



UGANDA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2017

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of activities and achievements registered from the Uganda Wildlife Society strategic programmes implemented in 2017 towards its Strategic plan 2013-2018 and vision of Wildlife and Humans Living in Harmony. In 2017, among others, the Society implemented one research project, two conservation initiatives, 2 policy dialogues, two e-newsletter publications were sent out to members. The Society total income spent to realize these achievements in 2017 was about Seventeen Million Shillings (17,000,000), 99% of which was received from donors and 1% from membership subscription. Outputs, outcomes and impacts of the Society activities in 2017 are given in detail in this report. Many of the Society activities were implemented in partnership with local governments, local communities, conservation agencies, private sector, civil society, ministries, the academia, Society members and other organizations, details of which are given in this report.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Uganda Wildlife Society (UWS) is a national, not for profit membership based non-governmental conservation organization registered in 1998 after 38 years of operating as the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) Uganda Chapter. The Society operates nationwide and has over 700 members from diverse fields including the academia, private sector, civil society, students, policy makers and government.

The Society, which was established in July 1998, is nearly 20 years old today.

Vision: Wildlife and people living in harmony.

Mission: Promote the conservation of wildlife and the environment through advocacy, knowledge generation and field demonstrations.

Goal: Sustainable utilization of wildlife and other natural resources.

1.2 Objectives:

1. Influence policy formulation for environmental management through providing forums for addressing, advocating and debating conservation issues.
2. Generate knowledge on wildlife and natural resources and provide informed non-biased environmental information to government, private sector and other Civil Society Organizations.
3. Promote the understanding of linkage of livelihoods and sustainable use of wildlife and natural resources through raising awareness about the environment among the people of Uganda.

1.3 Strategic Programmes

UWS implements a range of activities and projects in five strategic programmes:

- i) Research
- ii) Conservation initiatives
- iii) Advocacy
- iv) Policy influence
- v) Membership

2.0 ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND ACHIEVEMENTS BASED ON SOCIETY STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES IN 2017

2.1 Research

In 2016, the Society carried out the following research projects:

Project 1: Drawing lessons from the project strengthening youth and women capacity for environmental management and livelihoods improvement in Eastern Uganda and, Empowering Buliisa Communities for Sustainable Natural Resource Management.

The Society has produced one poster disseminating lessons drawn from the above two projects and the poster is available online the Society website for free access and download. If interested please the Society website at www.uws.or.ug under publications-Posters.

Among others the lessons show that for projects promoting environmental management among communities, a high level of adoption among the beneficiaries is registered when, the interventions;

- improve peoples' knowledge and practice on sustainable management of natural resources
- improve peoples' access to resources from protected areas
- improve peoples' participation in monitoring compliance to environmental standards by developers and household income.
- are equitably distributed at a time convenient, after prior information and technical capacity building for beneficiaries.
- match beneficiaries environment, priority, expectations,
- Addressed human wildlife conflicts and related impacts like land, water and energy crises.

2.2 Conservation initiatives

The Society because of financial limitations implemented only two conservation initiatives in 2017 and these included:

- i) **Training 100 people (youth and women) in tree nursery establishment and management and tree planting and management.**
- ii) **Raising awareness and training the 100 people on climate change, climate change impacts and mitigation strategies.**



Plate 1: Tororo Youth and Women participate in capacity building – tree nursery management training to enhance environmental management and livelihoods improvement

iii) **The Youth and Women who were trained in tree nursery establishment, tree planting and management.** The beneficiaries raised and planted about six thousand tree seedlings in their land. The Society will continue to work with these communities in tree planting and related environmental management activities in 2018.

2.3 Advocacy and Policy Dialogue in 2017

- i) In collaboration with other partner organizations and, members, the Society convened two policy/advocacy fora that were aimed at raising awareness about forest conservation issues, and in particular the Bugoma Forest Reserve.

