Report (Howard, 1996) specifically made an inventory of butterflies and moths of MENP's forest zones. 171 species of butterflies and 71 species of moths were recorded.

The pictures below show some of the fauna and flora found in Mount Elgon National Park and its surroundings.





The Vegetation map on Mt. Elgon on the Kenya side of the boarder



1.6.4 Largest caldera in the world and 2nd Highest Mountain in Uganda

Mount Elgon is associated with volcanic activity that may have happened 10 million years ago. Following a major eruption at some time in the past, the summit of Elgon collapsed into the chamber from which volcanic material had been expelled. The resulting Elgon caldera is about 8 km in diameter, making it one of the larger examples of this type of feature in the world. The floor of the caldera lies at about 3500 metres, or some 800 metres below the highest point on the crater rim. That high point is Wagagai at 4321 metres. Just north of Wagagai is Jackson's Peak at 4160 metres.

1.6.5 Carbon sink

A sink refers to forests, vegetation or soils that can absorb carbon dioxide (**CO**₂). Carbon dioxide is the largest contributing gas to the greenhouse effect. In the 200 years since 1800, levels have risen by over 30%. Since levels of greenhouse gases are currently rising even steeper, leading to the most dramatic change in the atmosphere's composition in at least 650,000 years, international action on mitigation is urgently required (*source: UNFCCC fact sheet, 2008*).

Reforestation of previously encroached areas within Mt. Elgon National Park can provide opportunities for trapping atmospheric carbon by trees, thus contributing to reduction of the Greenhouse gases. Based on this opportunity, the UWA-Face Project, funded by a consortium of Dutch electricity companies, targeted to restore 25,000 hectares of encroached areas with indigenous tree species over a period of 25 years. By 2008, 8500ha has been restored as part of the efforts to address climate change.

Climate change negatively impacts on highland, lowland, aquatic, semi-arid and water ecosystems in various ways depending on disaster. Drought is the most important and widespread disaster in Uganda. Storms, heavy rains and floods are also important clusters of disaster in Uganda. These clusters of disasters negatively impacts on key sectors such as water resources, health, soils, wildlife and infrastructure. The resultant impacts on wildlife are listed below;

- People incursions into Protected areas
- Wild fires
- Migration of animals
- Drop in water levels
- Disruption of the reproductive cycle of animals
- Destruction of infrastructure
- Loss of life
- Destruction of flora
- Lightning
- Changes in species composition and distribution

1.6.6 Cultural and historic sites

Apart from the cultural importance attached to traditional products removed from Mt. Elgon, there is considerable cultural significance accorded by local residents to certain specific sites on the mountain. These sacred sites are either burial or ritual sites or are associated with natural products that are present in unusual quality or quantity. Other sites are important because of events that occurred there such as circumcision ceremonies of the Bagisu people.

For visitors from other countries and other cultures, the cultural and historical values associated with Mt. Elgon have the potential to add immeasurably to the interest and value of their Park experiences. Sites associated with some of the first visits to Mt. Elgon by Europeans are also of historic interest, particularly to the park's international visitors. The routes used and peaks reached by Frederick Jackson's 1890 (**MENP GMP 2000**) party are noteworthy, as are villages visited by Carl Jung in 1925, although many of the routes and sites in question are now on the Kenya side of the border.

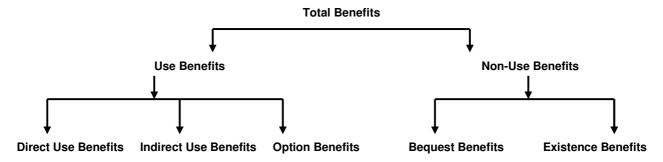
1.6.7 International recognition

Mt. Elgon National Park was designated as a Man and Biosphere (MAB) Reserve at the Advisory Meeting that took place in June 2005 in Paris, France. The park lies at the border between Uganda and Kenya and straddles the districts of Kapchorwa, Sironko, Manafwa, Bukwo, Bududa and Mbale in Uganda. The part in Uganda covers an area of about 1,121 km², which is continuous with Mt. Elgon Forest reserve and Mt. Elgon National Park on the Kenya side of the border, covering a total area of about 90,000 ha of habitat. The objectives for the designation as a man and biosphere reserve include;

- To contribute to the effective conservation and management of landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity
- To foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- To provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local, national, regional and global issues of conservation and development.
- To place Mt. Elgon on the global mountain agenda
- To enhance the touristic potential of Mt. Elgon including the community based tourism
- To enhance public awareness and appreciation of the resources
- To promote regional cooperation in Natural Resource Management

1.6.8 Goods and services

The goods from MENP include recreational opportunities through mountain climbing, basic food items and genetic materials, while the services are biodiversity conservation, crop pollination, water purification and wildlife viewing. These goods and services provide people with a stream of benefits from the existence of the protected area. These benefits can be divided into use and non-use benefits, which in turn can be sub-divided into direct, indirect, option, bequest and existence benefits. The figure below represents this in diagrammatic form.



The various goods and services from MENP fall into one or more of these categories.

Use			Non-use		
Direct	Indirect	Option	Bequest	Existence	
Recreation	Ecosystem services	Future information	Use and non use values for legacy	Biodiversity	
Sustainable	Climate	Future uses		Ritual or spiritual	
harvesting	stabilization	(indirect & direct)		values	
	Flood control			Culture, heritage	
Fuel wood	Ground water recharge			Community values	
Gene harvesting	Carbon sequestration			Landscape	
Education	Wildlife habitat				
Gene harvesting	Nutrient retention				
Education	Natural disaster prevention				
Taungya farming	Watershed protection				
Research					

1.6.9 Economic contribution and impact

The majority of the people who earn their livelihoods from MENP related activities are the poorest and often marginalized (e.g. unemployed youth, women, elderly, internally displaced people/refugees, forest dwellers). They hardly grow their own fuel-wood, own land or possess productive assets. They depend heavily on access to park resources for survival. The table below shows examples of poverty levels in some selected sub counties surrounding the park (*source: UBOS 2005*)

Table 1: Poverty levels in some subcounties surrounding the park

Sub-	Individual Headcount	Poverty Gap	Income Inequality	Estimated No. of	
County	Index % inds. below	Index	Gini coefficient	poor individuals	Estimated no. of
 	Poverty Line	% of Pov. Line		P	individuals 2005
	(std. error)	(std. error)	(std. error)	(std. error)	
Bukwa	36.04 (2.18)	10.07 (0.9)	0.33 (0.01)	3,933 (238)	10,914
Chesower	35.49 (1.99)	9.32 (0.72)	0.29 (0.01)	3,508 (197)	9,884
Kabei	37.53 (1.77)	10.17 (0.69)	0.29 (0.01)	4,247 (200)	11,317
Suam	37.07 (2.08)	10.44 (0.83)	0.32 (0.01)	6,448 (362)	17,394
Kwanyiny	39.19 (2.22)	10.94 (0.93)	0.3 (0.01)	4,680 (265)	11,941
Benet	36.92 (1.57)	10.22 (0.68)	0.3 (0.01)	11,927 (507)	32,305
Chema	32.85 (1.88)	8.58 (0.72)	0.31 (0.01)	3,662 (210)	11,147
Kaptanya	34.77 (2.11)	9.69 (0.85)	0.34 (0.01)	4,476 (272)	12,873
Sipi	40.25 (2.27)	11.41 (0.96)	0.32 (0.01)	3,431 (193)	8,524
Tegeres	33.24 (2.18)	8.95 (0.86)	0.33 (0.01)	4,521 (297)	13,601
Bupoto	36.46 (1.53)	10 (0.61)	0.31 (0.01)	9,461 (397)	25,948
Bumbo	32 (1.79)	8.28 (0.63)	0.3 (0.01)	7,834 (438)	24,482
Wanale	35.03 (2.24)	9.25 (0.8)	0.29 (0.01)	4,942 (316)	14,107
Bufumbo	34.37 (1.69)	10.12 (0.89)	0.32 (0.01)	10,650 (524)	30,987
Busano	34.44 (1.79)	9.28 (0.7)	0.34 (0.01)	2,869 (149)	8,330
Bududa	32.67 (1.53)	8.69 (0.61)	0.36 (0.01)	3,915 (183)	11,982
Bushika	34.09 (1.71)	9.33 (0.69)	0.33 (0.01)	8,052 (404)	23,621
Bumayoka	28.47 (2.13)	7.53 (0.71)	0.34 (0.01)	2,356 (176)	8,276
Bulucheke	31.49 (1.64)	8.43 (0.66)	0.34 (0.01)	5,779 (301)	18,351
Bukibokolo	34.62 (1.77)	9.11 (0.64)	0.3 (0.01)	5,358 (274)	15,476
Bubiita	35.95 (1.69)	9.85 (0.73)	0.31 (0.01)	8,295 (390)	23,073

MENP has contributed to the ability of the poor local communities to raise income, as well as improving poor people's livelihoods. The park resource base and access of the poor to such resources are the two major concerns that need to be considered when examining how MENP benefits the poor people. In addition, it is recognised that resource management capacity and information significantly influence these factors. The following social benefits by different categories of people help to illustrate the PA contribution to the social development of the local people.

Employment opportunities

There is ample evidence to prove that the Park has improved income and standards of living among local communities. The Park has provided significant amounts of paid labour and training to the surrounding communities in an area where there are very few other sources of paid labour. The salaries and wages employees earn has allowed them to:

- increase household incomes:
- put up semi-permanent and in some cases permanent houses;
- purchase additional farmlands;
- increase household food security;
- enhance family stability;
- pay children's school fees; and
- purchase other household assets such as bicycles and radios

Apart from direct employment above, there exists the indirect employment. These are private ventures based on tourism in Mt. Elgon to benefit communities. Examples include Mt. Elgon Trekkers Association (META), Elgon Tours and Travel, Crows Nest campsite, Lacam lodge, Sisiyi Falls resort, Last Chance, etc. The life of individuals working in these enterprises has changed due to business opportunities accruing from the existence of Mt. Elgon National Park.

Revenue Sharing

Section 69 (4) of the Wildlife Act Cap. 200 mandates UWA to pay 20% of the park entry fees collected from a Wildlife Protected Area to the local government of the area surrounding the Wildlife Protected Area for economic development. Already a number of projects around MENP have been supported or implemented under this scheme to improve the livelihoods of surrounding communities. This is done to enable communities realize the tangible benefits that can accrue from the Park as opposed to inconveniences caused by the existence of the PA. Table 2 below summarizes the contribution, revenue sharing scheme has made to development in the areas around the Park.

Table 2: Revenue sharing with local governments

Date	Amount Disbursed	Project	Purpose
20 th Feb	UGX 5,000,000	Kabelyo P/S	Construction of four rooms class block
02		Moyok Parish	
		Kapchorwa	
21 st	UGX 6,000,000	Kapkwata S.S.	Buy a plot of land (UGX 1M) and
March		Kwanyiy S/C	construct 3 room class block
02		Kapchorwa	
21 st	UGX 5,000,000	Kapwkata P/S	Construction 4 room class block
March		Kwanyiy S/C of Kapchorwa	
02			
2004	UGX 4,000,000	Manafwa Bushiyi	Community Ecotourism initiative to
		Trail Project	construct a trial and a campsite
		Manafwa District	
2004	UGX 3,000,000	Chessower	Community tree and coffee nursery. To
		Environment Tree	raise seedlings for sale and for members
		Project, Kamet Kapchorwa	both increase household income and
			improve on the environment

Date	Amount Disbursed	Project	Purpose	
2004	UGX 4,000,000	Bumandanda Bee Keeping Project, Bufumbo Mbale	Raise household income and reduce over dependence on natural resources from the park.	
2 nd May 06	UGX 15,000,000	Mt. Elgon Bee Keeping Community (MEBKC) Sironko District	Increase and improve honey production/packing leading to increased income and improved livelihoods.	
October 2007	UGX 5,038,000	Nabeeki Bee Keeping Group Manafwa District	Buy more beehives to increase honey production and also acquire honey-harvesting equipment.	
October 2007	UGX 2,581,000	Ukha Nakhashisi Youth and Elderly group Bududa District	Raise Agro-Forestry trees, carry out soil conservation and energy/fuel saving technologies	
October 2007	UGX 4,290,000	Bushiyi Manafwa Trail Bududa District	Additional funding to buy equipment and complete Tourist Trail to Mt.Elgon.	
October 2007	UGX 4,744,050	Bushiuyo Dairy Farming Project Mbale District	Buy heifers for income generation and improved nutrition among members	
October 2007	UGX 2,500,000	Kitati Bee keepers Assoc. Sironko District	Buy more beehives for its members to increase honey production	
October 2007	UGX 3,975,000	Kitobo Bee Farmers Assoc. Sironko District	Buy more beehives for its members and honey harvesting equipment	
October 2007	UGX 5,642,500	Kapchorwa Beekeepers and Agro Forestry Kapchorwa	Raise Agro-Forestry trees, beehives for its members and raise awareness on conservation	
October 2007	UGX 4,500,000	Rotyo Agro Forestry Nursery Bed Association Bukwo District	Raise tree seedlings for planting in the District to reduce pressure on the Park	
October 2007	UGX 2,581,000	Ukha Nakhashira Youth and Elder Group Bududa District	Support to youth and elder development projects	
Year 2008	UGX 21,216,740	Available for disbursement to district, however, districts are yet to submit their priority project budget proposals		

NB: For the year 2002 – 2007, MENP has provided UGX 77,851,550 to local governments / districts for community development projects.

Besides giving the statutory revenue sharing funding, Mt. Elgon National Park through the Community Conservation Unit offers training and extension services in the frontline parishes on animal production, agro forestry, beekeeping, soil conservation and promotion of energy/fuel saving technologies. All these are aimed at improving livelihoods of the communities living around the park.

Park incomes to local communities

The rural households around MENP depend more on agriculture for both cash and subsistence. Wide ranges of forest products have a substantial contribution to their livelihoods and incomes. These forest products mainly include, firewood, fodder, medicinal plants, vegetables, bamboo shoots, bamboo stems, stakes, mushrooms, thatching grass, honey and salt for cattle as summarized in table 3 below.

Table 3: Average park income and the relative share of park resources

Environmental Resources	income from	Share (%) of park	from	non-	Average total park income	Share (%) of park income
	park (Ush)	income	non- park	park income		
Firewood	145680	39%	2880	3%	148560	31.3%
Medicine	76752	21%	0	0%	76752	16.2%
Fodder	43546	12%	89074	93%	132620	28%
Vegetables	26544	7.1%	0	0%	26544	5.6%
Bamboo stems	24840	6.6%	0	0%	24840	5.2%
Mushrooms	14800	4%	0	(0%)	14800	3.1%
Bamboo shoots	12600	3.4%	0	0%	12600	2.7%
Stakes	12540	3.4%	0	0%	12540	2.6%
Thatching grass	6510	1.7%	4250	4%	10670	2.3%
Honey	5660	1.5%	0	0%	5660	1.2%
Salt	4536	1.2%	0	0%	4536	1%
Total income	374,008	80%	96,204	20%	470,212	100%

Source: Kato Frank, Noragric 2002



Harvesting and sustainable utilization of park resources at Bumagabula

Exposure and development Partner attraction

Mt. Elgon has attracted a number of development programs to the region ever since it was uplifted to National Park status, which has in turn contributed significantly to the improved living standards of the surrounding communities.

[&]quot;Face" Foundation that started operations in 1994 targeting to rehabilitate 25,000 hectares of the degraded belt employed over 500 local people a month and

sinking in the region about Uganda Shillings five hundred million per annum in wages, food purchases and equipment.

