



NATURE WATCH

Uganda Wildlife Society Annual Magazine

December 2015

Uganda Wildlife Society
 Plot 39 Babuha Avenue, Kololo
 P.O.Box 7422, Kampala, Uganda
 Tel: +256414530891
 Email: uws@uws.or.ug
 Website: www.uws.or.ug

Special points of interest:

- * Editorial
- * Global Natural Forests Decline
- * Grey Crowned Crane Conservation Threats
- * UWS Membership Subscription
- * In support of tree planting and environmental education— the Aga Kfian School

Inside this issue:

EDITORIAL	1
CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATION ISSUES	2
SPECIES SPECIFIC CONSERVATION ISSUES	4
MEMBERS' VOICE CONSERVATION ISSUES	5
UGANDA WILDLIFE SOCIETY	6

Dear Members

I am happy to share with you Nature Watch, the Uganda Wildlife Society Annual Magazine dedicated to bring into perspective, crosscutting contemporary conservation issues around the country and the globe, our species specific focus, the members voice on conservation and, UWS this Year.

In this 2015 Issue you will also find a summary of UWS membership categories and applicable annual subscription fees and membership application form for your consideration.

In this 2015 Issue, our focus is pegged on crosscutting conservation Issue emanating from climate change, putting in perspective, 25 years of Uganda's Forests,

THE EDITORIAL

I am also happy to inform you that our members are free to advertise their products and services in this Magazine, please contact us if you wish to do so in our next—2016 Issue that will come out early in 2017.

Nature Watch is written by Uganda Wildlife Society (UWS) members and edited by staff to fit within our mandate of promoting the conservation of wildlife and environment in Uganda through research, policy, advocacy and, community projects demonstrating linkage between wildlife conser-

vation and peoples' livelihoods. by our member, Mr. Rogers Bwengye Muyambi., a climate change and environment specialist. We recognize that climate change is one of the most critical fac-



UWS promoting commercial tree nurseries and energy saving traditional cook stoves in Tororo Municipality Tororo Supported by Canada High Commission .

vation and peoples' livelihoods.

tors that will determine developments local and global by affecting production systems. In line with this, a representative of the UWS Corporate member, the Agha



Khan High School gives his interesting perspective on way forward in conserving Uganda's Environment.



Mr. Moses Musana
of the Aga Khan High School in Kampala, Uganda

*Our species specific focus in this Issue is on the East African Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*), Uganda's National bird, also*

UWS logo. This monogamous oouuw" or "ya-oo-goo-lung bird is our focus because of its IUCN Red list status (endangered) and considering the precarious state of our wetlands where they breed. We want to raise awareness and interest of the general public towards conserva-

tion of our graceful beautiful bird.

In this Issue members we also give you the membership application form for you to consider joining the Society, to support its conservation efforts around the country.

Finally we call on you to give us feedback on this Issue and provide articles for our next, the 2016 Issue to come out in 2017.

The Aga Khan High School in Kampala, through its Humanities Department encourages all students to participate in environmental education and tree planting activities.

The Society looks forward to your support through your membership contributions and other ways.

To join membership contacts us through uws@uws.or.ug; membership@uws.or.ug and or Tel: +256414530891. Also access more about us at www.uws.or.ug or come

visit us at our secretariat located on Plot 39 Babuina Avenue, Kololo, Kampala or write to us and post to P.O.Box 7422, Kampala, Uganda. Here also refer to the membership categories available provided in page 6 of this Issue.

We look forward to hearing

from you, wish you a good read, Happy New Year.

Sincerely

Dr. Priscilla Nyadoi

BSc. MSc. PhD Forestry,
Email: msnyadoi@yahoo.com
Tel: [+256779250961](tel:+256779250961)

25 Years of Uganda's Forests in the Face of Climate change, Challenges and Opportunities

Globally, an estimate of 1 to 6 billion hectares of vegetated lands is degraded that in turn negatively impact the ecological values and social-economic aspects of the populations thriving on such lands. Although plantation forests are gaining, now 277.9 Billion Hectares from 167.5 in 1990, recent

studies indicate decline in natural forests from 4.3 in 1990 to 3.99 in 2015 with the highest decline taking place in developing countries. Forests and the land degradation accounts for 4.4 Gt of CO₂e per annum. Recordings of carbon dioxide concentrations now surpassing 400 parts per million

illustrates a path way to 4°C scenario by 2050. Annual global greenhouse gas emissions equaling roughly 50 gigatons (Gt) of CO₂e, explains the grave consequences associated with the impact of greenhouse gases. With this emission trend, climate change will exacerbate existing economic, po-

litical, and humanitarian stress. This creates uncertainties for current and future generations and action needs to be taken by international community, governments, private sector and individual efforts to create a "win win" situation now.

Forests remain a pivotal pillar in ensuring low carbon global development while addressing the twin challenges; climate change and poverty through proactive

up to 15 billion tCO_{2e} by 2050. Other drivers of deforestation include agriculture and settlements expansion and generally, inadequate political commitments to forests conservation.

