



UWS Today

A Quarterly E-News Letter of the Uganda Wildlife Society

Volume 4 Issue 1, March 2014

This bulletin updates you on what is going on in UWS, towards its goal of promoting wildlife and environment conservation in Uganda. This is also a forum for us members to dialogue on pertinent concerns within our society.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Message from the Chair

Dear Reader

Welcome to Issue No.1, 2014 of UWS Today, the Society's E-newsletter. In this issue, we give you, progress and achievements so far in respect of the Society's values; our research, advocacy and policy interventions aimed at promoting conservation of Uganda's various natural resources, ecosystems and so on.

The first quarter of the year has ended, we are now ready for our next Annual General Meeting and as you may all be aware, the current executive committee's term ends and you will elect and have a new executive committee for the 2014-2016 term. I would like to thank you members for supporting me and working well with me and my team for the past four years.

Serving the Society has been a fulfilling experience for us and we are happy to be handing over an entity that is growing, compliant with statutory obligations, with activity coverage, impact and visibility increasing, community initiatives involving thousands of people, permanent staff up to 10 from 3 and membership 690 from 150 in March 2011. The Society network and partnership grew, now includes USAID, coming in with a year capacity building support and our collaboration with the Nairobi based East Africana Wildlife Society is active. In 2013 alone, there were a number of achievements in the Society, some summarized in this Issue. Also our Strategic Plan 2013-2018 and Annual Work plan 2014 are online at www.uws.or.ug under corporate documents, for your information members. Organizations, foundations, individuals and any other parties interested in partnership with us in implementation of our strategic plan aspects are welcome.

I would like to thank my team: Dr. Chris Bakuneeta, Caroline Aguti, Hon. John Arimpa Kigyagi, Hon Jacob Wangolo, Mr James Lutalo, Dr. Ambrose Mugisha, Gilbert Wathum, Isaac Nsibambi and, the secretariat staff. The positive trend could not be without their hard work and dedication. And once again everyone thanks for supporting us and please extend the same to the in-coming Executive Committee. Send us your feedback on issues discussed in this newsletter and even share with us your thoughts on other issues and concerns relevant to conservation of our country's wildlife resources and the environment.

I wish everyone a good read.

Dr. Eldad Tukahirwa
CHAIRPERSON

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As a member of Uganda Wildlife Society you will enjoy a fulfilling satisfaction in knowing that you are enabling Wildlife Conservation for your own survival and those of your future generations.

Uganda Wildlife Society, Promoting the Conservation of Environment and Wildlife In Uganda. We are also a Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Find us at the Secretariat located on the 3rd Floor Plot 1521, Mawanda Road, Kamwokya P.O. Box 7422 Kampala, Uganda or at www.uws.or.ug or via email to uws@uws.or.ug

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Research in 2013 at UWS

The society in 2013 conducted three researches, conservation oriented and focusing on Uganda's Natural Resources and these included; *Status and governance of natural resources (forests, wildlife, wetlands etc), a case study in Buliisa district in the Albertine Rift Region* .

In the above research, the society collected data from 374 randomly selected respondents from all the six sub-counties in Buliisa. Findings on analysis of the data done in SPSS revealed that;

Majority of the local communities in Buliisa district access and use resources from forests. The resource access is however influenced by education level, more of the educated people accessing compared to none or semi educated.

The people perceive that their access to resources is constrained by government restrictions, resource location and decline. However, not restriction per-se but local communities' lack of awareness and hence non use of existing fora, guidelines, policy and legal frameworks that actually constraint their access, benefit from and participation in forest resource management.

Local communities in Buliisa district perceive forests in the district as being poorly managed, benefits to them are limited, illegal activities and corruption remain prevalent and species extinction is taking place in the forests.

The above findings thus show that meaningful local community participation in the resource management and use, an outreach programme aimed at educating people about existing fora, guidelines, policy and legal framework/provisions for resource access, benefit from and participation in resource management need to be implemented to tackle forest governance issues in Buliisa district.

The outreach programme should be well designed to include both educated and none educated community members to empowered with the relevant knowledge about their rights and entitlements and to make them aware of existing fora, guidelines, policy and legal frameworks to use.

The second research conducted in 2013 was; *Elucidating Tenure Systems most Ugandans want for land in the Country*. In collaboration with Caritas Hoima Catholic Diocese Development Organization, the Society collected data from 1224 respondents sampled at systematic intervals within districts at household level from 5 randomly selected districts in each of Uganda's 5 regions and from all the five, a total of 21 districts involved in the study.