Mt. Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Program (MERECP) is an East African Community implemented program that aims at providing alternative sustenance to promote conservation of Mt Elgon in the two countries of Kenya and Uganda.

Many local leaders and communities have gained through cross border study visits and experiences.

Watershed management and soil conservation

With a height of 4,321m above sea level and extending 80 km North to South, 50 km East to West, Mt. Elgon forms an important watershed in the east of the country, from its conical side radiate many streams that water the plains below – both in Kenya and Uganda. Approximately one million people around Mt. Elgon depend on its water from the streams and tributaries and over 4million people further away in Sebei and Bugisu alone from the park. This massive volcano acting like a sponge sucks up rainfall water (1,250 mm – 2,000 mm annually), which it later releases into numerous streams that have their origin on the volcanic slopes.

Mt. Elgon alone is a water source that supports over 4 million people but forest destruction over the last decade has led to decreased water flow in many streams from this mountain (NFP, 2002). The implication here is that the value of forests under water management can be linked directly to the cost that would be incurred to provide water for production and domestic use, and the cost of restoring soil productivity.

Despite its importance for water catchment, there has been in the past massive encroachment resulting into soil erosion and sedimentation of water bodies. This reduces the water quality and water availability for agriculture and aquatic resources like fish. This state of affairs has proved costly, sometimes resulting into landslides and loss of life. It is therefore important that actions be undertaken to restore the forest in the park and also encourage tree planting on private land.

The restoration of the degraded forest above 2,000 m in a belt of 2-5 km by the UWA-Face project enhances the watershed potential of Mt. Elgon slopes. The new carbon forests are playing a significant role in water catchment value as evidenced by the presence of permanent water streams from these restored areas.



MENP: a source of water to adjacent communities (e.g. gravity flow scheme in Bududa district)

PART 2: THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 PURPOSE OF MT. ELGON NATIONAL PARK

The purpose of managing and conserving Mt. Elgon National Park as formulated during the planning process is:

To conserve in perpetuity, MENP as man and biosphere reserve, its fragile ecosystem, a water catchment area and its biodiversity that supports livelihoods for the National and global community.

2.2 MANAGEMENT ZONING

Zoning is a planning tool used to subdivide protected areas into distinct spatial areas according to their resource values and/ or sensitivity. Zone designation helps prescribe what may or may not take place in each zone in order to accomplish management objectives and achieve the desired future. Certain actions such as enforcement and research and monitoring however can take place in any zone. The zoning strategy for MENP seeks to achieve harmonious balance between the following;

- Protection of representative areas of biodiversity and ecological processes
- Infrastructure development necessary to manage the park
- Tourism activities, which generate income and raise the profile of MENP
- Sustainable extraction of natural resources by the local people
- Cultural values promotion

Five zones have been identified i.e. Wilderness, Collaborative restoration, Tourism, Administrative, Plantation and resettlement zones. Each zone is described below:-

2.2.1 Wilderness Zone

In this zone, protection of biophysical and/or cultural heritage values is the primary consideration because of the sensitivity of the environment in the area. No harvesting by community residents is permitted and visitor access must be carefully managed. Pending the results of environmental impact assessments, basic facilities intended to minimise impact of visitors such as trails, footbridges, and latrines may be acceptable. Where a unique community resource is identified for harvesting in this zone, *temporally MoUs and permits* specifying controlled access routes and time period will be agreed on and thereafter no more access shall be allowed.

Permitted Activities:

- Research and monitoring activities
- Overnight use by approved researchers and Park staff only
- Day and night use by visitors on designated routes and camps
- Fire management activities
- Patrols

Permitted Facilities/Infrastructure:

- Improved trails and bridges in support of research, monitoring, Park operations, and visitor use
- Signs intended for visitor orientation, safety, and resource protection purposes
- Structures supporting Park operations and approved research
- Access to cultural sites under agreed terms and conditions

Prohibited Activities:

- Resource harvesting except bamboo harvesting, and medicinal plants under an agreed MoU
- Cultivation
- Overnight use other than by approved researchers and Park staff

Prohibited Facilities/Infrastructure:

• Structures and facilities except camp sites and patrol huts

Designated Areas within this Zone:

This zone shall start as follows:

- Bumbo to Bushiyi- 1km from the park boundary to the interior of the park
- Bushiyi to Busano- 2km from the park boundary to the interior of the park
- Busano to Namaguli- 0.5km from the park boundary to the interior of the park
- Namaguli to Buluganya- 1km to the park boundary to the interior of the park
- Buluganya to Nyalit- 3km from the park boundary to the interior of the park
- Nyalit to Bukwa river- 1km from the park boundary to the interior of the park
- Bukwa river to Suam- 3km from the park boundary to the interior of the park

2.2.2 Collaborative restoration zone

In this zone, the management priority is to conserve the Park values through an integrated approach encompassing protection, education, restoration and community conservation approaches. Regulated harvesting of biophysical resources in a sustainable manner by community residents is allowed in agreed resource-use areas but only through negotiated collaborative management agreements. Collaborative management agreements will clearly define the resources to be used, the resource user community for each agreement and the agreed resource-use area for that community, together with the agreed control and monitoring mechanisms. The zone shall not include the plantation areas of Suam and Kapkwata, however, communities can be allowed to collect dead wood and offcuts for firewood and building under the supervision of UWA staff.

Permitted Activities:

- Resource harvesting where appropriate as per collaborative management agreements
- Research, monitoring, and Park operations
- Accompanied visitor use
- Visitor information and interpretative services
- Fire management activities
- Taungya farming under controlled terms and conditions
- Small scale Garbage disposal sites for garbage originating from works permitted in the zone
- Planting indigenous trees
- Tending and protection of young trees
- Access through the area by visitors or local residents

Permitted Facilities/Infrastructure:

- Approved structures/facilities in support of research, monitoring, and Park operations
- Improved trails and bridges
- Latrines and approved garbage disposal sites
- Structures to facilitate cultural tourism initiatives supported by community residents
- Tree nursery infrastructure facilities

Prohibited Activities:

- Unaccompanied visitor use, either on a day or overnight basis
- Resource harvesting without approval under a collaborative management agreement
- Agricultural encroachment and settlements
- Timber harvesting
- Grazing and charcoal burning

Prohibited Facilities/Infrastructure

Permanent/year-round structures in support of resource harvesting

Designated Areas within this Zone:

This includes all formally encroached areas adjacent to the park boundary. It is an area from the park boundary to the beginning of the wilderness zone as described above.

2.2.3 Tourism Zone

The tourism zone follows the primary routes intended to facilitate enjoyment and appreciation of the interior of the Park by visitors. The primary management objective is the protection of the natural and cultural values of the routes, in order to enable visitors to enjoy a rewarding and aesthetically pleasing Park experience.

Permitted Activities:

• Visitor use, day and overnight basis

- Overnight camping and accommodation for visitors
- Visitor information and interpretative services
- Fire management activities

Permitted Facilities/Infrastructure

- Campsites
- Improved trails/bridges
- Latrines
- Facilities supporting research, monitoring, and Park operations
- Signs for visitor orientation, security, and interpretation facilities

Prohibited Activities

- Killing wild animals
- Timber harvesting
- Setting fires unless authorized and in gazetted places
- Picking flora and fauna from the park

Prohibited Facilities/Infrastructure

Facilities supporting resource harvesting

Designated Areas within this Zone:

All tourism trails and tourist attractions such as waterfalls, hot springs, camp sites, picnic areas, caves and the caldera.

2.2.4 Administrative Zone

Physical administrative facility development is concentrated in this zone. The facilities will include visitor information centres, environmental education centres, major ranger stations, and other forms of accommodation.

2.2.5 Plantation Zone

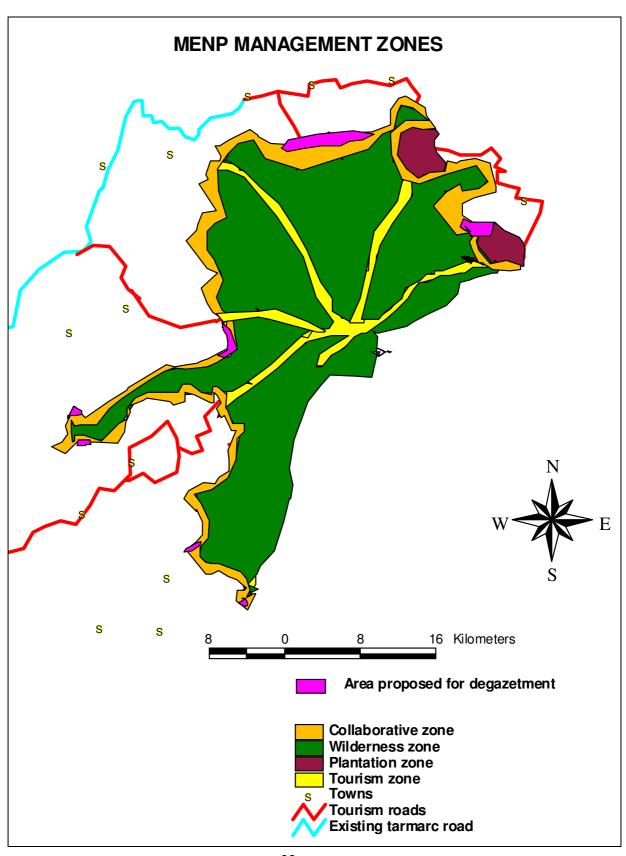
This zone comprises of Kapkwata and Suam areas, which are under softwood plantation (Cypress, and Pine sp). The main goal of the plantations is to produce timber for economic value and reduce pressure from the adjacent natural forest and also serves as a demonstration for tree planting to nearby communities.

2.2.6 Park periphery zone (Resettlement zone)

This shall comprise all areas proposed for degazzetment. They include;

Name	Area (ha)
Benet	2,225
Kapsegek	318
Zesui	237
Wanale	115
Busano	8
Bumwalukani	4
Buraba	3
Bushiyi	6
Bufuma	2
Soono	42
Total	2,960

Before and if when a decision is taken by Parliament to degazzette these areas, UWA shall continue to interact with communities in these areas through sensitization activities and involving them in park activities.



2.3 RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

2.3.1 Introduction

Mount Elgon National Park was established as a water catchment area with its wildlife including vegetation and landscapes. These resources have been negatively affected by human activities over many years. With improved conservation, the area is again realizing its conservation purpose. However, many threats remain. This section describes boundary management, control of illegal resource use, restoration and regional environmental management issues. It also examines the threats, and prescribes actions to counter them.

2.3.2 Issues of Land conflict

One of the major challenges UWA is facing in managing MENP is encroachment. Between 1992 and 1993 the Forest Department, then managing the then Mt. Elgon Forest reserve, carried out re-opening of the park boundaries in an effort to resolve the issue of the park boundary and resulted into the so called "1993 boundary". Unfortunately in some areas the boundary re-survey was erroneous and on discovery, UWA tried to rectify the error with the resulting conflict to date.

Earlier on, in 1983, government had attempted to re-settle the Benet who were then residing in the forest reserve in the areas commonly known as Benet. The area set aside for this purpose was 6,000 ha. However this area was never measured off the forest reserve but rather rough estimates were made. This resulted into the people settling up to a well-known cliff within the reserve well beyond the 6,000ha intended. When a final gazettment was done however, government only provided for the original 6000 ha resulting into several people already settled remaining in the park. Although attempts have been made by GoU to look for funding to resettle them out of the park, this has not been successful and the Kapsegek and Benet groups have been temporally resettled along the park boundary. The area they are settled in is also already degraded since they have been there since 1983. Another group living at Kapsegek remained in the forest far from any social services and therefore have lagged behind in education and other development indicators.

UWA has made several efforts to try and stop encroachment on MENP with a lot of challenges over the years. However, after extensive consultations with the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry as well as both communities and the leadership in the area, UWA has proposed to provide ownership rights to the local people who are currently residing in sections of the national park through boundary re-alighnment to leave out the agreed upon areas. It is hoped that this will reduce community-park conflicts and better harmony in the area. The proposed re-alignment will exclude the communities in sections of the following areas: Kapsegek, Benet, Zesui, Wanale, Busano, Bumwalukani, Buraba, Bushiyi, Bufuma, and Soono (Bumbo) from the park. A boundary steering committee has been already identified whose membership include the affected people and no

further encroachment will be allowed. The total area covered by these families is estimated at 2,960 ha (**detail in table 4 below**) out the total area of 1,121km² of MENP (**see the zone map above for location**).

Table 4: Number of families to be re-aligned out of Mount Elgon National

Park boundary

Area	Area (ha)	No of Families
Benet	2,225	220
Kapsegek	318	43
Zesui	237	38
Wanale	115	30
Busano	8	11
Bumwalukani	4	4
Buraba	3	4
Bushiyi	6	24
Bufuma	2	3
Soono	42	15
Total	2,960	392

Objective and proposed actions

Objective 1: To settle all land conflicts

Management actions

Management actions			
Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Implement recommendations	CAM	WCC,	1 st yr
contained in the verification reports		WLE	
·		W DE	
and other reports from the steering			
committee			
Expedite court cases where	CAM	WLE,	1 st yr
possible		CLC	,
possible		CLC	

2.3.3 Restoration issues

Communities took advantage of the politicking period of 2006 to dig and graze in the park with no intervention from park managers. As a result, a lot of damage (fires, grazing, uprooting) was done to the restoration area and the natural forested park area.

Re-planting in the area for restoration (collaborative use zone) will still be done by Taungya system, which has proved to be fairly cheaper in restoration management. The Taungya system allows the communities to grow crops within an allocated area but at the same time look after trees planted for establishment of forest. When the trees mature, the farmer moves out but can benefit from carbon trade resulting out of carbon sequestration. Similarly a continuous 10m-width boundary line of live markers will be planted for additional benefit to the

neighboring communities. Further inside the park, indigenous trees shall be planted in the encroached area. Management of the planted trees shall be left to UWA to give guidance to tree owners. Communities shall be given seedlings; they plant them and underneath plant the seasonal crops. UWA shall do the pruning, thinning and give guidance on the harvesting techniques.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To restore all degraded areas in the park

Management actions

iviariagement actions			
Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Assess the extent of degraded areas	WFR	WCC, WMR	Yr 1
Recommend restoration methods	WMR	WFR, WCC	Yr 1
Develop restoration plans/	WFR	WMR	Yr 3
management plans			
Source for funding and share	CAM	ED, DC	Yr 1-5
information with other stakeholders			
Restore the areas following the	WFR	WMR, CAM	Yr 1 - 6
restoration plans			
Develop MoUs with district leaders	CAM	ED, WFR	Yr 1 - 5
as commitment to restore and keep			
these areas forested			

2.4 PLANTATION MANAGEMENT

2.4.1 Introduction

Before Mt. Elgon was declared a National Park, commercial timber production in Kapkwata and Suam was one of the management objectives for the Forest Department at that time. When UWA took over the management of Mt. Elgon as a National Park there was recognition that timber production generated revenue for sustainable management of the park but most importantly, the program helped to reduce the impact of illegal harvesting of the natural forest in the park. For the same reasons UWA decided to retain commercial timber production through plantation management.

2.4.2 Plantation management issues

Kapkwata is situated in Kween and Chesower sub-counties within Kapchorwa and Bukwo respectively. Suam (500ha) is located in Kongasis County (Suam subcounty) of Bukwo district. The main objectives of the plantation are;

- To provide alternative source of timber and other wood products, thus minimize over dependence on natural high forest.
- To improve community development
- To provide employment to the local communities in the area
- To provide land to the population for Taungya farming

• To promote the growing of softwood plantations through forestry extension, training and provision of silvicultural skills to local communities.



