WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION

50 YEARS
1957-2007

OF SUPPORT TO CONSERVATION IN

U G A N D A

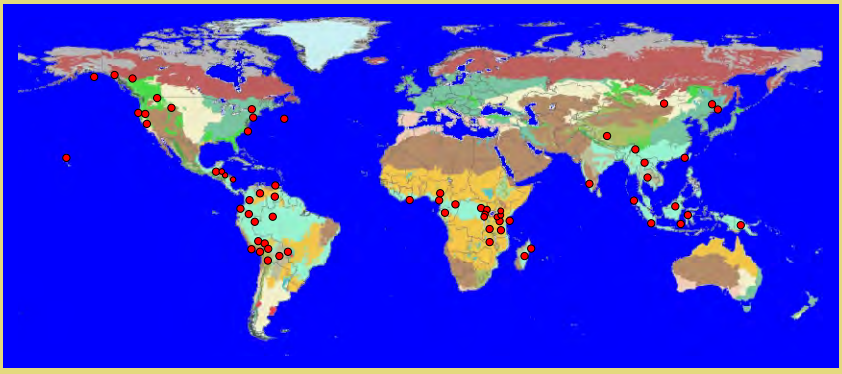
WCS'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN UGANDA

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild lands. We do so through careful science, international conservation, education, and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together, these activities change individual attitudes toward nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in sustainable interaction on both a local and a global scale. WCS is committed to this work because we believe it essential to the integrity of life on earth.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been supporting conservation around the world since it was first established in 1895 as the New York Zoological Society. Our work in Uganda started in 1957, and has continued each year since with the exception of 1958, 1969 and 1970. Our support has primarily focused on applied research to provide information of value to conservation managers. We have also acknowledged from early on the importance of building the capacity of national scientists and conservationists and we have supported many research projects contributing to MSc and PhD degrees. The list of WCS projects over 50 years in Uganda included in this brochure shows how many people who pioneered some of the cutting edge research and conservation in this country were supported by WCS early on in their careers. In recent years we have broadened our work, helping to support protected area management, transboundary collaboration with authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and starting to strengthen support for biodiversity conservation among local communities and the general public. Throughout we have believed in supporting national institutions where possible, particularly the Uganda National Parks (now Uganda Wildlife Authority), Uganda Forest Department (now National Forest Authority) and Makerere and Mbarara Universities. We have also supported national NGOs such as NatureUganda, Wildlife Clubs of Uganda and Uganda Wildlife Education Centre.

As we celebrate this rich history, we look forward to another 50 years and more of working to help the people of Uganda protect and sustainably manage the biodiversity and natural resources of this country gifted by nature. For more information about WCS visit www.wcs.org, along with the website for our Albertine Rift Program www.albertinerift.org.

WCS CONSERVATION SITES AROUND THE WORLD



THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Wildlife Conservation Society traces its origin to April 26th, 1895 when New York State chartered the organization as the New York Zoological Society. As one of the first conservation organizations in the United States, WCS began with a clear mandate: advance wildlife conservation, promote the study of zoology, and create a first-class zoological park. From its early years the Society was involved in wildlife conservation as well as maintaining a collection of animals in captivity at its Bronx zoo headquarters. William Beebe, the zoo's first curator of birds, recognized the importance of understanding wildlife in their natural habitats in marked contrast to most zoologists at the time. Beebe led expeditions all over the world from 1903 onwards, which highlighted the need for protection of sites and species, and his approach led the Society to become increasingly involved in field conservation projects around the world.

Some of the Society's earliest conservation work linked the zoological park in the Bronx to conservation in the wild. In 1907 we reintroduced the American Bison into the wild and helped save this species from extinction. We were also involved in the creation of Kruger National Park in 1927 and saving the White Rhino in the Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa in 1930. In the late 1950's WCS began a series of wildlife surveys and projects in Kenya, Tanganyika (now Tanzania), Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Burma, and the Malay peninsula. In 1959 it sponsored George Schaller's seminal study of mountain gorillas in Congo. Since that expedition, Schaller has gone on to become the world's preeminent field biologist, studying wildlife throughout Africa, Asia and South America, including lions and hyenas, giant pandas, tigers and jaguars amongst many species. His books have inspired many other field biologists to become involved in wildlife conservation, and Schaller went on to become WCS's first director of international field programs. In the 1960s, WCS supported Tom Struhsaker to study primates in West Africa and Roger Payne to study whales in the southern seas. Struhsaker later moved to Uganda in 1970 and established one of the longest running tropical forest field research programs in Kibale Forest.