Our findings from this research show among others that;

The five land tenure types in Uganda are not homogeneously distributed, Customary and Freehold occur countrywide however Customary is most prevalent followed by Freehold. Mailo is in some districts in Central and West, Communal is few areas in the West and North East and, Leasehold countrywide but held by few people.

Uganda's five tenure types are not equally known, more people in Gulu followed by Bududa, Kanungu and Mbarara districts are more knowledgeable of the different tenure types. So is the age group 40-51 year olds, family size 4-6 and more persons, the secondary level educated, people who have stayed longer (16-20 years in present area), those who originated from within Uganda, whose land are located near water bodies, who own land, large land holders (4-7 hectares) and or those unhappy with the land tenure type they held.

Impact on livelihoods, Communal and Leasehold tenure limits peoples' access to food, medicine, income, tree planting, homestead building, inheritance and, medicine, tree planting, homestead building, burial of relatives and loans respectively. Customary tenure limits access to medicine, income, tree planting and homestead building. Mailo limits access to medicine, tree planting and burial of relatives.

Overall, over 3/4 of the country want Freehold and least want Leasehold, Communal and Mailo tenure are least wanted in just over 1/2 of the country and thus, Government need to adopt and distribute Freehold as the desired tenure system for land.

The third research in 2013; *characterizing wildlife diversity outside protected areas and identifying strategies for managing human wildlife conflict around protected areas in the East and Western Uganda* is being done in Collaboration with Uganda Wildlife Authority, Mt Elgon Conservation Area. Supported by Ecosystems Alliance, the project target areas include West Bugwe Forest Reserve, Lake Victoria Shores, Murchison Falls and Bugungu Wildlife Reserve. The others are Kabwoya Wildlife Reserve and Queen Elisabeth National Park. Updates on this will be sent to you in our next Issues of UWS Today.

Conservation initiatives in 2013 at UWS

In 2013, under our conservation initiatives, the Society implemented 7 out of 9 conservation initiatives it targeted and these included 4 trainings (fish farming, livestock management, bee keeping and tree nursery management) and 3 technology demonstrations/supply (standard fishing nets, Over 17,000 tree seedlings and basic bee keeping equipment).

Our beneficiary outreach was 52% (435 households out of the targeted 830) and landscape level impact 6% (40.5 hectares planted with trees out of the targeted 717 hectares of privately owned land). As a remedy, the Society aims to secure and plant on the remaining land and among small holders, 93,000 tree seedlings in the first half of 2014.

In 2013, the Society conservation initiatives outreach overall improved in geographic coverage, from about 4 districts in two regions in 2012 to over 25 districts in all the 5 regions of Uganda. This was made possible thanks to the new partners, like Caritas Hoima Diocese and Uganda Wildlife Authority and we plan to enhance our networking and partnership for more outreach and impacts, members look out for our annual work plan 2014 online at www.uws.or.ug.

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Policy influence, Advocacy and Networking in 2013 at UWS

Members, in this section we bring you summary of our advocacy, policy and networking engagements in 2013. We convened 5 policy/advocacy dialogues, jointly convened 3 with partners and participated in over 10 external, conservation oriented dialogues organized by other stakeholders. Our internal dialogues focused on arrange of natural resources conservation topics that included:

How Best Can Uganda's Wildlife and Communities Adjacent to Protected Areas Co-Exist in Harmony?" was held at Hotel Africana on the 20th of February 2013. Forest Governance, Evidence Based Advocacy – Role of Civil Society and the Academia on the occasion of the International Year of Forests in March 2013. Community Perceptions; the Status of Forests and Forest Governance in Buliisa District" was held in Buliisa on the 25th September 2013. Human activities in wetlands are possible without degradation" was held at St. Lawrence Crown city campus on 2nd November 2013. Status of Forests and Forest Governance in Uganda" was held on 13th December 2013 at Makerere University School of Forestry.

Over 1200 participants drawn from policy makers, conservation agencies, ministries, academia, local government, communities, private sector and the general public participated in the UWS internal dialogues in 2013, debated and provided recommendations on issues discussed. Based on analysis of information generated from these dialogues, research, experiences and lessons from our conservation initiatives with communities, the Society published a policy brief and other publications which we continue to use for advocacy and policy influence.

Some of the impacts of our evidence based advocacy have been Uganda Wildlife Authority making provisions for community access of resources from protected areas, local governments we work with now integrating strategies for sustainable management of natural resources in their plans, Society membership grown, now includes international, national and local-community level members and there has been some new partners, including USAID coming on board with long term capacity building support for UWS, expect updates from us on this.

Publications in 2013 at UWS

Priscilla Nyadoi, Moses Murungi., Balikenda Naphtali., Suzan Owino., Laster Stoney Ogola., Teddy Namirimu., Joel Buyinza and Charles Walaga, 2013. Community Perceptions, the Status of Forests and Forest Governance in Buliisa.