Tree seedlings at Benet in Kapchorwa being raised for plantation establishment

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To raise the plants necessary for the plantation programme

Management actions

Activity	Responsi	Other	Time
	ble per		
Nursery preparation	WP	WMR	2 nd yr
Manage seedlings to	WP	WMR	$2^{\text{nd}} - 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ yr}$
make ready for planting			

Objective 2: To sustainably manage Kapkwata and Suam Soft Wood plantation so as to reduce pressure on the natural high forest

management actions			
Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Ground preparations	WP	WCC, WMR	3 rd yr
Planting	WP	WCC, WMR	3 rd yr
Weeding	WP	WCC, WMR	4 th yr
Pruning	WP	WCC, WMR	6 th yr
Thinning	WP	WCC, WMR	10 th yr
Prepare a harvesting plan	WR	WMR	10 th yr
Manage fires	WR	WMR	Year 1-10

2.5 COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Introduction

Protected areas cannot be managed in isolation of the communities that surround them. These communities incur costs and derive benefits from living adjacent to the protected areas. In the increasingly decentralized system of government in Uganda, their voice is more relevant and important than ever. Activities in this programme will be concentrated in the Collaborative zone and in the parishes neighbouring the park. The main objective of this programme is to improve park-community relations and ensure the conservation of the environment in general and MENP in particular.

2.5.1 Boundary management issues

Land shortage due to increasing human populations and declining land productivity has been raised as an issue during public consultations, and continued encroachment for agriculture indicates an ongoing demand amongst communities for more agricultural land in the Park. However, as clearing of natural vegetation for cultivation and agriculture is entirely incompatible with the conservation of the Park as required under the Uganda Wildlife Act, Mt. Elgon National Park management is working with local government authorities and communities to eliminate encroachment and raise awareness on conservation. The history of encroachment and difficulties with surveying, establishing and enforcing protection of the correct boundary has at times led to tension, ill-feelings, and confrontations between local residents and park staff.

A substantial length of the boundary, other than those sections, which coincide with the Uganda - Kenya border, is planted with a 5-10 metre wide band of eucalyptus trees. This band of eucalyptus is intended to remove all ambiguity concerning location of the boundary, and also to constitute a resource that can eventually be exploited to supply local residents with fuelwood, poles, and construction timber on a sustainable basis. To ensure that it continues to serve both purposes, the boundary will be regularly patrolled, and appropriate forest management measures carried out as required. Management of the boundary thus needs to deal with both the establishment and maintenance of a clear, well-marked and well-understood boundary, and with overcoming conflicts and tension between the Park and surrounding communities. Boundary management committees have been established over the years but their capacity to effectively manage the boundary is still lacking. The following objectives and actions shall address the above issues during the 10-year period.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To maintain a clear park boundary

Management actions

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Mark the remaining boundary sections with	WLE	CAM, WMR	1 st -3 rd
pillars and live markers			yr
Regularly maintain the park boundary	WLE	WCC, WMR	1 st -10 th
			yr
Sensitise the communities on the boundary	WCC	WLE	1 st -10 th
marking exercise			yr

Objective 2: To strengthen the capacity of boundary management committees

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Carry out awareness of the committees	WCC	WMR,	1 st yr
-		CAM	
Empower the committees to mobilise	CAM	WCC	1 st -10 th yr
the communities in boundary			
management			
Involve local leaders in Monitoring the	CAM	WCC	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
implementation of the MoUs on			
boundary management			

2.5.2 Resource access issues

Communities surrounding Mt. Elgon depend heavily on firewood and charcoal for their energy needs, with much of this collected from the National Park. Current levels of firewood collection do not appear to be having a major impact where only dead wood is collected, but the sustainable level of harvesting is not known. Obvious damage to vegetation occurs where green timber is cut for firewood, and the use of fire for charcoal production creates the threat of wildfires in the forest.

Given the large and growing demand for energy in the densely populated communities surrounding Mt. Elgon National Park, the collection of fuelwood could pose a major threat to the Mt. Elgon ecosystem in the long term unless alternative sources of wood are developed on farms, or alternative sources of energy such as electricity become more available.

Illegal pit sawing for timber continues to be a threat in Mt. Elgon National Park. The removal of split and round poles for construction has the potential to have a serious impact on the Mt. Elgon ecosystem, particularly on species, which are favoured for this purpose.

Committees have been put in place to monitor resource access. However, these committees are weak. They do not have skills in monitoring and impact identification. At the same time, financial resources for their operations are not readily available.

Bamboo is another resource that is heavily harvested from the park. Government of Uganda is heavily promoting bamboo in conjunction with the Chinese Government for commercial exploitation through small scale Industry development. This will pose great danger to the conservation of the Bamboo resources inside the park. The bamboo is distributed throughout the park and access by communities shall always be under MoUs for monitoring and sustainability purposes. The objectives and actions below shall address the issues raised;



Bamboo resource along Sasa trail

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To promote alternative resources (both natural and artificial) outside the park

Management actions

Activity	Respo nsible	Other	Time
	per	10.0414	st doth
Identify the alternative resources	WCC	LG, CAM	1 st -10 th yr
outside the park			
Participate in district planning	CAM	ED, DC	1 st -10 th yr
meetings			
Liase with LG and other partners to	CAM	ED, WCC,	1 st -10 th yr
promote some alternative resources		WMR	
outside the park			
Organise exchange visits for	CAM	WCC, WT	1 st -10 th yr
communities			
Liase with relevant partners to	WCC	LG	3 rd -10 th yr
establish onfarm conservation			
demonstrations			
Equip communities in marketing	WT	WCC, MM	3 rd -10 th yr
skills for the identified alternative			-
resources outside the park			
resources outside the park			

Objective 2: To improve monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for resource & cultural site access

Management actions

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Develop MoUs for accessing cultural	WCC	WT,	$3^{\rm rd}$ -10 th yr
sites		WLE	
Strengthen monitoring of the resource	WMR	WCC	4 th -10 th yr
access through MOUs			-
Identify cultural sites and activities	WT	WCC,	$3^{\rm rd}$ -10 th yr
		LG	
Develop some sites for cultural tourism	WT	ED,	5 th -10 th yr
		CAM,	
		LG	

Objective 3: To improve capacity of the resource use committees Management actions

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Train resource use committees in data	WMR	CAM,	$2^{\text{nd}} - 10^{\text{th}} \text{ yr}$
collection, analysis and impact		HRM	
identification			
Empower the committees to monitor the	WCC	WMR	$1^{\rm st}$ - $10^{\rm th}$ yr

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
resources			
Provide information feedback to the	CAM	WMR, ED	$3^{\rm rd}$ -10 th yr
committees after data analysis			•
Review and develop new MoUs	WMR	CAM	6^{th} - 10^{th} yr
Carry out inventories for resource	WMR	WCC,	2 nd -10 th yr
access		CAM	

2.5.3 Conservation awareness issues

Many local people around the park have negative attitudes towards the park. They believe that the park has not benefited them at all since its gazettment. During the consultations most of the participants expressed their desire to have some sections of the park degazetted to free land for settlement and cultivation. UWA needs to educate the local people so as to appreciate the presence of the park and also to change their attitudes towards the park.

One of the more successful components of the MENP community education programme is the Forest Exploration Centre (FEC) at Kapkwai. This facility is located just inside the Park boundary, on the northwest side of the park. It has dormitory accommodation for groups of up to 40 people, associated latrines and washing areas, a dining/meeting hall, a kitchen building, and an extensive and still growing trail network. The primary purpose of the FEC is to deliver conservation education programmes to school groups. Apart from the use of the FEC, it is important that other method of community education be used to reach out to the communities with conservation information related to the management of Mt. Elgon ecosystem. This will enable them to appreciate the laws and policies pertaining to Mt. Elgon National Park.

There are a variety of methods and approaches, which can be used to convey conservation messages. These include, seminars, workshops, drama groups, various publications and exchange visits. The use of one or combination of different methods depends on the target audience and availability of funds. The young generation including the school going children are key stakeholders in the conservation of natural resources and can play an important role in marketing of protected areas. Their awareness in conservation should therefore be raised if they are to play their role properly.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To continue to raise awareness about benefits from conservation

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Hold sensitisation meetings on conservation	WCC	CAM, WT	1 st -10 th yr
Involve companies in conservation activities	CAM	WCC, MM,	1 st -10 th yr

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
		BDM	
Identify companies and other beneficiaries	WT	BDM,MM	1 st -10 th yr
that benefit from the existence of the park			
Sensitise/empower them to carry out	CAM	ED, BDM,	1 st -10 th yr
sensitisation on conservation of the park		MM	
Evaluate the effectiveness of the	WMR	CAM, ED,	5 th -10 th yr
sensitisation programme		BDM, MM	

Objective 2: To identify and promote innovative approaches for conservation awareness

Management actions

Management actions			
Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		- nd · - th
Conduct conservation talks in schools	WCC	WT	2^{nd} -10 th yr
Use music, dance and drama focusing on MENP conservation	WT	WCC	2^{nd} -10 th yr
Introduce conservation award schemes	CAM	ED, BDM, MM	4 th -10 th yr
such as educational sponsorships to			
bright needy students			
Sponsor musicians to compose	CAM	ED, WCC	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
conservation songs			
Rejuvenate ME focus	WT	CAM, WCC	3 rd yr
Introduce road shows	WT	WCC, CAM	4 th yr
Encourage district councils to hold	CAM	ED, WT, WCC	1 st -10 th yr
meetings/outings within MENP			
Organise Cooperate social	CAM	ED, BDM,	4 th -10 th yr
responsibility events		MM, WT	

2.5.4 Problem animal & vermin management issues

The declared vermin (Olive Baboon, Bush pig and Vervet Monkeys) and problem animals destroy crops, homes, cause injury to humans and sometimes death especially if attacked, thus jeopardizing positive park - community relations. The Uganda Wildlife Act Cap 200 of 2000 does not provide for compensation of this damage. It is the responsibility of local governments according to the Local Government Act (2003) to manage vermin.

UWA will continue to lobby the districts to recruit vermin guards. UWA will also assist in training the guards to be able to deal with problem animals including vermin. During planning, the districts will be encouraged to incorporate wildlife management into the district/local government development plans and budgets. UWA on the other hand, will strengthen its handling of problem animals especially by reducing the response time whenever approached by the communities.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To build human and logistical capacity in problem animal and vermin management

Management actions

management actions			
Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Lobby the districts without the	CAM	ED, LEC,	2 nd -5 th yr
guards to recruit		WLE	
Train staff and district vermin	WLE	LG, HRM,	3 rd yr
guards		CAM	
Identify suitable and effective	WCC	WLE, CAM	$1^{st} - 10^{th} yr$
problem animal control			
interventions			
Equip Vermin guards	WLE	CW, LG, ED	$3^{\rm rd}$ -5 th yr
Implement vermin/problem animal	WLE	LG, WCC	2 nd -10 th yr
control innovations in areas affected			
Create community awareness in	WCC	WLE, CAM	1 st -10 th yr
vermin control methods			

2.5.5 Alternative livelihood issues

Communities living close to the park live in absolute poverty. Other than accessing primary education through Universal Primary Education programme, most of the parents cannot afford school fees charged by private schools. Small-scale subsistence farming takes place both outside the park and inside the park under the taungya system. This situation has left the park in danger of attacks for free resources by the communities in search for survival.

Neighbouring communities extract a variety of resources from the park, including firewood, bamboo, medicinal plants, water, and honey. In theory, such extraction conforms to UWA policy and encourages greater appreciation of the national park by local people. It is necessary, however, to formalize conditions for extraction where these do not already exist. It will also benefit MENP long-term conservation goals if communities can be encouraged to produce forest products from sustainably managed sources outside MENP.

In accordance with Uganda Wildlife Act (2000) 20% of tourist revenues from gate receipts (park entry) is shared with communities living adjacent to protected areas. Mt. Elgon National Park is no exception. To enable this to occur, mechanisms are required for recording and collecting the revenue, and then distributing this to communities through the approved system. This is intended to provide direct benefit to communities from the operation of Mt. Elgon National Park. The amount of revenue so far distributed for community projects is not big (**Table 2**) because the number of tourists currently visiting Mt. Elgon National Park is low, but will increase as tourist numbers increase.

UWA will endeavor to contribute to the improved community livelihoods through participation in subcounty and district planning processes where projects shall be identified and funding mechanisms developed. With the implementation of this plan, it is expected that tourism in the park will pick up and the revenue generated shall be shared as per the revenue sharing guidelines of UWA. The funds generated from the revenue-sharing scheme shall be used for projects developed according to the community needs. Through liaison with district departments and stakeholders in the communities, environmental conservation demonstrations shall be established.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: Establish linkages with strategic partners in promoting alternative livelihood initiatives

Management actions

managomoni aotiono			
Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Identify the strategic partners in	CAM	ED, CCC, LG	1 st -10 th yr
promoting alternative livelihoods			j
Identify areas for collaboration	CAM	WCC, WMR	2^{nd} -10 th yr
together with the identified		,	,
partners			
Develop mechanisms to work	WCC	WMR	3 rd -10 th yr
together with partners			-
Support alternative livelihood	CAM	LG, ED	5 th -10 th yr
initiatives			
Develop capacity for	WCC	CDO, NRO,	$2^{\text{nd}} - 10^{\text{th}} \text{ yr}$
communities for proposal writing		District Planner	

Objective 2: To support LG in monitoring UWA supported community projects

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Set aside some funds from RS for monitoring the community projects	WCC	Inter district link	1 st -8 th yr
Lobby the LG to co-fund the district officials to monitor revenue sharing projects	CAM	ED ED	1 st -10 th yr
Develop an M&E program to enable the monitoring team to monitor revenue sharing projects	WMR	WCC	1 st -10 th yr

2.4.7 Community-park relationships

Conflicts between members of the community and Park staff sometimes occur for a variety of reasons. Both the communities and Park managers would like to avoid conflict and resolve management issues through discussion and negotiation. The community conservation programme at Mt. Elgon National Park aims to deal with these issues and problems through a range of activities including education and awareness programmes, and discussion with local people, community leaders and local government representatives at all levels. Efforts are also being made to co-ordinate this work with the law enforcement department of the Park to ensure a consistent and fair approach to community issues and overcome the problems of conflict caused in the past by overemphasis on a paramilitary approach.