For every challenge, there lies opportunity. The New York Declaration on Forests

volving climate smart technology transfer, tree growing at local level and financial commitment by governments shall result into saving US\$7 associated with climate impacts. Thus our understanding of how the 25 years of forest cover decline in Uganda and associated social-economic-environment

commitments of international and national government, Nongovernmental organizations and institutions and moral responsibility of all humans. Uganda, the Pearl of Africa has lost more than 50% of her forests (from 1990 forest cover of 4.9 million hectares to 2.6 million hectares in 2010). Formal wood statistics indicate an increasing demand of round wood at 42.2 million tonnes per annum. Conven-

in 2014 endorsed by over 100 governments, Uganda among them coupled with civil society organizations and private sector illustrates the international and national commitment in tapping into forests. The declaration embraces restoration of 200 million hectares of forests by 2030 on addition

impacts are opportunities for safeguarding the **planet, people and profits**(^{PP}) for present and future generations. Conserving, restoring and planting forests starts with an individual with support of governments, religious institutions and world at large. The onus to safeguard forests remains

tional timber harvesting being escalated by real estate and entire construction industry, energy use (charcoal and firewood) are causing an estimated 80,000 hectares of private and protected forests clearance (causing loss of 1.24% of forest land annually). More than 90% of the Ugandan population depends on charcoal and firewood for energy and it is anticipated that charcoal production will contribute

to the Bonn Challenge of 150 million hectares by 2020, towards climate change mitigation. Opportunities beneath such commitments require a proactive approach with measurable key performance indicators at national and international levels. Low carbon development Strategies in-

with us at whatever capacity we stand.

Global Forest Assessment Report 2015

Article by Rogers Bwenjye Muyambi (Environmentalist and Climate change specialist) and Member of UWS.

The onus to safeguard forests remains with us at whatever capacity we stand.



SPECIES SPECIFIC CONSERVATION ISSUES; Grey crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*)

Gray crowned cranes (*Balearica regulorum*) are birds belonging to kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order: Gruiformes, Family Gruidae, Genus *Balearica* and Species *Balearica regulorum*. The species is divided into two subspecies namely, East African crowned cranes (*Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*) found in Uganda and, the South African crowned cranes (*Balearica regulorum regulorum*).

Balearica regulorum gibbericeps have bare white cheek patch with a reddish tint that distinguished them from South African cranes by a redder cheek patch. Their cheek patch is surrounded by black feathers, at the bottom the chin has a red gular sac similar to wattle but inflatable. They have a short grey bill, neck and most body feathers pearly grey, mostly white wings or sometime brown to gold

feathers, tail is black and the upper coverts become pale straw-like yellow. The legs are black with long hind toe that allows them to perch in trees. The species weigh from 3 to 4 kilograms, are 100 to 110 cm in length with wingspans 180 to 200 cm. Juveniles are grey with a brown crown and nape and irises tending to brown. The gular sac that usually appears after 4 months is pink, adult plumage is usually

Balearica regulorum gibbericeps Uganda's national bird appearing in the coat of arms and national flag is according to IUCN red list endangered

gained after 12 months while downy chicks are usually pale buff with ivory head.

Balearica regulorum gibbericeps Uganda's national bird appearing in the coat of arms and national flag is according to IUCN red list endangered and threats to

its population continue from loss and degradation of wetlands (marshes, pans, dams, riverbanks, open riverine woodland, shallowly flooded plains, temporary pools with adjacent grasslands, open savannas and cultivated plains they inhabit. Other threats include, increased pesticides use that kill in-

sects which the species feeds on and decreased fallow practice causing food scarcity, live-trapping for illegal captive trade, mortality due to electrocution and collision with overhead power lines and, hunting. The species breeds within or at the edges of the wetlands with 1 m deep water and

emergent vegetation 1 m above. They roost in the waters or on nearby trees. They are not migratory but often make local and seasonal movements depending on abundance and distribution of food, nest-sites and rainfall. In nesting they are territorial in pairs (with territory sizes ranging from 0.86

to 3.88 square kilometers depending on food abundance and distribution) but often flock together and roost communally at night. *Balearica regulorum gibbericeps* are monogamous, during courtship both sexes perform a "nuptial dance" beginning with a series of calls during which the gular

sac is inflated, after which both sexes bob their heads spread their wings and jump. Either partner may call off the display. They breed throughout the year with peaks in wetter periods. Their nests are usually located in standing water or quite near it; where there is an abundance of tall

vegetation to provide cover while allowing the crane maximum visibility with only its head showing.

Both crane sexes participate in nest construction using nearby vegetation. Nest sizes range from 50 to 86 cm in diameter, and 12.5 cm above water level. Female lays 2 to 4 light blue eggs which have an incubation period of 28 to 30 days and, 12 hours after hatching, the

chicks are able to swim and float like little cork balls, begin feeding after 24 hours and, wander with their parents in search for food, returning to the nest at night for brooding by the second day.