Rashid Mubiru ., Teddy Namirimu., Louis Kyalingonza., Suzan Owino., Priscilla Nyadoi and Joel Buyinza. 2013. From Extensive to Semi-intensive Livestock Production Systems in Uganda's Albertine Rift: Practical Interventions. UWS Technical Series No.3, 2013.

Teddy Namirimu, Suzan Owino., Anne B. Ainembabazi., Laster Stoney Ogola., Joel Buyinza and, Priscilla Nyadoi 2013. Protected Areas and Conservation Concerns in Uganda, Reviews, Stakeholders' Perspectives and Recommendations for Policy.

Alex B. Muhweezi, Joel Buyinza and Priscilla Nyadoi, 2013. Enabling Albertine Rift Communities Understand and Benefit from Uganda's REDD PROCESS, a Strategy for Sustainable Natural Resource Use and Management. UWS Technical Series No.1, 2013. UWS.

Alex B. Muhweezi, Joel Buyinza and Priscilla Nyadoi, 2013. Enabling Albertine Rift Communities and Institutions Understand and Benefit from Uganda's REDD Process. Strategy for Engagement with Government Led REDD+ Process, the Case of Buliisa District. Uganda Wildlife Society Technical Series Number 2, 2013. UWS.

Joel Buyinza., Suzan Owino, Louis Kyalingonza., Priscilla Nyadoi and Teddy Namirimu, 2013. Empowering Communities for Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources; Experiences and Lessons from Buliisa, Albertine Rift Uganda. UWS Technical Series No. 4, 2013.

Membership in 2013 at UWS

Updates on Membership

Here members, we bring you latest updates on your contribution to the Society in terms of financial support to her programmes. To date – as of March 31st 2014, your contribution to Society income this year is six hundred eighty five thousand Uganda shillings only (Table).

Table: Membership and Income as at March 31, 2014

Category of Membership	Total Number of Members in Category	Number of members who have paid subscription	Number of members who have not yet paid subscription	Income from membership subscription
Students	314	10	304	45,0000
Individual ordinary	206	22	184	440,000
Individual donor	1	0	1	00
Corporate Ordinary	16	1	15	200,000
Corporate Donor	0	0	0	00
Life time	0	0	0	00
Totals	537	33	494	685,000

Now we are calling upon those of you who have not paid your subscription for this year to do so. You can send your money using mobile money services, our telephone number for this purpose is 0756921210. If you are sending to us your money for subscription or membership fee from outside Uganda, remember to include the country code i.e. +256756921210.

Members and the general public we want you to also note that membership to UWS is open to everybody anywhere in the world; the only condition to qualify you is your interest and support of the Society works. In the Table, following, take note of different categories under which you can join the Society as a member.

Table: UWS Membership Categories and Requirement

UWS Membership Category	Geographic and Membership fees		
	E. Africa (UGX)	Rest of Africa (USD, GBP, Eur)	Outside Africa
Student	5,000	Not Applicable	N/A
Individual Ordinary	20,000	\$20, £ 11, € 14	\$70, £ 37, € 50
Individual Donor	150,000	\$100, £ 53, € 71	\$150, £ 80, € 106
Corporate Ordinary	200,000	\$150, £ 80, € 106	\$200, £ 106, € 142
Corporate Donor	500,000	\$350, £ 186, € 248	\$400, £ 212, € 284
Lifetime Member	2,000,000	\$1400, £ 744, € 992	\$1600, £ 848, € 1,136

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Benefits to Members of UWS



Associate Professor John Bosco Lamoris Okullo
Individual Ordinary Member of Uganda Wildlife Society
The Prof. Lectures at Makerere University's School of Forestry, Environment and Geographical Sciences of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. He is an Agroforestry Science Expert and he can be reached via email at okullo66@yahoo.com

Let us know if you would like to join the Society, you can contact us by email to membership@uws.or.ug or at uws@uws.or.ug and we will send you the registration form to fill for membership. Upon receipt of your membership registration form fully filled and, subscription fees, we shall

process your membership card and send the electronic copy to you while you plan to pick the hard copy from our secretariat at any time of your convenience. For members from outside Uganda, we will post your card to you. Upon becoming a member, your name will be automatically added to our membership database and you will start receiving your membership benefits from us immediately.

Membership to UWS benefits are diverse, now includes free entry to Forest Reserves, National Parks on UWS events. We run a resource centre with computers connected to internet and, lots of publications on environment. These are available for members use free of charge. Daily through our twitter [uws_wildlifeUG](https://twitter.com/uws_wildlifeUG); facebook www.facebook.com/UgandaWildlifeSociety and emails; membership@uws.or.ug; ugandawildlifesociety.uws@gmail.com; membership@uws.or.ug; uws@uws.or.ug), we send our members, job opportunities passed through our network. Simply go to those links, join or like the page and you will receive from us all the opportunities.