Park bylaws set out the rules and regulations governing use of the Park and its resources. It is thus important that these are clear and comprehensive and, that they are carefully reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that they remain relevant and facilitate achievement of the management objectives. Mt. Elgon National Park bylaws need revision to ensure they reflect the current objectives of the GMP, in particular the increased emphasis on community conservation and collaborative management. At the same time there is need to sensitise the communities and district leadership regarding these bylaws.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To improve community-park relations Management actions

Activity	Responsi	Other	Time
Hold was vilay manating a to a quaiting the	ble per WCC	CAM WIE	1 st -10 th yr
Hold regular meetings to sensitise the	wcc	CAM, WLE,	1 -10 yr
communities and staff		LG	
Involve communities in MENP activities	WCC	CAM, WLE,	1 st -10 th yr
through offer of free park entry and joint		CCC, ED	
planning among others			
Target surrounding communities in	CAM	HRM, ED	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
employment			
Organise/participate in social activities and	CAM	WCC, WT	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
contribute during community events			
(sports, weddings, burial, church)			

Objective 2: Build a constituency among community and political leaders to support conservation activities

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Support implementation of district	CAM	WCC, WT, ED	3 rd -10 th yr
programmes			
Organise inter district forum to discuss	CAM	ED, LG	1 st -10 th yr

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
conservation of MENP	pv		
Update community and political leaders about park support to community programmes	WCC	CAM	1 st -10 th yr
Develop/review park bye-laws	WLE	WCC, WT, CLC	1 ^{st yr}
Regularly invite district, MPs, magistrates and local leaders to participate in park activities (hiking, retreats, conservation tailed workshops and trainings)	CAM	ED, CLC	Every 2 yrs
Train park staff in handling suspects and court procedures	WLE	HRM, CLC	2 nd yr, 6 th yr

2.5 PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

MENP will only achieve its conservation objectives if staff perform their work with high morale and initiative, and if they have the necessary facilities and equipment. This section describes programmes to achieve this goal. This program examines the operational challenges in-terms of park infrastructure, staffing and logistical requirements for the effective management of the park. Park infrastructure include offices, staff accommodation, access routes for easy deployment and many other such facilities.

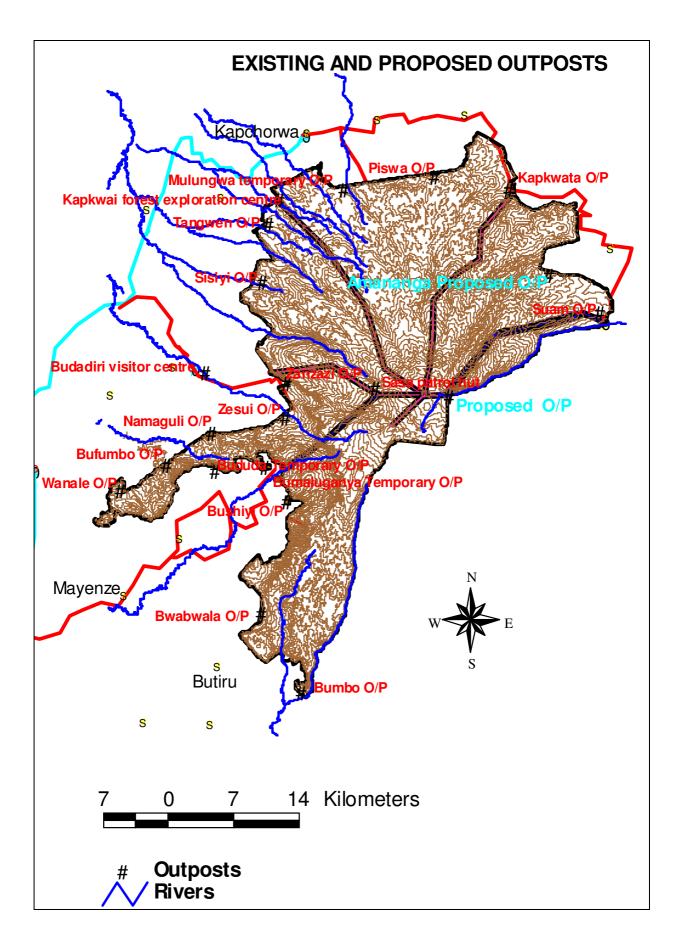
2.5.1 Park infrastructure issues

Currently, MENP has its headquarters in Mbale town but with several outposts in all the six districts within which the park falls. The outposts make it easy for staff to effectively conduct their activities and cover the entire park with ease. However, the current numbers of outposts are inadequate and those existing are dilapidated and need renovation.



Dilapidated Ranger outpost showing cracks in the wall

To enable rangers to carry out their patrol responsibilities satisfactorily, additional two ranger outposts are required to act as bases for the patrols (**map below**). As with all other facilities in the park, the establishment of any additional ranger outposts will be subject to environmental impact assessment. New staff offices and accommodation shall be constructed as summarized below. The existing staff infrastructure shall be improved as well.



Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To improve existing office and accommodation facilities for staff

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Renovate staff accommodation at	WLE	WA, CAM,	2 nd yr
Wanale, Gamiro, Kapkwata, Bumbo and Suam		PM	
Complete construction of IUCN/Wanale	CAM	PM, ED	3 rd yr
block for office			
Carry out regular renovations on office	CAM	WA	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
block			
Carry out a major renovation of the	CAM	WA	Year 5, 10
headquarter offices			
Renovate Forest Exploration centre	CAM	WA, WT	4 th yr
(FEC) building			
Renovate/rent information office at	CAM	WA	4 th yr
Budadiri			

Objective 2: To Develop new offices and accommodation facilities for staff

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Construct new offices at Kapkwata and Suam	CAM	WMR	3 rd yr
Construct gates in Suam, Kapkwai, Kapkwata, Bushiyi and Bumagabula	CAM	WLE, WT	3 rd yr
Construct outposts at Bumbo, Buwabwala Bushiyi, Bumagabula, Zesui, Sisiyi, Zanzasi, Piswa, Kortek, and Sasa,	CAM	WLE, WT	2 nd -8 th yr
Construct new out post at the hotspring and Chepkwasta	CAM	WLE	1 st -2 nd yr
Construct senior staff accommodation on plot 23, Mbale town	CAM	ED	2 nd yr
Construct junior staff accommodation at Wanale, and Gamiro	CAM	ED	3 rd yr
Construct offices and staff accommodation at Bumagabula and construct an access road (WT, Information clerk, guides)	CAM	WLE, WA, WT	5 th yr

2.5.2 Park Administrative issues

In some areas around the Park the communities are unwilling to accept the surveyed Park boundary due to confusion resulting from previous boundary surveys. Agricultural encroachment is concentrated in these areas where boundaries are disputed, indicating a need to resolve the disputes as a strategy for eliminating encroachment.

In dealing with the above problems, some people have been taken to court but the disposal of such cases has been in most cases delayed. Poor communication between staff and communities has also led to un wanted conflicts. This plan will therefore help to solve some of these problems as summarized below.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To develop strong partnership with Local leaders, courts of law & security agencies

Management actions

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
Attend security meetings regularly	CAM	WLE	1 st -10 th yr
Visit the local leaders and security	CAM	WLE	1 st -10 th yr
agencies to share experiences			
Carry out joint patrols with security	WLE	CLE	1 st -10 th yr
agencies			
Hold regular steering committee	CAM	WLE	1 st -10 th yr
meetings			
Work with state attorney to expedite	CAM	CLC	1 st -10 th yr
court cases			
Strengthen Law enforcement Unit at	CAM	CCAM,	$1^{\rm st}$ – $10^{\rm th}$ Yr
UWA headquarters through further		LM, ED	
training to handle legal issues			

Objective 2: To document/streamline property acquisition, and ownership of UWA properties around Mount Elgon National Park

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Identify UWA properties around MENP	CAM	WMR, WT,	1 st -10 th yr
		WLE, WA	
Formalise ownership of plot 19/21B	CAM	ED, CCAM	1 st yr
Masaba Road and 23 Wanale road,			
properties in Budadiri and Tangwen			
Acquire land titles	CAM	CLCS	1 st yr
Develop the properties	CAM	CM, PM,	2 nd yr
		ED	

2.5.3 Issues on equipment

MENP lacks the full complement of equipment required for effective management. This is largely due to limited financial resources. It is also due, in part, to ineffective operational procedures that result in short life of available equipment. It is therefore critical that equipment procured is appropriate to the task and is used carefully and effectively to maximise its useful life. Equipment required will include communication radios, guns, uniforms, tents, field utensils, vehicles, global positioning systems and computers, etc. MENP will develop manuals detailing procedures for use and necessary maintenance to ensure effective use and prolonged lifespan of the equipment.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To acquire appropriate field equipment

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Identify the appropriate field equipments	WLE	WA	1 st yr
Procure the equipments	CAM	WA, WLE	2 nd yr
Prepare a maintance, replacement and	WLE	WA	3 rd yr
disposal plan			
Implement the plan	WLE	CAM, WA	4 th yr

2.5.4 Park Security issues

Insecurity within communities living adjacent to the Park as a result of cattle raiding by the Karamajong has a negative impact on park resources as it results in grazing activities inside the park. Cattle rustling between Uganda and Kenya and between communities living around the Park using the Park as an escape route also create insecurity for both local residents and tourists. Armed rangers are required to accompany tourists trekking the mountain for this reason. Community residents have, however, repeatedly stressed that satisfactory resolution of the security question would facilitate resolution of other Park management problems, particularly the grazing issue in Kapchorwa.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To strengthen coordination mechanisms with other security agencies and Local leaders in order to curb insecurity within and around the park

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Assess the relevance of the access routes to and through the park	WLE	WCC, LG	1 st yr
Use the access route from suam through the caldera to Kenya for tourism activities	WLE	CAM, LG	3 rd -10 th yr
Close off illegal routes through the park	WLE	CAM	3 rd Yr
Conduct routine security coordination meetings with other security Agencies	WLE	CAM, LEC	1 st –10 th Year
Work with all security agencies in and outside Uganda to collect and share information	CAM	LEC, ED	1 st -10 th Year

2.5.6 Transboundary collaborative issues

The resource conservation and management proposals contained in this plan, especially those outside the park, will only be successful with the full participation of stakeholders. Improved linkages and communications channels are therefore fundamental to achieve these objectives. MENP is contiguous with the Kenya Forest Reserve and National Park. Together the Protected areas allow free movement of animal populations. Unfortunately insecurity in the park severely limits efforts to foster the cooperation and coordination necessary to ensure the perpetuation of these transboundary migration routes.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To strengthen transboundary institutional linkages and collaborative mechanisms

Managornoni aotiono			
Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Develop and implement coordinated	CAM	WLE	4 th -10 th yr
patrol plans and surveillance with			
Kenya counterparts			
Carry out joint marketing and	CAM	MM, WMR	4^{th} -10 th yr
monitoring of wildlife and wildlife		,	•
products			
Develop a joint management plan for	CAM	SPEIAC, DC,	5 th yr
ME region		CCAM, LG	-

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Explore areas of collaboration with	CAM	CCAM	1 st -10 th yr
LATIF, Siyo-Malaba-Malakisi.			

2.6 ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Monitoring and research can be carried out in any zone of the park. MENP is faced by a variety of problems and issues which management must address in order to conserve the national park's species diversity and varied ecosystems. However, effective action is constrained by a lack of relevant information to guide decision-making. Knowledge can best be expanded by research directed specifically towards relevant problems and issues. This program describes actions necessary to address the above issues.

2.6.1 Ecological Monitoring and evaluation issues

Monitoring is defined as a repeated survey using standardised methods for purposes of detecting changes, establishing their direction and measuring their extent or intensity. Monitoring in MENP will focus on collecting data relating to many different aspects of park operations, which can be evaluated and applied to management decisions.

Mt. Elgon National Park conducts its own research with a view of strengthening specific management programmes. The Park also welcomes researchers from other institutions that wish to study certain aspects of the biophysical and cultural resource themes. Monitoring priorities will include the following parameters:

- incidence, location and type of illegal activities occurring within the Park
- volumes of forest products harvested (legally and illegally) from the Park and the impact of this harvesting on the ecosystem
- populations and distribution of key plant and animal species
- patterns and levels of visitor use, together with impacts associated with that use, and visitor satisfaction with facilities and services
- numbers of participants, activities, and attitudinal/behavioural results relating to environmental education and interpretation programmes
- health, education, and socio-economic circumstances of residents of communities in the vicinity of the park.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To improve staff capacity in monitoring of park resources

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Carry out training needs	WMR	HRM	1 st yr
assessment			

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Carry out training	WMR	HRM, CAM	2 nd yr
Monitor the impact of training	WMR	CAM	5^{th} , 6^{th} yr
Procure appropriate equipments	WMR	PM, CAM	2 nd yr

Objective 2: To upgrade MIST program for data processing

Management actions

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
Identify the gaps in MIST	wmr	WT, WA, WLE,	1 st yr,
		MRC	2 nd yr
Work with IMU to update the MIST	WMR	MRC, IMU	3 rd yr
Develop back ups and alternative	WMR	IMU, MRC	3 rd yr
approaches for data processing			
Update the databases	WMR	IMU, MRC, CAM	3 rd -
			10 th yr
Analyse the data and disseminate	WMR	CAM, MRC, PRM	3 rd -
the information (solicit for			10 th yr
feedback)			
Organise research forum annually	WMR	MRC	1 st -
			10 th yr

Objective 3: To assess/evaluate impacts of conservation strategies around MENP

Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Develop ToRs for consultants	CAM	CCAM, DC	2 nd yr
Hire a consultant to assess the	CAM	CCAM, DC	After every 3
impacts			years
Carry out internal evaluation	CAM	WCC,	1 st -10 th yr
		CCAM, DC	
Discuss the recommendations	CAM	DC, CCAM	$3^{\rm rd}$ -10 th yr
Implement the recommendations	CAM	CCAM	4 th -9 th yr
Encourage researchers (internal	CAM	WMR,	1 st -10 th yr
and external) to do research		CCAM	
inside and outside the PA			
Develop an internal M&E system	WMR	CAM, MRC	5 th -7 th yr
for conservation strategies			

2.6.2 Issues on emergencies

Landslides and Fires are major problems affecting MENP, especially in the parts of the Caldera for the fires and near the park boundary for landslides. Poachers and grazers inside the park deliberately start fires.

The need for fire control is currently most critical in the area of UWA-Face operation to prevent damage to planted stock and wild seedlings in Suam and Kapkwata plantations. Sensitisation, establishment and maintenance of firebreaks, and active wildfire fighting have so far successfully averted any serious damage to the forest plantations.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To build capacity to respond to emergencies

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Analyse field data in relation to expected disasters	WMR	MRC, IMU	1 st -10 th yr
Equip key weather stations (kapkwai, kapkwata, suam, sasa, bumbo, wanale) with equipments	WMR	CAM, CCAM, MRC	6 th -7 th yr
Liase with LG dept. on the management of disasters	CAM	CCAM, LG	1 st -10 th yr
Train staff in fire management and disaster preparedness skills	WMR	SPEIAC, DC	2 nd , 6 th , 8 th yr
Develop a fire and disaster preparedness plan	WMR	SPEIAC, DC	2 nd yr
Procure First Aid kits for key stations and at the campsites	WMR	CAM, PM	1 st -4 th yr

2.6.3 Resource Inventory issues

MENP is faced by a variety of problems and issues which management must address in order to conserve the national park's species diversity and varied ecosystems. However, effective action is constrained by lack of relevant information to guide decision-making. Knowledge can best be expanded by research directed specifically towards relevant problems and issues. Inadequate biodiversity data for the MENP ecosystem and inadequate inventory data on park resources for community access are some of the issues that need answers. This plan proposes actions on inventories to be done to provide baseline information.



Wild bananas in the park form part of the biodiversity Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To establish biodiversity data bank for MENP

Management actions

management actions			
Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		
Collect and store data on	WMR	WLE,	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
biodiversity (fauna and flora)		WT,	
		WCC	
Conduct inventories of	WCC	WMR,	3 rd yr
resources for community access		CAM	
Establish a data bank	WMR	MRC	4 th yr
Periodically update the data	WMR	MRC	4 th -10 th yr
bank			

2.6.4 Development impacts

This GMP is proposing improvements on the trails and facilities along them as well as opening up new trails and providing the attendant facilities. The proposals when implemented are likely to have their own impacts, which need to be addressed before these developments are implemented.