After hatching, the crane family group keeps to the marshland where tall grass provide maximum coverage. The chicks fledge between 56 -100 days after hatching,

juveniles then join a flock, containing other juveniles and reach reproductive maturity at around 3 years. The cranes may live up to 22 years in the wild or 25 in captivity.

Balearica regulorum gibbericeps are omnivorous, eating lizards and worms) and seeds of maize, sedges and grasses among others. Predated upon by domestic dogs, the species avoids

this by roosting in trees and foraging alongside livestock.

They often uproot seedlings and damage crops when foraging in agricultural fields and for this reason they are often persecuted although they are wonderful pets that survive well in captivity.

In communication the species chicks have very sharp shrill "peep", while parents usually call them with a low guttural "purr". This is the same "purr" that they use when calling to their mates. The usual call of adult grey-crowned cranes is described as a low melancholy "oouuw" or "ya-oo-oo-

lung". They also utilize visual displays for attracting mates or deterring predators. They have two different displays when dealing with possible threats: a distraction display and an attack display.

Article by Laster Stoney Ogola, UWS

Grey crowned cranes population threats stem from continued loss and degradation of wetlands, increased pesticides use, decreased fallow practice, hunting and electrocution by overhead power lines.

MEMBERS' VOICE: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TREE PLANTING A REQUIREMENT FOR EVERYBODY article by Moses Musana, Aga Khan High School

The Aga Khan High School is concerned about environmental protection and sustainability in Uganda. It has appreciated the Uganda Wildlife Society for the work done for the environmental management and sustainability. The school is a member of Uganda wildlife society. This has helped the school to adventure some National Parks

in Uganda Such as Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Semuliki. Visiting these do not only help students and teachers for academic purposes but also create their love for environment and encourages them to take part in its protection and sustainability. The School through the Humanities Department encourages students to participate in environmental education and tree planting

spreads the gospel of environmental protection and sustainability through Poems, Skirts, Talks and Planting of trees to village schools in collaboration with UWS on some of these activities. My concept is that let everyone plant a tree, it is the major solution for our environmental problems. "PLANT A FRUIT TREE AND IMPROVE ON YOUR HEALTH AND WEALTH". SUBSTANTIATE.



Uganda Wildlife Society
Plot 39 Babiliha Avenue, Kololo

Plot 39 Babiliha Avenue, Kololo
P.O.Box 7422, Kampala Uganda

Phone: +256414530891
Fax: +256414530264
E-mail: uws@uws.or.ug

*Wildlife and Humans Living
in Harmony*



THE SOCIETY IN 2015

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, 18 years old this year. The Society vision is Wildlife and people living in harmony. Mission is to Promote the conservation of wildlife and the environment through advocacy, knowledge generation and field demonstrations. The Goal is Sustainable utilization of wildlife and other natural resources. The Society strategic programmes

are implemented within three main objective areas which includes;

Influence policy formulation for environmental management through providing forums for addressing, advocating and debating conservation issues.

Generate knowledge on wildlife and natural resources and provide informed non-biased environmental information to government, private sector and other Civil Society Organiza-

tions.

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.

These are achieved through: Research, Conservation initiatives, Advocacy, Policy influence and Membership. Achievements on these in 2015 can be accessed online Society Website: www.uws.or.ug under annual reports.

UWS Membership Category	Geographic and Membership Fee		
	Uganda (UGX)	Rest of Africa (USD)	Outside Africa
Student	2,000	Not Applicable	5,000
Individual Ordinary	20,000	100.00 € 14	150.00 € 20
Individual Senior	40,000	200.00 € 28	300.00 € 40
Corporate Ordinary	200,000	1,000.00 € 136	1,500.00 € 204
Corporate Senior	400,000	2,000.00 € 272	3,000.00 € 408
Lifetime Member	2,000,000	10,000.00 € 1,360	15,000.00 € 2,040

In table above are UWS Membership categories and applicable annual subscription fee .



UWS Membership Form

UGANDA WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Plot 39 Babiiha Avenue Kololo, Kampala
P.O. Box 7422 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 256-414-530891

E-mail: uws@uws.or.ug; Website: www.uws.or.ug

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Applicant/Member's contact detail

Names:
Organization:
Email:
Telephone Number:
Postal Address:
Physical Address:
Country:

Membership category selected/renewed (Indicate the your choice from the table) in page 6 before

.....

Payment for membership mode (Tick the applicable from options below)

Cash
Cheque.....
Date of membership fee payment.....
Signature

UWS Membership Officer Use Only

Date of Member receipt and registration.....
Registration Number given to Member.....
Benefits Applicable to Member (Please tick the applicable from list below)
Membership card.....
Sticker.....
Newsletters.....
Publications.....
Advertising in UWS website.....
Access to UWS resource centre.....
Participation in UWS policy dialogues and breakfast meetings
Participation in UWS nature walks.....
Participation in UWS Consultancy.....
Participation in UWS Volunteer Service.....