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS (OUTPUTS, IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES)

3.1 Outputs, impacts and outcomes

1. Over 500 participants representing policy makers, conservation agencies, ministries, the academia, local government, communities, students, private sector, civil society and the general public among others participated in the dialogues organized by UWS in partnership with other stakeholders in 2017. The participants debated and recommended a number of measures to strengthen and support conservation in the country. The recommendations are presented as Annex 1 in this report.
2. Lessons learned poster and E-newsletters were produced and shared with the relevant stakeholders, these publications contained a synthesize of information/knowledge

generated from policy dialogues, research and experiences from the Society engagement with local communities, academia, policy makers, conservation agencies, local governments, private sector and the general public in its conservation initiatives. The Society will continue to use lessons and knowledge from the 2017 publications to inform and influence the relevant stakeholders to guide their planning and decision making processes for conservation programmes, particularly those relating to human wildlife conflicts, forestry, wetlands, wildlife, climate change and in general environment management in the country. Any members interested in the publications can contact the secretariat or visit the Society website; www.uws.or.ug and under publications for the purpose.

3. The impact of some of the dialogues facilitated by the Society have been realized as indicated, for example, by stakeholders' actions and re-directed priority and continued public interest in the Bugoma Forest Conservation.
4. UWS' support for advocacy and conservation initiatives has continued to be strengthened with continuing improving relationships between conservation practitioners and local communities living adjacent to protected areas, participation of the Society supported local communities in the management and benefit from protected areas in their localities and the number of stakeholder-networks the Society has influenced to support conservation-based enterprises.
5. The Society's outreach function, influence on policy and visibility as a conservation non-governmental organization improved in 2017, with more local communities being reached by its conservation initiatives.

3.2 Dissemination and knowledge management

The Society produced eight (5) of the planned seven (7) publications based on information and knowledge generated from the activities implemented under five strategic programmes. The publications included One (1) Lessons learned report/policy brief, (2) newsletter issues, one documentary and one (1) Magazine. The following manuscripts are being reviewed and will be published in the course of 2018:

- i. UWS Policy Brief 2017 focusing on Lessons from the project building youth and women capacity for environmental and livelihoods improvement in Tororo district, Eastern Uganda and, Empowering Buliisa Communities for Sustainable Natural Resource Management.
- ii. Two E-newsletter issues (UWS Today) disseminating bi-annual progress reports from to UWS stakeholders, members and the general public.
- iii. One Magazine UWS 2017 disseminating the annual progress reports from to UWS stakeholders, members and the general public.
- iv. UWS Documentary 2017: The Society Strategic Programmes and other conservation initiatives in 2017.

The publications were used as information resource materials in the Society's advocacy and policy influence fora held in 2017.

3.3 Membership

5.3.1.1 Membership recruitment

The Society membership by end of 2017 stood at 716 whereas the target was to reach the 1000 mark. Membership recruitment has drastically slowed down due to financial limitations. The Society plans to step up its membership recruitment in 2018.

Table 1: UWS current membership status

Category of Membership	Total Number of Members in Category
Students	451
Individual ordinary	246
Individual donor	2
Corporate Ordinary	17
Corporate Donor	0
Life time	0
Totals	716

3.1.2 Membership services

a. Outing events

The Society in 2017 organized and took members for one (1) nature walk (in Bugoma Central Forest Reserve). These outing raised members' awareness on deforestation and threats to biodiversity in the Bugoma Forest Reserve, including land ownership conflicts threatening to cause land use change in the Reserve and, provided information used in the Society advocacy/ policy dialogues in 2017. The outing event also enabled members to appreciate nature and wildlife and to raise pressure against land use change in the Reserve and, supported promotion of domestic-nature based tourism that demonstrate beneficial linkages between wildlife conservation and peoples' livelihoods. This event was supported by and organized in collaboration with Destination Jungles, a corporate member of the Society.

b. Knowledge and information sharing

The Society's members received all the Newsletter Issues, some members accessed the resource centre for information, and participated in all the advocacy and policy dialogues.

c. Consultancy

At least 2 members volunteered and/or were contracted by the Society to provide consultancy services.