Today WCS is at work in 53 nations across Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America, protecting wild landscapes that are home to a vast variety of species from butterflies to tigers. From an early history of surveys and research, the Society's programs have broadened to include all aspects of the management of protected areas and broader conservation landscapes, protection of key species across their ranges and development of new models to integrate the conservation of wildlife and wildlands with the welfare and economic development of the local communities which live around these areas. Around the world, WCS places a major emphasis on strengthening the capacity of national institutions and the next generation of conservation professionals to ensure the long term sustainability of our work. Our pioneering environmental education programs reach millions locally, nationally and internationally, and the more than 4 million visitors who annually experience our Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium and Central Park, Queens and Prospect Park Zoos are encouraged to learn about our natural world and inspired to care about its future.

BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPES IN UGANDA

Uganda is one of the richest countries for biodiversity in Africa. It is the meeting point of several of the world's major biomes and with its wide diversity of altitudes (500-5,100 metres) and habitat types the country contains many more species than would be expected from its size. A total of 1,585 terrestrial vertebrate species are found here, including than half of Africa's bird species (1012), 345 mammals, 86 amphibians and 142 reptiles. At least 1,242 butterfly species are also known from the country and 501 freshwater fish species have been recorded.

The western side of Uganda forms the northern part of Africa's Western Rift Valley or Albertine Rift. This Ecoregion, Endemic Bird Area and Biodiversity Hotspot contains more of Africa's vertebrate species than anywhere else on the continent. It also has more endemic and threatened species than elsewhere in Africa making it one of the most important areas for biodiversity conservation in the World.

WCS's work in Uganda has primarily focused on vertebrates, as these are most often threatened by man. More recently our focus has been looking at a larger scale than individual protected areas because we recognized that certain species, what WCS terms "Landscape Species", require much larger areas to maintain viable populations. Landscape species include animals such as elephants, lions, leopards, hippopotamus, chimpanzees and some of the large birds of prey. These species live at low density, range over large areas, are slow to reproduce and are mostly threatened by man as a result.

Some of the most important landscapes in Uganda where has been working or will focus in the immediate future include:

1. Greater Virunga Landscape, Africa's most biodiverse landscape, which includes Semuliki, Rwenzori Mountains, Queen Elizabeth, Kibale, Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks, Kasyoha-kitomi, Kalinzu and Rwenzori Forest Reserves, and Kigezi and Kyambura Wildlife Reserves.
2. Murchison-Semuliki Landscape, including Murchison Falls National Park, Budongo, Bugoma, Kagombe, Kitechura and Itwara Forest Reserves and Toro-Semliki, Kaiso-Tonya, Bugungu and Karuma Wildlife Reserves as well as unprotected forest along streams and rivers
3. Murchison Falls-East Madi Wildlife Reserve Landscape which forms an ancient elephant migration corridor
4. Greater Kidepo Landscape, including Kidepo Valley National Park, Morungole, Nyangea Napore, Agoro-agu and Rom Forest Reserves, Kidepo Game Reserve, Imatongs Forest Reserve and the former Lipan hunting reserve.

The Greater Virunga and Greater Kidepo landscape straddle the international borders into the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC former) and into Sudan (latter) and a transboundary collaboration approach is being supported by WCS in these two landscapes.