Most developments in mountainous areas result in impacts such as soil erosion, degradation of vegetation, over trampling and therefore damage to delicate vegetation, contamination of water etc. Most of the developments within and around MENP did not include an assessment of the likely impacts and therefore in many cases possible mitigations have not been considered resulting into many of the impacts being observed. It may be possible that some of the developments have not been located in the best possible sites.

Currently there are no major developments with adverse negative impacts neighbouring the park. The possibility of such developments in the future cannot however be ruled out. Proper planning of how these will be handled is therefore a necessity. MENP is a delicate ecosystem and much of what is done upstream (within the park) will affect the communities downstream as the numerous streams and rivers carry down much of the waste.

Most camps do not have washrooms. Though most people are not ready to take a bath because it is often quite cold, a few who would like to, have a difficult time trying to locate a place where to take one. Some of the camps lack proper rubbish pits (for biodegradable waste). Some of the non-biodegradable materials are also dumped in the park.



An Incinerator for burning waste materials at Kapkwai

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To minimise environmental degradation in and around the park

Management actions

Activity	Responsi	Other	Time
	ble per		
Prepare environmental status reports	WMR	SPEIAC	5 th , 10 th yr
· ·			, , , , , , , , ,
for MENP			
Prepare project briefs for UWA	WMR	SPEIAC, CAM	1 st -10 th yr
developments		,	
developments			
Review EIAs and other environmental	WMR	CAM, SPEIAC, LG	1 st -10 th yr

Activity	Responsi	Other	Time
	ble per		
reports for developments in and			
around the park			
Conduct audits for existing	WMR	SPEIAC, CAM	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
developments			-
Carry out awareness on	WCC	WMR	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
environmental issues			
Develop a waste management plan	WMR	SPEIAC	3 rd yr
Train staff in EIAs	WMR	SPEIAC	4 ^{th,} 8 th yr
Collaborate with DEO on	WMR	LG, SPEIAC	1^{st} - 10^{th} yr
developments that may have an			
impact on the park			

PART 3: THE BUSINESS PLAN

PARK RESOURCES REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

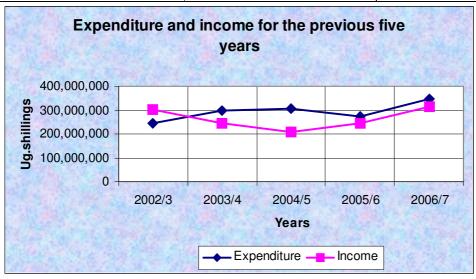
3.1.1 Finance

Historical expenditure and income analysis

The following amounts represent annual expenditure and income. Much of the income for MENP came from PA entry and recreation. Concessions; *franchise and income* has been excluded from the income figures because much of it came from harvesting of the softwood plantation and during the 10 year period for this plan, there will be no harvesting of softwood/timber apart from the intermediary harvesting of thinnings.

The expenditure figures exclude payroll related costs, medical related expenses and plantation management. Plantation management costs have been excluded because they form part of the planned investment costs in section 5.1.4.3 (*Projected Internal revenues*) below.

Period	Expenditure	Income
2002/2003	245,332,211/=	300,298,250/=
2003/2004	296,396,526/=	245,639,350/=
2004/2005	307,132,273/=	207,237,738/=
2005/2006	273,306,434/=	244,768,626/=
2006/2007	345,536,964/=	314,612,448/=



Note that the drop in revenues above during 2004 - 2005 period was because of the political climate in the Country as the Country approached the peak of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections of 2006. The tourism numbers reduced tremendously affecting the revenues.

Planned Investments and costs

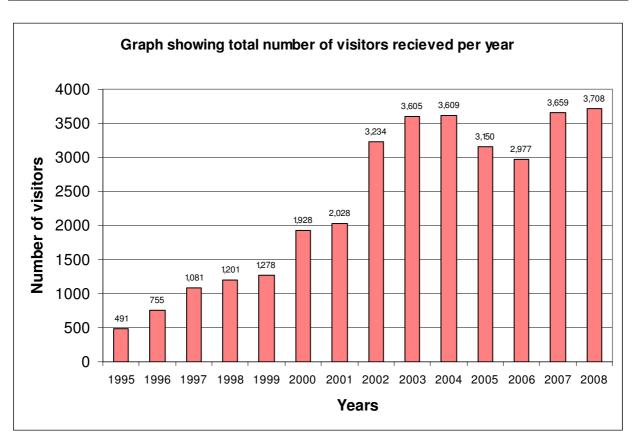
Activity	Yr 1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Cost
Construct two campsites midway along Bushiyi trail	10m										10m
Construct one campsite along Wanale nature trail (Nabuyonga loop)		10m									10m
Renovate the Bandas and incorporate the necessary facilities (tents) at			70m								70m
Kapkwai											
Renovate the tented camp and incorporate the necessary facilities at	20m	20m									40m
Kapkwai cottages											
Establish a picnic site at Chebonet falls					5m						5m
Construct canopy walk in the natural high forest at kapkwai				100m	50m						150m
Construct hanging bridges on Suam and Simu gorges				200m	100m						300m
Construct additional facilities at Piswa camp	10m										10m
Establish a 15km nature trail at Kapkwata and a 5km loop trail to		2m									2m
Mubiyi peak and also a nature walk trail around Piswa campsite.											
Establish a camp site at the Caldera(Mukutano point), 3km from the			50m								50m
Hot spring											
Establish a tourism trail (38km) from Suam to Wagagai through the	12m										12m
Hot spring											
Establish an 8km nature trail through Ashower cave at Suam		4m									4m
Establish 4 camp sites along suam to wagagai trail				50m	50m						100m
Establish viewing platforms at the Hot spring and on the rock at					10m						10m
Mudde camp											
Establish a short trail from the hot spring to Siyo cave and water falls						1m					1m
Construct Visitor centre, curio shop, and interpretation area at UWA			20m	15m	15m						50m
Suam office											
Establish a camp site and the associated facilities at Lower Tutum cave					10m						10m
Establish a picnic site 7km between Kajeri campsite and Tutum cave							5m				5m
Construct additional 4 tent pads, bathrooms & latrines at Kajeri camp	10m	10m	10m								30m
site and 6 tent pads at Muyembe, 10 at sasa river camp, 10 tent pads at											
Piswa, 6 tent pads at Hunters cave.											
Install ladders at the steep slope on the way to Kajeri camp		15m									15m
Construct huts for porters (1) and tourists (2) at Kajeri camp site,	50m	20m	20m	20m	20m	20m					150m
Muyembe, Tutum, Mudde, Piswa, Hunters cave and Sasa											
Develop Rock bolting						150m					150m
Construct Cliff swings						300m					300m
Forest Plantation establishment at Suam and Kapkwata	120m	400m	100m	20m	20m	20m	20m	50m	50m	50m	850m
Total	232m	481m	270m	405m	280m	491m	25m	50	50	50	2,334m

Expected revenue generation

Increasing tourist numbers to the park

➤ Over the years the tourism numbers have been on the increase and are expected to continue with the improved PA management based on this plan.

	ANNUAL VISITOR STATISTIC 1995-2007														
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL
Visitor Residents	163	225	325	306	295	340	420	553	605	618	595	728	618	634	6425
Foreign Non Residents	134	176	202	240	208	223	319	441	446	387	323	267	382	655	4403
Foreign Residents	47	24	94	114	149	154	164	374	590	417	288	416	552	345	3728
Citizen Resident	147	320	400	417	329	550	525	689	1,070	1,152	874	682	1004	1004	9163
Students	0	10	60	124	297	661	600	1,177	894	1,035	1,070	884	1,103	1,070	8,985
Total.	491	755	1,081	1,201	1,278	1,928	2,028	3,234	3,605	3,609	3,150	2,977	3,659	3,708	32,704



TRENDS OF TOURIST NATIONALITIES IN MENP (2000 - 2007)

111	ENDS OF TOURIS	INAII	CIVALI	IILO II	AINITIA	P (200	10 - ZU	<i>31)</i>		
	Nationalities	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
1	Americans	33	37	146	135	138	104	108	99	800
2	Australian	15	12	16	14	16	13	17	18	121
3	Austrian	10	25	23	29	17	18	10	24	137
6	Belgian	15	32	22	17	13	5	19	19	142
7	Brazilian						1		2	3
8	British	221	277	289	327	285	204	408	368	2379
9	Canada	15	36	34	27	41	22	23	47	245
10	Chinese		12	26						38
11	Congolese				1		1	2		4
12	Czechs	2	9	11	26	25	71	50	40	234
13	Danes	27	16	23	52	32	35	29	22	236
14	Dutch	65	71	101	71	85	43	45	52	533
15	Ecuadorians				1					1
16	Estonians							2		2
17	Ethiopians	1	1	0			1		1	4
18	Finnish		1	7	3	3	1	4	9	28
19	French	22	8	19	29	24	19	22	31	174
20	German	33	93	86	98	113	187	100	169	879
21	Ghana		1	1						2
22	Greeks	1	0	4	1	1				7
23	Greenland				0	1				1
24	Hungarian	4			0	1	0		5	10
25	Icelanders	5	0	0	9	1		3		18
26	Indians	8	3	20	18	18	26	4	22	119
27	Irish	2	18	15	14	6	3	9	4	71
28	Israelites	18	26	32	19	44	40	43	47	269
29	Italians	6	10	24	17	30	15	13	37	152
30	Japans	3	7	8	4	11	19	17	16	85
31	Kenyans	6	5	8	36	25	5	2	5	92
32	Koreans	3	1	2			0		5	11
33	Madagascans						1			1
34	malayans								1	1
35	Morishians				0	1				1
36	New Guinean	1	0	1						2
37	New Zealanders	6	0	4	1	1	6	4	1	23
	Nationalities	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total

						_				
	Nigerians				1	0				1
	Norwegians	13	9	27	25	12	11	16	14	127
	Pakistan		0	1						1
-	Peruvians	1	0	0						1
	Polish	5	1	1	1	8	2	3		21
43	Romanian			1						1
44	Russian				21	6	5	2	4	38
45	Rwandes						1			1
46	S.Africans	7	5	20	21	20	4	4	6	87
47	Scottish		7	6	11	3	2		1	30
48	Sieraleonians				0	3	2			5
49	Singaporians				6					6
50	Slovakians				9	3	2	1	3	18
51	Slovene		1	2			1			4
52	Somalis				0	1				1
53	Spanish	6	2	17	26	8	13	12	12	96
54	Sudanese		0	2						2
55	Swedish	4	12	19	11	13	32	11	4	106
56	Swiss	5	4	20	7	5	12	10	20	83
57	Taiwanese				2	0				2
	Tanzanians	4	0	4	3	2			1	14
	Ugandan	1360	1286	2192	2511	2593	2221	1982	2538	16683
	Uruguay	1	0	0	0	0				1
	ukrainians								10	10
	Zambians				1		2	1		4
	Zimbabwe				0	0		1		1
	Others					J			2	2
	Totals	1928	2028	3234	3605	3609	3151	2977	3659	24191

Increasing internally generated revenues/income from park activities

The following are some of the current activities that generate income for MENP;

- a) Entrance fees -Visitors
- b) Camping fees
- c) Ranger guide fees
- d) Mountain climbing
- e) Nature walk fees
- f) Research fees
- g) Accommodation-Hostel
- h) Accommodation-Bandas
- i) PA Entry and Recreation Activities
- j) Concessions Income Sign Feesk) Concessions Income-Ground Rent
- I) Concessions Income-Fran Fee
- m) Concessions and Income
- n) Sale of Publications
- o) Sale of T Shirts
- p) Canteen Sales
- a) Post Cards
- r) Interest Earned
- s) Fines
- t) Other Internally Generated Income/revenue

With the implementation of the planned new tourism activities and investments described in this plan, internally generated revenue is expected to increase tremendously;

Financial gap analysis

Projected tourist numbers

Looking at the annual tourist statistics above and putting into consideration the expected tourism investments including improving of the existing tourism products and marketing efforts, the tourism numbers will grow by 200 tourists per year for the next ten years.

Projected Recurrent costs

Without considering salary, medical, gratuity, and plantation expenses the average annual expenditure has been calculated to be Uganda shillings 370m and is not expected to increase. Actually efforts should be made to try and reduce the recurrent expenditure to be less than the 370m per year.

Projected Internal revenues

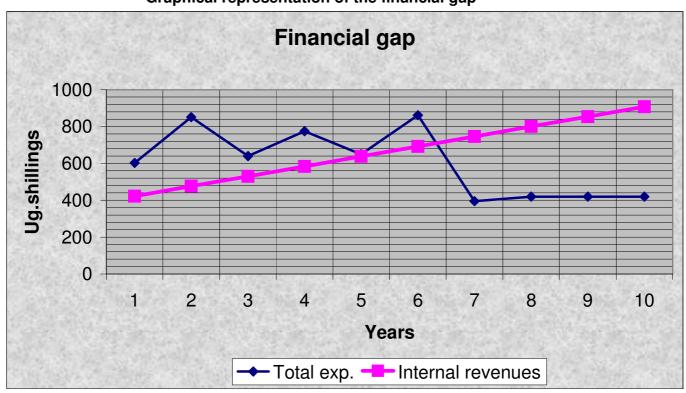
The average income increase in the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 has been calculated to about 54 millions. This figure is therefore being taken as the minimum amount expected to increase in revenues each year. Note that income from softwood plantation has not been included.

Projected revenues, tourist numbers and the expected financial gap

YR	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Tourist (>200) numbers	4059	4259	4459	4659	4859	5059	5259	5459	5659	5859
Recurrent costs	370m									
Investment costs	232m	481m	270m	405m	280m	491m	25m	50m	50m	50m
Total exp.	602m	851m	640m	775m	650m	861m	395m	420m	420m	420m
Internal revenues	422m	476m	530m	584m	638m	692m	746m	800m	854m	908m
Gap (+/-)	(180m)	(375m)	(110m)	(191m)	(12m)	(169m)	351m	380m	434m	488m

For the first six years (2009/2010 to 2014/2015) of the implementation of this plan there will be a negative financial gap as given above. It is assumed that this gap shall be bridged by contributions from GoU, NGOs and Development partners in order to fully implement the planned actions and be self-sustainable for the remaining four years as shown above. In addition to the above sources of funds to bridge the gap, implementation of the planned investments will create an increase in tourist numbers hence increasing internal revenues. Other revenues shall come from the thinnings and final crop harvesting.

Graphical representation of the financial gap



3.1.2 Human Resources

Staff number and position requirements

As of February 2009, the staff of Mt. Elgon National Park was as follows

Staff	Current Number (02/2009)	Proposed additional numbers (2009- 2019)
Conservation Area Manager (CAM)	1	0
Senior Warden	1	0
Warden Tourism	1	0
Warden Plantation	1	0
Warden Accounts	1	0
Warden Monitoring and Research	1	0
Assistant Warden Community Conservation/Education	1	0
Assistant Warden Law Enforcement	1	0
Account Clerks	2	1
Patrol Rangers	107	0

Staff	Current Number (02/2009)	Proposed additional numbers (2009- 2019)
Information Clerks	4	1
Drivers	5	2
Office secretary	1	0
Office Messenger	1	0
Office attendant/cleaner	1	0
Guest House attendants	2	0
Radio Operator	1	0
Porters	2	1
Cook	1	0
Forest Technicians	7	0
Warden Legal	0	1
Total number of staff	142	3

To be able to dispose of cases as soon as they come bearing in mind that Mount Elgon area has got the highest number of cases in relation to land conflicts, it is proposed that an Officer with legal qualifications be recruited specifically for the Conservation area. The detailed action can be found under the Park operation programme above.