3.1.3 Membership fees

In 2017 members contributed about 660,000 (Six hundred Sixty thousand) to support the Society's conservation works. The membership contributions constituted 1% of the Society's annual budget in 2017, and much of it was paid by corporate and individual ordinary members. New membership recruitment was constrained by financial limitations. Majority of the old members also did not pay their subscription for 2017 as follow up was also constrained by financial limitations. We request members to support the Society by paying annual membership subscription.

3.4 Finance and Resource mobilization

3.4.1 Resource mobilization

In 2017, the Society planned to raise a total of Shillings 655,600,000; however, the Society mobilized about Shillings 17,000,000 only. The funds were obtained from 1 successful proposal (submitted to global green grants, as a number of proposals submitted to different potential donors were not successful and others the Society was still awaiting response by end of the year) and, membership subscription/donations. Some of the society activities were made possible through in kind support and collaboration with the local government and, the corporate member- Destination Jungles.

Table 2: Income and expenditure summary in 2017

The Society total income in 2017 was about Seventeen Million Shillings only, the financial audit of the Society for 2017 is yet to be carried out and the report will be shared with members when ready.

3.4.2 Future outlook

The Society in 2018, funds allowing, will recruit a staff member responsible for marketing UWS' services in conjunction with the production unit. Resource mobilization effort and capacity will be stepped up using the fundraising strategy, strategic plan and activity log frame. The Society will be revising and improving strategic plan as the current one ends this year.

3.5 Partnerships and visibility

3.5.1 Society Secretariat and field offices

We remind members that the Society secretariat offices moved from plot 1521 Mawanda Road Kamwokya to Plot 39 Babiiha Avenue, Kololo, Kampala. The secretariat has various publications and information materials that members can access and use free of charge and stocked with a board room and membership computer, to serve members who wish to use computer and or access internet while visiting the Secretariat. The Secretariat

in Kampala also serves members and implements Society programmes in Central Uganda at the national level.

The Society still has two functional field offices, one located in Buliisa town acts at its centre for members in the Albertine Rift and Western Uganda in general. The second field office is located in Tororo Town, Airfield Road and serves as a centre for Society members and programmes in Eastern Uganda. Any one or institutions interested in working with us in any of these three regions are welcome and we would love to increase our partnership and collaboration in conservation works countrywide.

3.5.2 Working with communities and other partners

Apart from working with communities who are members, stakeholders and or beneficiaries of the conservation activities and programmes implemented, the Society works in partnership with different organizations and ministries and these in 2017 included but are not limited to the following:

3.5.3 Partnership with conservation agencies and line ministries

The Society collaborates with Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda Wildlife Authority in Mt Elgon Conservation Area, East African Wildlife Society, National Forestry Authority, National Environment Management Authority and Uganda Tourism Board among others.

3.5.4 Collaboration with civil society organizations

The UWS works in partnership with the Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Network (ENRCSOs), Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas. In 2017 the Society Executive Secretary was nominated by the ENRCSO network to and was appointed to represent the network in the Board of Directors of the National Environment Management Authority. After constitution the Executive Secretary was appointed to the Vice Chairperson position in the Board and will serve for three years. The Society thanks the network and the appointing authorities (the Cabinet and the Minister of Water and Environment) for the appointment.

3.5.5 Collaboration with local governments

In 2017 the Society implemented joint activities with Tororo District Local Government, department of Natural Resources, the joint conservation efforts involved capacity building and empowering local communities for sustainable natural resource management and for addressing climate change impacts for improved livelihoods and environmental management.

3.5.6 Collaboration with the academia

The Society continues to provide wildlife educational programmes and to provide internship placement for students. In 2017 the Society hosted one Intern from Makerere University and because of financial constraints that limited field work; eight other interns who applied to do their internship with the Society were not supported. We appeal to the any interested stakeholders to support the Society work with regard to providing internship placement for students, by supporting our conservation initiatives from which the students can learn from.

The Society looks forward to making more and new partnerships and networks countrywide and beyond, to add on our partners and networks that include but are not limited the list following.