WCS'S HISTORY IN UGANDA

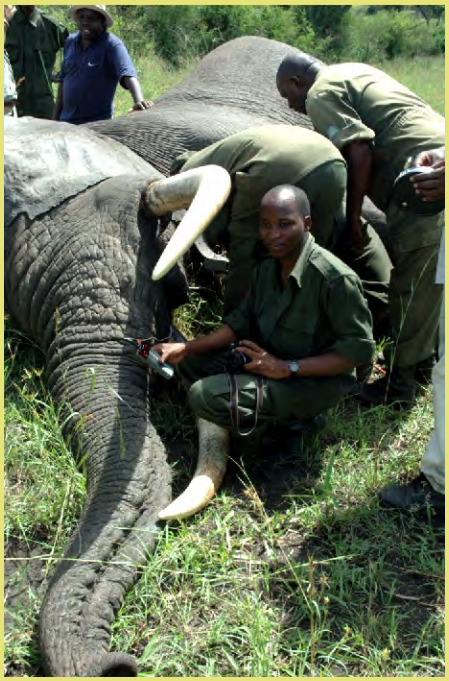
For most of WCS's early history in Uganda, our work has focused primarily on wildlife surveys and applied biological research. Many of the names listed in subsequent pages form a who's who of the conservation world in Uganda. Our work in Uganda first started in 1957 when the then New York Zoological Society supported George Petrides to survey large mammal populations in Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan. Soon after George Schaller was supported to undertake a study of the mountain gorilla in the Virunga Volcanoes and carry out a census in these mountains, eastern DRC and in Uganda including the Bwindi Impenetrable forest.

The pioneering research by Irven Buss on elephants in Uganda's parks, and his work to undertake the first forest surveys of elephants using dung counts in Kibale Forest with Larry Wing are still cited today. Tom Struhsaker pioneered field primate studies in forests and developed many field techniques that are still in use today. His long term presence in Kibale helped conserve this important forest during some of Uganda's most difficult times in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Struhsaker's research work, with colleagues including Gil Isabirye-Basuta and John Kasenene, provided the information that helped make Kibale a National Park. WCS helped establish the Makerere University Biological Field Station (MUBFS) which has been used to train countless Ugandan and nationals of other African countries since 1994. John Kasenene and Gil Isabirye Basuta have tirelessly fought for the conservation of forests in Uganda and hundreds of Ugandan students have passed through their hands at MUBFS and at Makerere University. They have made a major contribution to building the next generation of Ugandan conservation biologists.

With WCS support, Ian Douglas-Hamilton and Rob Malpas surveyed Uganda's large mammals in the early 1980s after the massive poaching that took place in the country during the 1970s. Douglas-Hamilton later led much of the lobbying to put elephants on appendix 1 of Cites and stop legal hunting for ivory as a result.

Tom Butynski surveyed Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in 1984 to provide the first major assessment of the biodiversity of this forest. This survey lead to a major push to protect this forest, resulting in its designation as a national park in 1991, along with the establishment of the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC). ITFC has facilitated a wide range of applied research and student projects in the forest, and has been supported by WCS since 1999. Likewise, Amy Vedder and Bill Weber were supported to census the Virunga Volcanoes gorillas and they went on to establish mountain gorilla tourism in Rwanda and then head WCS's Africa and North America Conservation Programs.

Peter Howard's surveys of forests in the mid 1980s provided data that helped justify the creation of six new Forest Parks in Uganda in 1991 and 1993. Further work supported by the Forest Department led to a more detailed inventory in the early 1990s which developed a Conservation Master Plan for Uganda's Forests, prioritizing their relative conservation and extraction values. Peter also was Director of WCS's Africa Program between 2000-2002. The current Director, James Deutsch also worked in Uganda, studying lekking in Uganda Kob.