Staff skills development

Administrative capacity

Administrative Staff capacity issues

The roles of Mt. Elgon National Park staff are evolving rapidly, with staff increasingly being called upon to carry out tasks relating to such fields as community conservation, visitor services, tourism marketing, natural resource management, public safety, and revenue generation. In most cases, staff have been inadequately prepared for these tasks. It is critical that well thought out training plans be prepared and implemented. Some training needs will be met through programmes initiated at the Headquarters level. However, it is also important that a training plan be put in place at the Park level. This is in the interests both of the Park and of the individual employee. The Park training plan should address the particular needs of all of the various elements of the Park operation, such as law enforcement, community conservation, conservation education, natural resource management, visitor services/tourism, monitoring and evaluation and administration/financial management. Given the prominent role foreseen for a collaborative approach to Park management in future, the staff training implications of that management approach must be fully appreciated and the requisite actions taken. In order to operationalize the training programme, the following actions shall be implemented;

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To operationalize the training program

Management actions

Activity	Responsi ble per	Other	Time
Update training plan regularly	CAM	HRM	3 rd -9 th yr
Decentralise specific trainings for	CAM	HRM	3 rd yr
MENP in the training plan			
Conduct the training	CAM	HRM	4 th -10 th yr
Evaluate the impacts of the	CAM	WMR, HRM,	6 th yr
training		SPEIAC,	
		CCAM	
Carry out fresh training needs	CAM	HRM	10 th yr
assessment			

Tourism capacity

Tourism staff Capacity issues

The tourism guides in MENP generally lack adequate customer care knowledge. The Park will encourage the provision of training programmes to improve the quality of tourism services, and will support such efforts where possible. Specifically the Park will continue to work towards enhanced levels of service by guides and porters, by supporting training courses offered to them. As well, the Park will encourage private sector tourism interests in the region to deliver training programmes for staff involved in tourism services. The intent will be to enhance the diversity and quality of experiences available to visitors within the Mt. Elgon region as a whole, with particular attention to questions of visitor safety and visitor satisfaction.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 2: To develop capacity in visitor handling and customer care Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Carry out training needs assessment for staff both	CAM	HRM,	1 st -2 nd yr
in the park and around		WT	
Prepare training materials	WT	CAM,	2 nd -4 th yr
		MM	
Carry out specialized training for staff, guides and	WT	HRM,	4 th yr, 7 th yr
hotel staff		MM	
Support formation and strengthening of the existing	CAM	MM, WT	1 st -10 th yr
tourism associations			
Arrange exchange visits for tour guides to other	WT	MM	Every 3 yrs
PAs			Every 3 yrs (3 rd , 7 th ,
			10th)

Staff capacity in rescue and safety operations

Rescue and safety issues

All visitors undertaking to climb Mt. Elgon do so at their own risk. However this does not mean that UWA will do nothing to help an injured or sick visitor while in the mountains. On the contrary UWA goes at great length to help the sick and the injured come out of the mountains and get specialized medical care. Unfortunately the guides and porters who take the visitor along the journey have limited ability to offer first aid services to the clients and are often ill-equipped if at all. This does not auger well with UWA's reputation and has brought a lot of complaints from many visitors.

Objective 1: To ensure the security and safety of tourists in the park

Management actions

Management actions			
Activity	Responsible	Other	Time
	per		th.
Form a search and rescue team (including	WLE	CAM, CLE,	4 th yr
guides)		ED,WT	-
Train and equip the team in rescue	WLE	CAM, HRM,	5 th yr
techniques		WT	
Train and equip staff with intelligence skills	WLE	CLE	1 st -10 th yr
Establish a network of informers	WLE	CAM, CLE	1 st -10 th yr
Prepare and distribute safety tips to visitors	WT	WLE	2 nd yr
Introduce a rescue fee	CAM	WA, WT,	6 th yr
		WLE, MM	
Prepare an evacuation plan	WLE	CAM, CLE,	5 th yr
		WT	
Liase with other security agencies	WLE	CLE, CAM	1 st -10 th yr

3.2 MOUNT ELGON NATIONAL PARK CONSERVATION RISKS

3.2.1 Risk analysis

Risk is a fact of any business life and these risks must be managed for the smooth running of that business enterprise. MENP is faced with a number of risks, which affect the management of the area. The Risk analysis will provide the management of MENP with tools to assess and mitigate events that might adversely impact the implementation of this plan, thereby increasing the likelihood of success. The risk analysis below identifies, analyses and develops contingency plans.

The key risk areas identified for MENP include:

Political Instability, interference and insecurity

Tourism is a fragile business, easily affected by the security situation in the country. Any change in political climate will affect the number of tourists coming in the country. For example if MENP is hit by an insurgence, countries where the tourists come from will give

travel advisories not to travel to the park, and this will affect the income base of the park. Global terrorism was also considered a risk as this will greatly affect the incoming tourists.

Encroachment, Community sabotage, and unsuitable infrastructure

Since local communities surround this protected area, community interference in the management of the park was considered a risk. Encroachments by the communities reduce the park area and its habitat potential for wildlife. Setting up unsuitable infrastructure next to the park, which would make the park unattractive, would also be another risk.

Poaching, and illegal timber harvesting

Poaching for game meat and illegal timber harvesting are some of the threats to the park. They pose a risk to the extinction of forest species and fauna.

Fraud and high staff turnover

The success of any company depends on its human resources. This is why the issues under human resources were considered. These include; high staff turnover and fraud. With increased revenue generation, this risk cannot be under looked. If staff decide to leave the park after investing in them in terms of training, it will affect the PA as more staff will need to be recruited and trained which requires money and time resources.

Government policies and monitory value fluctuations

Government policies and changes in foreign exchange regulations, inflation and change in interest rates may also impact on the operations of the Park. This is due to the fact that tariffs are paid in dollars since most tourist come from outside the Country.

Landslides and other natural disasters

MENP fragility makes it susceptible to land slides. These occur especially during heavy rains in areas that are steep sloped and where the type of cultivation by the surrounding communities does not hold back the soils. Where this has occurred people have lost lives.

3.2.2 Risk Management

The surrounding communities will need to be sensitized on the value of the PA so as to curb the risk of encroachment. Those who have encroached will be evicted and convicted in the courts of law. Maintenance of the boundary will also be done on regular basis to curb encroachment.

The risk of poaching will be dealt with through investigating illegal meat markets and infiltrating communities to gather intelligence information. Regulations on keeping wildlife animals and souvenirs shall be revised, publicized and implemented at an appropriate time to apply to all the PAs.

High staff turn over is an important risk in any organization, which depend on human resources for its operations such as the service industry. This can take place through staff dismissals for various reasons, staff resignations and non-renewal of staff contracts. This risk will be mitigated by building staff capacity through training and staff promotions as a way of increasing staff morale to remain on the job and to increase performance.

3.2.3 Contingency Planning

Risk	Characteristics	Planned Response
Political instability, interference and security	 Ability to avoid the risk occurring is low or non-existent Impact could be immediate 	VigilanceConservation awareness
Disease outbreak	 Exposure to this type of risk is daily or constant Impact could be immediate 	 Issuing guidelines on prevention of disease transmission Community health sensitisation Maintain enough drug supplies Improve field and headquarter communication Vaccination of domestic animals around PA
Global terrorism	 Exposure to this type of risk is frequent or regular Ability to avoid the risk occurring is moderate Impact could be seen in the short-term Ability to mitigate the impact of the risk is moderate 	VigilanceConservation awareness
Fraud	Exposure to this type of risk is frequent or regular	 Staff motivation Arrest and prosecute Offenders in courts of law Improve staff remuneration
Encroachment	Exposure to this type of risk is frequent or regular	Boundary demarcation and maintenance Community sensitisation Eviction and arrest of defaulters Involve districts in community awareness programmes
High staff turnover	 Exposure to this type of risk is frequent or regular 	 Counsel staff regularly Hold regular meetings with staff to discuss HR issues Build capacity of staff through training
Unsuitable infrastructure	Exposure to this type of risk is frequent or regular	 Conduct EIAs Conduct environmental inspections with Local Governments Sensitization of potential investors Ensure that approved plans exist
Community sabotage	This risk has occurred most often often	 Use and or involve Government structures to implement conservation programmes Negotiate and also use 3rd parties as strategies and techniques to resolve conflicts Negotiate for MOUs with communities Carry out community sensitisation
Poaching and illegal timber harvesting	 Exposure to this type of risk is frequent Ability to avoid the risk occurring is high Impact could be seen in the 	 Research on wildlife meat markets and close them Deploy community members as information gatherers Revise, publicize and implement

Characteristics	Planned Response		
medium- to long-term	regulations on keeping wildlife animals as Pets, and also on wildlife souvenirs.		
	 Provide economic incentives to potential poachers e.g. jobs 		
	Establish a rapid response force		
Exposure to this type of risk is infrequent	 Turn the sites into a tourist attraction by developing interesting tales/stories surrounding their creation Re-vegetate the sites affected Redesign trails away from those sites Work with local governments to introduce sustainable agriculture around the park 		
	medium- to long-term Exposure to this type of risk is		

3.3 FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR REVENUE GENERATION

3.3.1 Introduction

Mount Elgon National Park (MENP) needs to increase its internally generated revenues in order to aim at self-sustainability in the long run. This can be done through the development and promotion of tourism activities in and around the park. Involvement of concessionaires is going on to provide competitive accommodation to encourage the tourists to stay longer and have the opportunity of looking at the rest of the products other than mountaineering.

3.3.2 Financial strategies

Improvement of the Tourism Infrastructure

Tourism in MENP is not well developed partly due to insecurity but mostly due to limited infrastructure including accommodation facilities. The trails are not evenly distributed through the park due to the park terrain and also because of low tourist numbers some are not maximised. These trails are poorly maintained and lack resting places. Some of these are poorly designed and visitors have to use the same route on their way out which becomes so monotonous.

The huts are quite important in the mountain climbing activities since they ensure that there is no need for visitors to carry tents up the mountain which reduces on the number of porters required to escort visitors. However these huts are devoid of anything except the bare floors and platforms erected for sleeping on. A visitor therefore has to carry a sleeping mat and a sleeping bag on the journey. Because the sites have no attendants, it would be impossible to provide beddings, however the provision of mattresses could be important in making the trip more comfortable and further reducing on the number of porters who have to carry the visitors sleeping mats if security improves. The huts also lack saucepans, lamps, cooking stoves and other necessities resulting into the need to carry this along the trek for every group that climbs the mountains.



Dilapidated bridge at Sasa River; such infrastructure require improvement

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To promote investment in tourism infrastructure in and around the park Management actions

Activity	Responsible	Others	Time
	person		
Identify tourism investment opportunities in and around	WT	CAM, DCO, Tourism	Yr:1
the park		associations	
Prepare an investment prospectus	WT	MM,BDM, CAM	Yr.1
Disseminate information about the prospectus through	CAM	PM, BDM	Yr.2
newspapers, radio adverts, person to person, etc			
Organise 2 meetings with LGs on potential tourism	CAM	DCO, WCC, WT	Yr. 1-2
investments outside the park			
Prepare bid documents	PM	CAM, BDM	Yr.2
Solicit for potential bidders	PM	CAM,BDM	Yr.2
Sign agreements	ED	CM,BDM	Yr.2
Carry out monitoring of concessions	CAM	CM, WT, BDM, WMR	Yr.2-10

Objective 2: To improve existing tourism infrastructure in the park

Management actions

Management actions	D ""	04	
Activity Construct two committee midway along Byshivi trail	Responsible per	Other WAR	Time V= 1
Construct two campsite midway along Bushiyi trail	WT	WCC, WMR	Yr.1
Construct one campsite along Wanale nature trail	WT	CAM, WMR	Yr. 2
(Nabuyonga loop)	GANE	WGG WARD DE	77 1
Work with LG to rehabilitate Wanale access Road to	CAM	WCC, WMR, DE	Yr. 1
the park (Magale TC – park boundary)			Yr.1-10
Re advertise Kapkwai cottages for private	CAM	CM, PM, BDM	Yr. 1-2
management			
Renovate the Bandas and incorporate the necessary	WT	CAM, WA	Yr. 3
facilities (tents) at Kapkwai			
Appraise the interpretation centre at Kapkwai to	CAM	WCC, WT, WMR	Yr, 1-2
determine its relevancy			
Replace the current interpretative centre structure at	WT	WCC	YR. 2-3
kapkwai according to the appraisal results			
Establish a picnic site at Chebonet falls	WT	WMR	Yr. 5
Construct canopy walk in the natural high forest at	CAM	WT, PM, ED, BDM	Yr. 4-5
Kapkwai and Piswa			
Construct hanging bridges on Suam, Siti and Simu	CAM	WT, PM, ED, BDM, Sector W	YR. 4-5
gorges		,,	
Maintain tourism trails	WT	WMR	Yr. 1-10
Construct additional facilities at Piswa camp	WT	CAM	Yr. 1
Establish a 15km nature trail at Kapkwata, a 5km	WT	WMR, Sector W	Yr. 2
loop at mubiyi peak and nature walk trail at Piswa	VV 1	WWK, Sector W	11. 2
campsite			
Establish a camp site at the Caldera(Mukutano	CAM	WT	Yr. 3
point), 3km from the Hot spring	CAM	WI	11. 3
	WT	WMR, Sector W	Yr. 1
Establish a tourism trail (38km) from Suam to	WI	WMR, Sector W	Y r. 1
Wagagai through the Hot spring	XX 7/T2	WMD C 4 W	37. 0
Establish an 8km nature trail through Ashower cave	WT	WMR, Sector W	Yr. 2
at Suam	***	WARD CAME OF W	77 4 5
Establish 4 camp sites along suam to wagagai trail	WT	WMR, CAM, Sector W	Yr. 4-5
Establish viewing platforms at the Hot spring and on	WT	WMR	Yr. 5
the rock at Mudde camp			
Establish a short trail from the hot spring to Siyo	WT	WMR	Yr. 6
cave and water falls			
Construct Visitor centre, curio shop, and	CAM	WT,SW, Sector W	Yr. 3-5
interpretation area at UWA Suam office			
Establish a camp site and the associated facilities at	WT	WMR	Yr. 5
Lower Tutum cave			
Establish a picnic site 7km between Kajeri campsite	WT	WMR	Yr. 7
and Tutum cave			
Establish a picnic site at the ridge of Mudange cliff,	WT	WMR	Yr.2
and Atari river			
Construct additional 4 tent pads, bathrooms &	WT	WMR	Yr. 1-3
latrines at Kajeri camp site and 6 tent pads at			
Muyembe, 10 at sasa river camp, 10 at Piswa and 6 at			
Hunters cave			
Install ladders at the steep slope on the way to Kajeri	WT	CAM	Yr. 2
camp			
Construct huts for porters (1) and tourists (1) at	WT	CAM, WMR	Yr. 1-6
Kajeri camp site, Muyembe, Tutum, Mudde, Hunters	, . -	,	
cave, Piswa and Sasa			
	I .		1

Marketing

Very little marketing is currently undertaken for MENP, as there is no specific marketing plan. Information about MENP and its attractions is only provided in brochures whose distribution is only at UWA offices (headquarters and the various parks) and a few of the tour operators. Information about the park on the UWA website (www.uwa.or.ug) is limited in content. A further shortcoming is the failure of regional tourism stakeholders to develop and present a coordinated marketing strategy to promote major and minor attractions.