Table 2: UWS Partnerships/networks

1. Global Green Grants
2. Canadian High Commission in Nairobi, under the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
3. Ecosystems Alliance (IUCN-NL, BothEnds, Wetlands International)
4. East Africa Wildlife Society
5. CARITAS Hoima Catholic Diocese Hoima Development Organization
6. Buliisa District Local Government
7. CARE Uganda
8. IUCN – World Conservation Union- Uganda Country Office
9. WWF-Uganda Country Office
10. AFIEGO
11. NAPE
12. Nature Uganda
13. ENR-CSO Network
14. CSCO
15. Parliament of Uganda
16. Ministry of Water and Environment
17. Ministry Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
18. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
19. Uganda Wildlife Authority
20. Uganda Tourism Board
21. Uganda Wildlife Education Centre
22. Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
23. Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Trust and Conservation Sanctuary
24. National Environment Management Authority
25. Tree Talk Uganda
26. Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development organization (BIRUDO)
27. Kalolo Fishermen and Fishmongers Association
28. Soft Power Education
29. Kakindo Orphans Care
30. Buliisa Catholic Women Association (BUCAWA)
31. Albertine Nature Conservation Network (ANCON)
32. Kabolwa Agro-Environmental Protection group
33. Buliisa Community Integrated Development Organisation (BUCIDO)
34. Buliisa Environmental and Humanity Organisation (BULEHO)
35. Can-Uwodha Beekeeping Group
36. Bubwe United Beekeepers Group
37. Waaki Hand craft Group and Got-Apol tree planting Project

38. Buliisa Environment And Energy Conservation Project (BEECOP)
39. Butiaba Piida B Booma Environmental Protection And Fishing Group
40. Piida A Environmental conservation and fisher group
41. Kabolwa Fisher Folk Environment Protection Group
42. Karakaba Community Landing Site Environmental Protection And Fishing Group
43. Bugoigo Environment Protection Group (BEPA)
44. Wanseko Fishers Association
45. Joint Effort Enterprise (JEE)
46. Ngwedo Sub County Farmers Association(NSUFA)
47. Buliisa Environmental and Private Forests Owners Association (BEPFOA)
48. Busitema University
49. Makerere University
50. Kyambogo University
51. Tororo District Local Government
52. Busia District Local Government
53. Namayingo District Local Government
54. Mayuge District Local Government
55. Bugwe Forest Conservation Group
56. Avogera Craft Works Association, Buliisa
57. Tukolehamu Crafts Women's Group, Buliisa
58. Tororo Youth and Women (from Nyangole and Mudakori)

3.6 Student internships in 2017

UWS operates an open door policy. As such, the Society has continued to attract the interest of students and institutions of higher learning especially for building capacity of young trainees/students in practical skills and knowledge development. In 2017 the Society hosted one of the nine university students who applied for internship placement. The Society could not provide placement for the eight students because of financial limitations it faced in 2017. We call on all stakeholders interested to support our student internship programme to enable us build capacity of the young generation for conservation,

3.7 Governance of UWS

Members of the Executive Committee tirelessly served UWS in 2017. Two of planned 4 quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee were held. The Board approved the annual report and guided on planning for the Society 2017 annual general meeting which did not take place due to financial limitations. The Society Annual general meeting will take place early in 2018; members will be notified in time for the purpose.

4.0 APPENDIX: UWS AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2016-2017

4.1 UWS Income and Expenditure Statement 2016-2017

The Uganda wildlife society audit report and financial statements – income and expenditure statement - summary for the year ended December 31st 2016-2017 is here below.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

	Notes	Year Ended 31/12/2016-17 shs	Year Ended 31/12/2015 Shs
Sources of funds			
Grants	1	67,439,292	326,473,245
Membership fees	2	2,776,622	2,776,622
Other Incomes	2	4,500	4,500
TOTAL INCOMES		70,220,414	329,254,367
Application of funds			
Programme Expenses	4	36,075,250	131,599,600
Administration Expenses	3	32,315,847	87,330,962
Depreciation	2	12,827,119	11,876,362
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		81,218,216	230,806,924
Surplus / (Deficit) for year		(10,997,802)	98,447,443