We have a 300-seater tent, chairs, public address system, video camera and a catering service that as a member you can access at production rate only. Any income received from these are spent on the Society advocacy and policy dialogues, conservation initiatives with communities and Secretariat running. Election to executive committee is also only for members and in particular those who have paid their subscription for the Year. To this effect we would like you to consider the election for the 2014-2016 UWS executive committee that will take place during our Annual General Meeting this year. And those are not all, please go to our website at www.uws.or.ug under members you will find more.

Members Know Your Animals

The Nile crocodiles (*Crocodile niloticus*)

Crocodiles (crops) taxonomy is still evolving however, there are about 23 species now recognized (King and Burke, 1997). The Nile crocodile (*Crocodile niloticus*) found in Uganda, like other crops belongs to the Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia, Order Crocodylia, Family crocodylidae, Sub family crocodylinae, Genus crocodylus and species niloticus (*C. niloticus*).

With a lifespan of about 70 to 100 years, an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 crops occur in the wild and they are in ICUN RED list-least concern and CITES' Appendix I and II (Trade must be controlled). Successful ranching for skin is ongoing in Zimbabwe and South Africa but Central and West African populations are not well surveyed and said to be threatened by competition with sympatric slender-snouted and dwarf crocodiles, pollution, habitat loss, accidental entanglement in fishing nets and human hunting.

Average size of crops is 5 metres and 410 kg. They have 4 short, splayed legs, scaly hide, powerful jaws and tails, nictitating membranes and lachrymal glands. Their nostrils, eyes and ears are on top of the head, making it possible for the rest of their body to remain concealed underwater. Juveniles are grey, multicolored or brown with yellowish green underbelly and dark cross-bands on tail. They become dark with age.

Crops have four chambered heart, physiologically efficient for oxygenating blood. They have ectothermic metabolism that enables them survival without meals for long and eat up to half of their body weight at a time. They have integumentary sense organs that detect water pressure changes and good hearing and vocal range. They swim by moving their bodies/tails in sinuous fashion at about 30 to 35 km/h, dive for few but stay underwater for up to 30 minutes and hold their breath for 2 hours when inactive. On-land they crawl but also high walk with raised trunks. They have weak jaw muscle but with sharp conical teeth (64-68 in total) that they use to bite and with force up to 22 Newton hold their prey until drown.

Crops are social, but have a hierarchy that puts old males on top, they share basking/food spots. Young lose their egg tooth used to break through eggshells at birth and begin to feed on small fish, frogs, insects, aquatic invertebrates. Juveniles, sub adults feed on birds, turtles, snakes, small mammals while, for energy efficiency, adults feed on larger prey that include humans and barbell cat fish. They herd fish toward a bank, or block migrating ones by forming a semicircle across and eat them with quick sideways head jerks. At night they ambush prey 50 metres away from water.

Sexually crops mature at 10 years old when, males are about 3 metres and females 2-2.5 metres. Males attract females by bellowing, slapping snouts in water, blowing water out of their noses and making noises. Once coupled, they together warble, rub their jaws' undersides and mate. Females lay eggs two months afterwards, in November-December. They dig a hole few metres from the bank, up to 500 mm deep and lay 25 to 80 eggs (that resemble chicken eggs but with thinner shells). They bury and guard the eggs for 3 months from predators like humans and lizards, leaving only for a short time to cool off by taking a dip/shade out.

Crops' sex is determined by temperature during the middle third of incubation period. Nest temperature below 31.7°C or above 34.5°C leads to females while that between 31.7°C and 34.5°C leads to males. Hatching starts by hatchling making high-pitched chirping noise, signaling mother to open the eggs. They do so by rolling the eggs in between their tongue and upper palate. Mother leads or carry the young in her mouth to water. At birth hatchlings are about 300 mm, they grow at the same rate each year under their mother's care. Mother carries the young on her back to protect them from being eaten by turtles and water snakes, for 2 years, at which time they are about 1.2 metres, they depart to start life away on their own.

In the next issue and more

Members we look forward to receiving from you articles on wildlife and environment issues around the country for our next issue of *UWS Today*. We expect that you will visit the Secretariat from time to time to see us! And, to access your available membership services but if you don't please endeavor to get those which we have uploaded online at www.uws.or.ug. You also prepare to participate in our Annual General Meeting on 28th April, 2014 and expect updates from that event and other Society works, from us.