Visitors to the park are probably the main information dissemination outlets for MENP. There is therefore a lot that still needs to be done to ensure the wider world is aware of the beauty and other attractions of MENP.

UWA has a policy to develop and sell items (resale items) to visitors that can be used for marketing. Such items include caps, T-shirts, cards etc. Unfortunately the provision of these for sale has been rather erratic and the quality often leaves a lot to be desired.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To diversify/improve on the marketing techniques for MENP

Management actions

Activity	Responsi ble per	Other	Time
Compile and forward information about MENP to stakeholders	WT	WMR, CAM	1 st -2 nd yr
Liase with travel agents to market the park	CAM	WT, MM	2 nd -10 th yr
Put in place a marketing task force	CAM	WT, MM	3 rd yr
Attend local, national and international exhibitions	WT	CAM, MM,	1 st -10 th yr
and trade shows		BDM	-
Produce marketing materials e.g. brochures, guide books, local calendars, fact sheets, car tyre covers, and resale items	WT	MM	3 rd -10 th yr
Advertise in print and electronic media and on CDs (electronic memory card)	WT	CAM, WA	1 st -10 th yr
Brand MENP as tourist destination	CAM	WT, MM	3 rd yr

Objective 2: To establish a marketing strategy for promoting MENP as a tourist destination

Management actions

Activity	Responsi ble per	Other	Time
Network with other tour companies to market MENP	WT	MM	1 st -10 th yr
Organize tours for tourism staff from other PAs to internalize MENP attractions	WT	CAM, MM	Every 2 yrs
Organize corporate days for MENP	CAM	WCC, ED, MM, BDM	Every yr
Organize annual forums with hoteliers, tour agents and other stakeholders	CAM	WT, MM	1 st -10 th yr
Develop a tourism master plan for ME region (Cross border tourism)	WT	CAM	5 th yr

Purchase and maintenance of the Tourism Equipment

The terrain in MENP makes work rather difficult and dangerous. The need for appropriate equipment cannot therefore be over-emphasized. These pieces of equipment are however grossly lacking and even if they were available many of the staff do not know how to use them. Equipment required include mountain climbing equipment, tents, warm clothing, cooking utensils, Global positioning systems, Binoculars, etc.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To acquire appropriate tourism equipment and materials

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Carry out assessment of required	WT	WLE, WMR	1 st -2 nd yr
equipments			
Procure the necessary equipments	CAM	WA, PM	3 rd yr
Develop a maintenance, replacement and	WT	WMR	4 th yr
disposal plan			

Tourism partnerships, products and activities

The major tourism activity in MENP is mountaineering. The moment one enters MENP, there are no places for replenishing ones food or other requirements along the way. This means that every climber must carry all they need for the journey. This therefore requires each climber to use at least two porters for the journey. Usually, a group of climbers (normally a group not exceeding four) will need a guide who is well versed with the terrain and routes on the mountain to lead them. There is need to identify other activities and routes that could be used to cater for the various categories of visitors who would wish to visit MENP. This would particularly take advantage of the variety of unique features that

may be of interest. Consideration of shorter routes and different approaches to the peaks should be undertaken.

There is almost negligible community tourism around MENP yet this could easily be combined with mountain climbing to provide an extra income for the community members. Community participation in tourism development within and around MENP is currently limited to Sipi falls and Sipi eco-tourism association. The Bugisu region also has a rich culture that could be harnessed for tourism. The cultural activities of the Bagisu are particularly intriguing and can be a great attraction. However there is little that has been done to develop these for tourism. These could particularly benefit the local communities but also help enhance tourism with MENP. Activities such as rock climbing in and around the park could be introduced.

Disabled visitors and the old have no ability at present to visit and enjoy the unique beauty of MENP because there are no facilities to enable them to trek to the Mountain peaks. Several possibilities can be considered including construction of short distance camping sites and picnics and use of chair lifts. To avoid haphazard development of visitor facilities and attractions a properly thought out Tourism Development Plan needs to be developed with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Objectives and proposed actions

Objective 1: To diversify tourism activities

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Carry out assessment of potential attractions in and	WT	SPEIAC, MM,	1^{st} -2 nd yr
around the park		BDM	
Introduce rock climbing and abseiling,	WT	BDM, CM,	1 ST -10 th yr
sunrise/sunset viewing, canopy walks, cliff swings		MM	
and tree climbing			
Introduce Cultural tourism (circumcision, bull	WT	WCC, BDM	4 th yr
fighting, cultural dances)			
Introduce Butterfly viewing	WT	BDM, WMR	2 nd yr
Introduce Mountain biking	WT	BDM, MM	5 th yr
Introduce Horse riding	WT	BDM, MM	5 th yr
Introduce Game viewing including primates	WT	BDM, MM	3 rd yr

Objective 2: To improve existing tourism products

Management actions

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Put ladders in the cave	WT	CAM, WA	2 nd yr
Compile information (stories,) about the	WT	WLE, WCC	2 nd yr
caves			
Place relevant information on the caves	WT	WLE, WA	2 nd yr
(artfacts)			

Activity	Responsible per	Other	Time
Improve the ladders in slippery areas on	WT	WLE, WA	2 nd yr
the mountain			
Put boardwalks in boggy areas (calidera,	WT	WA	3 rd yr
sasa trail)			
Construct the bridges (calidera, piswa trail,	WT	WMR, WA	$3^{rd} - 5^{th} yr$
tasakya river, Sipi, Sisiyi, and Kere rivers)			-

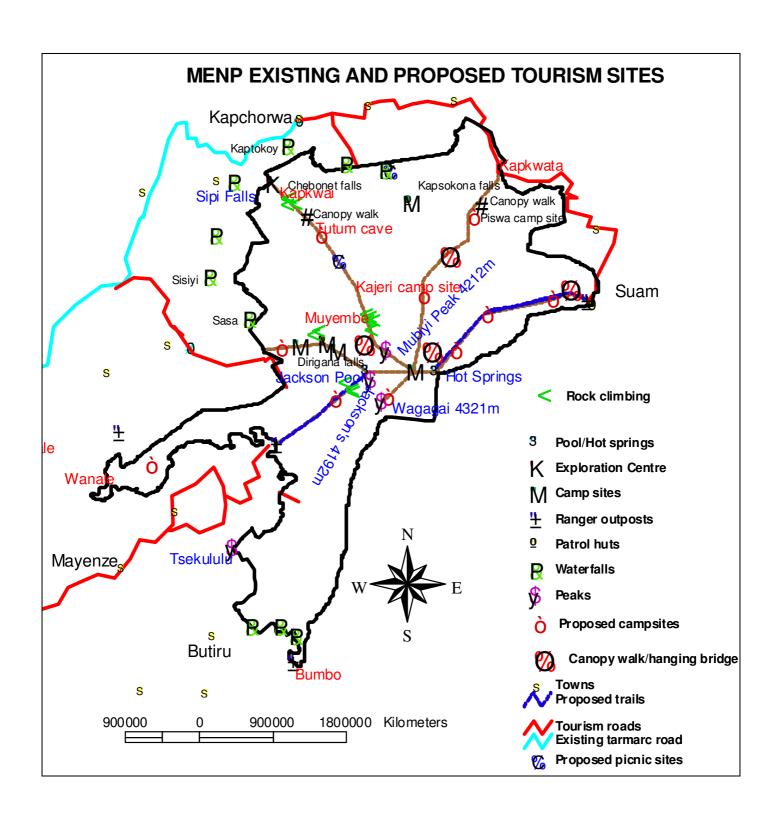
Objective 3: To develop partnerships with the private sector for tourism development

Management actions

Activity	Responsi ble per	Other	Time
Identify areas for cooperation	CÂM	WT, ED, MM, BDM, PRM	1 st -10 th yr
Engage the companies to pay for ecosystem services	CAM	ED, BDM, MM	1 st -10 th yr
Develop and implement MoUs	CAM	WT, CLC	3 rd -8 th yr
Hold progress meetings	CAM	ED	1 st -10 th yr



Examples of some tourism activities being proposed in the GMP such as a Hanging Bridge



Development and dissemination of the interpretive themes

Themes have been developed which will be used in marketing and to arouse interest of the tourists. The list below shows the proposed interpretive themes for the park.

- Traditional beliefs (Burying of natives with head facing the Mountain believed to be near heaven, Treatment of jiggers, healing after circumcision in hot/cold springs)
- ➤ History for the Formation of the largest caldera in the world (Volcanic eruptions and associated landscape)
- The people of the mountain (History of the Ndorobos, Origin of Kalengins of East Africa, Why Bamasaba climbed the mountain, Ancestral home/origin to the Bamasaba and Baganda (Kintu)
- > The mountain of illusion
- > The Jews (Abayudaya) of Mt. Elgon

Development and information dissemination of the Tourism sites

Khaukha cave

The cave is located in Wanale Sub County Mbale District. It is about 30M in depth and has an entrance of about 6M wide. It is inhabited by bats, which make it stink because of the droppings. A small stream originates at the top of the entrance creating a small waterfall and a microclimate at the entrance to the cave. The stream has made the ladders at the entrance slippery thus calling for steadiness while climbing into the cave. The cave is quite good for a conference of up to thirty people but requires some light as you go deeper.

Importance of the cave:

- a. Cultural values: Local communities respect the circumcision period, the local communities visit the cave and perform the rituals before the real circumcision begins.
- b. **Source of Local Manure**: The droppings from the bats have accumulated and formed local manure. This manure is harvested by the local communities adjacent to the park to enrich their gardens. Harvest of manure is done twice a year during planting seasons.
- c. **Tourism attraction**: Wanale Nature walk trail was established via this cave to enable tourists enjoy the cool Micro Climate at the cave as they view the ridges, cliffs, waterfalls and the diverse Montane Forest.

Lyamezi falls

The waterfalls are located in Wanale Sub County Mbale District. The Falls are over 50M high and at the base a micro climate has been created. The rocks above and the foam of the dropping water provide good scenery.

a. **Eco-tourism:** For the clients having limited time and can not explore the forest and its organization, Lyamezi Falls is just two hours drive from Mbale town.

b. **Water value:** As the water flows down to the communities, water tanks have been constructed where water is collected and supplied to the lower communities through gravity water system.

Green fields campsite

This is an Eco-tourism campsite, which was established at the slopes of Wanale ridge basically to accommodate clients who come to view attraction at the periphery of the park. These attractions include Khaukha cave, Lyamezi falls, the people (local communities) and cultures.

Nabwimboti cave

This cave is located in Masira Sub County Sironko District. It is a storied cave with double entrance. It is large and very dark inside requiring a spot light. Bats inhabit it.

Importance of the cave:

a. Source of local manure:

The accumulation of the bats droppings has caused local manure for the communities adjacent to the park who harvest it.

b. Cultural value:

The cave is visited by the natives before the onset of the circumcision period for the performance of rituals. A trail shall be established around the cave for tourists.

Sisiyi water falls

These falls are located on River Sisiyi in Buluganya Sub County Sironko District. The water falls over a cliff of approximately 100M creating mist, rainbow and a micro climate. The scenery is very beautiful. There is accommodation (bandas) campsites, canteen, bar and a shot nature walk trail.

Sasa river campsite

As you trek Mt. Elgon via Sasa Trail, you will pitch your tent at this campsite for your first night. This is a basic campsite established along the trail. Facilities such as guides and porters huts, pit latrines, running water, rubbish pits are available at the campsite. Improvement and maintenance of the camp is done by UWA – MENP.

Wall of death

Immediately you enter Mt. Elgon National Park via Sasa Trail, there is a cliff known as Muddange. Ladders have been constructed in form of a wall to ensure that clients over come the cliff. There is no way to the peak via this route without overcoming this cliff. These ladders are maintained quarterly to ensure safety of the tourists and resource users.

Bamboo zone

This is a vegetation zone characterized by the Bamboo Forest Alpine. Bamboo Zone occupies 21% of the total area of Mt. Elgon National Park. Bamboo is widely used by the local people adjacent to the park through resource use agreements.

Uses of bamboo:

- Bamboo shoots as food (vegetable)
- Dry bamboo for construction, hand crafts

Locals sell dried bamboo shoots to earn a living.

The moorland

This vegetation type occupies 23% of the total area of Mt. Elgon National Park. It is characterized by short grass (shrubs) and beautiful everlasting flowers. It is a good habitat for many animals, which include antelopes, buffaloes, bushbucks, civet, duikers, hyenas, jackals rock hyrax and elephants.



Jackson's pool

This is a pool of Blue and very cold water. The pool is about 30M in diameter and 1-1.5M deep. It is very beautiful scenery and serves as a tourist attraction as most tourists heading to Wagagai peak pass via the pool to observe the beautiful scenery.

Wagagai peak

This is the highest point on Mt. Elgon National Park both in Uganda and Kenya. It is at 4321M above sea level. It is characterized by a heap of stones. Mt. Elgon National Park Management has maintained a trail to this point, which is in regular use by the tourists both from Uganda and Kenya (Kenya on Cross Border Tourism).

Jackson summit

This summit is within the Moorland and hits at an altitude of 4,168M above sea level. When observed from far; it looks higher than real peak. When you are at this point, you are able to view the caldera ream and the Crater Lakes there in. Mt. Elgon National Park has maintained a trail up to the summit to enable tourists reach there.

PART 4: EVALUATION	I AND MONIT	ORING	

PLAN EVALUATION AND MONITORING

The performance evaluation of this GMP including the financial generation and expenditure sections will be done after the 5th year of implementation and before the end of the 6th year of implementation. This exercise will be done for the following reasons among others;

- i. Determine the level of activity implementation as planned
- ii. Asses and create awareness about park operations for the benefit of stakeholders
- iii. Stream line management effectiveness and create transparency to the Partners and stakeholders
- iv. Assess the effectiveness of the planning process as a tool for effective and efficient management
- v. Identify gaps and propose a way forward to fill the gaps.
- vi. Identify new issues and activities for implementation
- vii. Determine financial discipline in expenditure
- viii. Evaluate the revenue generation strategies
- ix. Reschedule the remaining actions within the time frame

This will be done in consultation with all stakeholders as described in section 2.2 (Chapter two) above. The performance evaluation tool developed earlier for other GMPs shall be improved and used depending on the circumstances at that time of evaluation. The sample of the tool is given below;

Sample of the Matrix

Implementation plan			Performance									
Activity details/Actions	Timing	On going(ongoing or not)	Completed	Started& not	Partly done Reasons for no			Reasons for no performance	Performance indicators	Outputs/Quantities against max. Requirements	Outcomes/impact	
					1% -	40% -	- %02					
Programme												
Action	Year 1-2		Х								30 pillars in place	Conflicts with neighbors resolved.
Action	Ongoing	X									6 sensitisati on meetings	Minimal boundary conflicts.

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APPENDENCES

Fauna and Flora

A1 Mammals

The following checklist of mammals for MENP is taken from Wilson's 1995 publication of the National Biodiversity Data Bank. This same source can be consulted for scientific names:

- Blue Monkey
- de Brazza's Monkey
- Black and White Colobus
- Leopard
- African Elephant
- Bushpig
- African Buffalo
- Sitatunga
- Common (Bush) Duiker
- Gambian Sun Squirrel
- Red-legged Sun Squirrel
- Geoffrey's Ground Squirrel

- Lord Derby's Flying Squirrel
- Arabian Horseshoe Bat
- Banana Bat
- Forest Pouched Rat
- Montane Groove-toothed Rat
- Tropical Groove-toothed Rat
- Mt. Elgon Mole-rat
- Common Striped Grass Mouse
- Pygmy Mouse
- Rusty-nosed Rat
- Four-striped Grass Mouse

A.2 Birds

The following checklist for MENP is again taken from the 1995 National Biodiversity Data Bank publication compiled by Wilson. As before, this source can be consulted for scientific names, as well as for alternative common names.

- Madagascar Squacco Heron
- Lammergeier
- Harrier Hawk
- Great Sparrowhawk
- Ovampo Sparrowhawk
- Rufous Sparrowhawk
- African Goshawk
- Verreaux's Eagle
- Augur Buzzard
- Mountain Buzzard
- Ayre's Hawk Eagle
- Booted Eagle
- Martial Eagle
- Black Kite
- Fox Kestrel
- Hobby
- Clapperton's Francolin
- Jackson's Francolin
- Moorland Francolin

- Scaly Francolin
- Helmeted Guineafowl
- Wattled Plover
- Lemon Dove
- Olive Pigeon
- Bronze-naped Pigeon
- Tambourine Dove
- Red-headed Lovebird
- Red-fronted Parrot
- Brown Parrot
- Ross' Turaco
- Hartlaub's Turaco
- White-crested Turaco
- Emerald Cuckoo
- Klaas Cuckoo
- Levaillant's Cuckoo
- Black Cuckoo
- African Wood Owl
- Red-chested Owlet

- White-faced Scops Owl
- Montane Nightjar
- Alpine Swift
- Sabine's Spinetail
- Speckled Mousebird
- Narina's Trogon
- Bar-tailed Trogon
- Giant Kingfisher
- Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater
- Broad-billed Roller
- White-headed Wood Hoopoe
- Scimitarbill
- Green Wood Hoopoe
- Black and White Casqued Hornbill
- Crowned Hornbill
- Grey-throated Barbet
- Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird
- Moustached Green Tinkerbird
- Speckled Tinkerbird
- Yellow-throated Tinkerbird
- Yellow-billed Barbet
- Thick-billed Honeyguide
- Least Honeyguide
- Black-throated Honeyguide
- Lesser Honeyguide
- Scaly-throated Honeyguide
- Red-throated Wryneck
- Brown-eared Woodpecker
- Buff-spotted Woodpecker
- Fine-banded Woodpecker
- Cardinal Woodpecker
- Uganda Spotted Woodpecker
- Elliot's Woodpecker
- Yellow-crested Woodpecker
- African Broadbill
- House Martin
- Angola Swallow
- African Rock Martin
- Mosque Swallow

- Black Rough-wing
- Drongo
- Velvet-mantled Drongo
- Western Black-headed Oriole
- Montane Oriole
- White-necked Raven
- Pied Crow
- White-bellied Tit
- Dusky Tit
- African Penduline Tit
- Spotted Creeper
- African Hill Babbler
- Grey-chested Illadopsis
- Scaly-breasted Illadopsis
- Mountain Illadopsis
- Pale-breasted Illadopsis
- Black-lored Babbler
- Black Cuckoo Shrike
- Purple-throated Cuckoo Shrike
- Grey Cuckoo Shrike
- Cameroon Sombre Greenbul
- Slender-billed Greenbul
- Little Grey Greenbul
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul
- Shelley's Greenbul
- Mountain Greenbul
- Little Greenbul
- Honeyguide Greenbul
- Bristlebill
- Joyful Greenbul
- Red-tailed Greenbul
- Nicator
- White-throated Greenbul
- Toro Olive Greenbul
- Cabanis' Greenbul
- Common Bulbul
- Brown-chested Alethe
- Brown-backed Scrub Robin
- Robin Chat

- Blue-shouldered Robin Chat
- Red-capped Robin Chat
- Snowy-headed Robin Chat
- Grey-winged Ground Robin
- White-starred Forest Robin
- Stonechat
- Equatorial Akalat
- Northern Olive Thrush
- African Thrush
- Abyssinian Ground Thrush
- Grey Apalis
- Black-throated Apalis
- Montane Masked Apalis
- Chestnut-throated Apalis
- Black-collared Apalis
- Black-faced Rufous Warbler
- Little Rush Warbler
- Cinnamon Bracken Warbler
- Grey-backed Camaroptera
- Olive-green Camaroptera
- Mountain Yellow Warbler
- Chubb's Cisticola
- Hunter's Cisticola
- Whistling Cisticola
- Trilling Cisticola
- Upcher's Warbler
- Green Hylia
- Yellow-bellied Hyliota
- Uganda Woodland Warbler
- Chiffchaff
- Willow Warbler
- Brown Woodland Warbler
- Banded Prinia
- White-chinned Prinia
- Tawny-flanked Prinia
- Blackcap
- White-browed Crombec
- Green Crombec
- White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher

- Dusky Flycatcher
- Chin-spot Batis
- Jameson's Wattle-eye
- Chestnut Wattle-eye
- Wattle-eye
- Black-throated Wattle-eye
- Blue Flycatcher
- Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher
- Paradise Flycatcher
- White-tailed Crested Flycatcher
- Dusky Crested Flycatcher
- Richard's Pipit
- Tree Pipit
- African Pied Wagtail
- Grey Wagtail
- Mountain Wagtail
- Pink-footed Puffback
- Northern Puffback
- Tropical Boubou
- Luhder's Bush Shrike
- Papyrus Gonolek
- Grey-headed Bush Shrike
- Doherty's Bush Shrike
- Many-coloured Bush Shrike
- Sulphur-breasted Bush Shrike
- Brown-headed Tchagra
- Yellow-billed Shrike
- Mackinnon's Shrike
- Lesser Grey Shrike
- Violet-backed Starling
- Sharpe's Starling
- Purple-headed Glossy Starling
- Purple Glossy Starling
- Splendid Glossy Starling
- Red-winged Starling
- Slender-billed Chestnut-winged Starling
- Waller's Chestnut-winged Starling
- Stuhlmann's Starling

- Superb Starling
- Red-billed Oxpecker
- Collared Sunbird
- Green Sunbird
- Amethyst Sunbird
- Olive-bellied Sunbird
- Malachite Sunbird
- Olive Sunbird
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird
- Golden-winged Sunbird
- Tacazze Sunbird
- Variable Sunbird
- Green-headed Sunbird
- Yellow white-eye
- White-winged Widowbird
- Yellow Bishop
- Marsh Widowbird
- Red-headed Malimbe
- Baglafecht Weaver
- Dark-backed Weaver
- Brown-capped Weaver
- Black-billed Weaver
- Vieillot's Black Weaver
- Black-necked Weaver
- Spectacled Weaver
- Weyn's Weaver
- Holub's Golden Weaver
- Grey-headed Sparrow
- Pin-tailed Whydah
- Black-headed Waxbill
- Yellow-bellied Waxbill
- Black-crowned Waxbill
- Black-bellied Firefinch
- African Firefinch
- Grey-headed Negrofinch
- White-breasted Negrofinch
- Red-headed Bluebill
- Black and White Mannikin
- Bronze Mannikin

- Brown-rumped Bunting
- Oriole Finch
- Thick-billed Seed-eater
- Yellow-crowned Canary
- African Citril
- Streaky Seed-eater

Stakeholders consulted

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GMP Consultative meetings for District stakeholders

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MEETING, MANAFWA DISTRICT 9th 02-2008.

ATTENDANCE LIST

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NAME	DESIGNATION	CONTACT	SIGNATURE
Tanepul Wanguzi	Sec. production	0774469769	
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6. Reogration Alaumo Salar	SIRDNIKO	0752-317593	Algeliaso
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8. Mutenyo Mary	VIChair Treku W/4/Person	0762015193	Who
9 WANAKINA G.S.	Buwalnuala St	0774-944667	Maye
10. BISTKWA SARAH 11. Klamundi Pom	DNRO/MANATUA ENVIRONMENT	0782081906	And D
12. Nakobe Steven	Stele Tselachelingle	0774492247 0774 075737	History !
13. Mella Peter	Area Land member Selc Bumbo Stc	0782-221060	Chile !
14 Malekha Fred 15 Doka Rashid		078-2-16-362 0752811751 0772-336599	Mella Dim/Armetrsi
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20 Waruya Patrick		0752369112	Millologe
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UWA MANAGEMENT PLANNING MEETING WITH MEALE DISTRICT STAKE HOLDERS 11th / FEB / 2008 UWA-GMP Mbole-ATTENDANCE LIST. DESIGNATION STATION NAME SEC. PRANCTIONS ANG SRONKO 1, K.V. WANYOTO Wanaales 2 C/mour Landbroud 2, MWAMBU MICHAEL urbalepr. CAO Mbelo 3. WAMBURU. PAUL Lest Education 4. MAGEOMY HUSSEN Male S. MULIROW. KARIM Sec- WORKSPRODEN REGION MBALE Mbale SICIC Wanale Makwa Isaac Kiganga John C/m. Bujambo Mode azenelle Se lon bond S. KAUTA MOSTS Mbode 9. ROBERT WANDWAS for Clark Burumbo CLW rcIII mbal-e 10. Wakhatenge . A. 11 ANAKINA G.D. DNRO-MANAFWA MANAFWA JAN Areney Rober V/Comman - made MBALLE Nauly & Swerig Bec. fy products Mbak Manale Klebisa Lyuby VICIP SFF WAR UND FREDERICE Clman LOTT BUCANSO WAKACALIN SAM FAMIL Parsanso se Production Sec 18 Aprill - M - for Busino S/c Risare 17 WAMZALA ANDRONY SICCHER BYSAND 19/ Annet K. Magolo Sec Dist Land Bourd Mbale 19, NALYMAYA HENRY Beputy RBC-mode mbelo 20 Nakayenze Anna DEN Office Marlo

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Proposal generation workshop

ATTENDANCE LIST FOR MENP GMP PROPOSAL GENERATION WORKSHOP

DATE: 25TH TO 30TH MAY 2008

PLACE:

No.	Name	Designation	Organisation	Contacts	Signature
1	WANAKINA G.D.	DNRO	MANATUR SLG	0782081906 OF12978881	Juli
2	KYAMULAMA TIMEHY	C/m. SETA	SIPI ECO-TOURISM ASSOCIATION	6752388335 6752292554	Maine
3	Cheborion Si	with Deso	Kapeliona	077268041	- Andul
4	ABINDABYAMU KENNEH	GENERAL SEC	SIR RIG TOURISM	0753 153000	Jahan Byanny
5	Kapere Richard	SPEIDO	UWA Hop.	0772688875	Alt Ce
6	Jushie Namore	SPERO	UWA Has	0772 4434320	Adm
7	Edgar Buhanga	SPEIAC	UNA HOS	0772450468	Duhopapali.
8	Maserekas	eam	UWA-#	07725 (8342	Johnson
9	Dyella Pamel	Awmr	UWA	0772964672	Kjeligel

10	Kilolista. Desi	Awhit	uwa	077267366	Topa
11	G.R. MATANDA	Awec	AWU	0772935812	Ylamil.
12	Ganginton R	AWT	UWA	0775354748	Gun
13	KIZZA FRES	SWFR	uwa	078292995D	Affection)
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Draft GMP presentation to district stakeholders

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	Mount Elson	National Park Gen	ral
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Mount Elson General management plan droff presentation to management District Stakeholder.	
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ISSUES GENERATED DURING THE PLANNING MEETINGS

Land claims

- Land claims & encroachment around the park boundary
- Resettlement of Kapsekek & Benet natives
- Illegal settlement of families in the park (Zesui, Buraba, Busano, Bufuma, Bushiyi)
- Land claims and compensation

Population increase

- Increasing human population around the park
- Increasing population causing Land pressure around the Park

Restoration

- Forest restoration problems (MoUs-resource use, boundary, land claimants)
- Unsustainable management of the Softwood plantation
- Park degradation

Boundary management

- Inefficiency of the boundary management committees
- · Destruction of Boundary markers
- Non cooperation from farmers-destroy trees
- Boundary conflicts
- Land conflicts over the boundary
- Un marked boundary line around Benet, Wanale & Bumbo
- Boundary management-strips

Resource access

- Over dependency of communities on PA resources
- Destruction of the park by the far off communities
- Inadequate mechanisms for resource access from the park (non compliance, defining the resources)
- Out dated MOUs for resource access
- Socio-cultural issues
- Limited resource access

Conservation awareness

- Cultural and traditional beliefs attachment to Mt. Elgon
- Negative attitude towards wildlife conservation
- Inadequate of awareness amongst communities.
- Lack of awareness on government policies
- Low appreciation of the ecological, environmental and socio-economic benefits of MENP
- Limited knowledge of conservation by the local communities

Problem animal & vermin management

• Inadequate expertise in problem animal and vermin management

Alternative livelihoods

- Inadequate alternative livelihood initiatives/engagements by communities neighboring the park
- Limited follow up by UWA & LG on community projects supported by UWA
- Unemployment

Community-park relations

- Negative publicity of the park
- Lack of park bye-laws.
- · Hostility of communities towards park staff
- Weak collaboration between protected area managers and the community neighboring the park
- Limited political support in the management of the park
- Use of excess force in handling suspects
- Poor relationship between UWA and the neighbouring community
- Political pronouncements & interference
- Inadequate collaborative management
- · Limited participation of the local leaders in park activities

Park infrastructure

• Inadequate accommodation for staff

Administration

- Delayed disposal of court cases/disputes
- Corruption amongst some staff
- Lack of adequate property management and formal acquisition of some Park Assets

and properties e.g Non follow up on the IUCN building in Mbale Town

- Inefficient/inadequate supervision on field staff
- Gaps in communication leading to poor coordination of operations

Equipment

- Irregular supply of staff uniforms
- Inadequate transport
- Inadequate field equipment (communication gadgets, etc)

Security

- Killings within the park
- Insecurity in the park
- Illegal access routes through the P.A.

Capacity development

Inadequate and irregular training for staff

Transboundary collaboration

- Inadequate transboundary collaborative mechanisms
- Weak institutional linkages and collaboration

Monitoring and evaluation

- Inadequate monitoring of park resources
- Inadequacies of MIST Program (unable to accept new features/data that was not originally programmed into/un functioning of some parts)
- Inadequate monitoring mechanisms to assess impacts of conservational strategies on local communities & the park.

Emergencies

- Inadequate fire management skills & equipment
- Lack of a disaster preparedness plan
- landslides
- Diseases/epidemics
- Fires
- Floods
- Mountain eruptions

Inventory

- Inadequate Biodiversity data for Mt.Elgon Ecosystem
- Inadequate inventory data on park resources for community access

Development impacts

- Poor waste management
- Impacts of the Proposed District developments within and outside the Park (roads, tea plantation, gravitational water flow schemes, bamboo factory)

Tourism Infrastructure

- Inadequate accommodation for tourists (at campsites, guides/porters)
- Lack of sufficient trail network
- Poor tourism infrastructure within the park
- Inadequate tourism infrastructure
- Undeveloped tourist infrastructure-Bushiyi trail
- Lack of a tourist trail from Bukwo district

Marketing

Inadequate marketing of Mt. Elgon.

Capacity

• Inadequate customer care knowledge by the guides

Tourism Equipment

- · Lack of hiking gear
- Guide books
- Binoculars

Rescue and safety

- Lack of rescue teams in case of danger
- Inadequate tourism related communication system

Tourism activities

· Limited tourism activities

Tourism products

• Limited tourism products (identified so far) & Un-developed cultural tourism in community areas e.g. salt leaks & bull fighting & caving.

Tourism partnership

- Weak partnerships with other ecotourism service providers
- Limited eco-tourism activities outside the park