WCS SUPPORT TO UGANDA SINCE 1957

Dates	Project	Implemented by
1957	Surveys of protected areas in Uganda	George Petrides
1959	Support to Game Department to bring Ugandan Game warden to USA	Bryan Kinloch
1960	Construction of research hut in Bwindi (Kayonza) forest	Coryndon Museum
1960-1961	Support to Makerere Students for field course	Makerere University
1960	Support to animal orphanage, Uganda National Parks Service.	Uganda National Parks
1960	Survey of gorillas in Congo and Uganda	George Schaller
1960-1961	Development of immobilization techniques for vets in East Africa.	J. Lock & A. Harthoorn
1962-1965	Ecological survey of elephants	Irven Buss
1964-1965	Education projects in East Africa	W. Eddy
1964	Establishment of educational zoo in Entebbe	Uganda National Parks
1964	Purchase of plane for Uganda National Parks Service	Uganda National Parks
1966	Entebbe Wildlife Education Centre	Uganda National Parks
1967-1968	Purchase of radio equipment for Uganda National Parks	Uganda National Parks
1968	Support of elephant survey report	Irven Buss
1971-1988	Rainforest and primate ecology	Tom Struhsaker
1971-1972	Nesting behaviour of Nile Crocodile	H. Cott
1972	Crocodile surveys in East Africa	W. King
1976	Role of primates in forest regeneration	S. Ross
1976-1978	Pan African elephant survey	Ian Douglas-Hamilton
1977	Effects of logging on rodents	Gil Isabirye-Basuta
1978	Virunga Volcanoes gorilla census	Amy Vedder, Bill Weber
1979-1980	Pan African Rhino survey	A. Hillman
1980	Status of wildlife in Uganda National parks	Rob Malpas
1980	Support to Game Wardens	Uganda Game Department
1981	Makerere Student training in Kibale	Tom Struhsaker
1981	Support to Uganda Institute of ecology	Eric Edroma
1981	Scholarship to Michigan University	John Kasenene
1981	Effects of seed dispersal by primates on regeneration	Jan Kalina
1981	Human encroachment in Forest Reserves	K. van Orsdol
1981	Virunga Volcanoes gorilla census	Amy Vedder, Bill Weber
1983	Support to Uganda National Parks	B. Kamugasha
1983	Survey of Semuliki	Joseph Skorupa
1984-1985	Study of redtail monkey social behaviour	T. Jones
1984	Survey of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Reserve	Tom Butynski
1985-1986	Forest surveys	Peter Howard
1986	Virunga Volcanoes gorilla census	Amy Vedder
1987-1993	Chimpanzee ecology	Gil Isabirye-Basuta
1987-1989	PhD training	John Kasenene
1988-1989	Support to African Elephant and Rhino Specialist group	David Western
1989	Kibale Forest Project	Andrew Johns
1989	Virunga gorilla census	Craig Sholley
1990-1995	Makerere University Biological Field Station	Andrew Johns, Gil Isabirye-Basuta, John Kasenene
1990-1995	Economics of wild coffee	John Kasenene
1993-1994	Ecotourism development	Mark Noonan
1993-1995	Training of Ugandan scientists	Gil Isabirye-Basuta
1993-1995	Environmental education around Kibale	MUBFS staff
1993-1995	Crop losses to wildlife	Lisa Naughton
1993	Land purchases in Bwindi	Bill Weber
1994-1995	Analysis of Institutions and policies for Lake Victoria	N. Rukuba
1995-1996	Effects of logging on birds in Budongo	Isaiah Owiunji
1995-1996	Effects of logging on small mammals in Budongo	Paul Musamali
1995-1996	Fishes of the Lake Victoria basin	Lauren Chapman, J. Olowo
1996-2001	Forest Regeneration in Kibale	Colin Chapman
1996	Mangabey behaviour, Kibale	William Olupot

Dates	Project	Implemented by
1996-1997	Role of elephants in forest regeneration	Erica Cochrane
1997	Bwindi gorilla census	Alastair McNeilage, UWA, IGCP
1997-2006	Fish communities of crater lakes	Lauren Chapman, J. Olowo
1997	Wetlands refugia for fishes	J. Olowo
1997	Impact of logging on primates in Budongo	Andy Plumptre
1998	Impacts of logging on birds in Budongo	Isaiah Owiunji
1998	Gorilla monitoring, Bwindi	Alastair McNeilage
1998-1999	Phenology of trees in Budongo	Andy Plumptre
1998-1999	Training for PhD in USA	Arthur Mugisha
1999-2000	ITFC Institutional Strengthening Project	Alastair McNeilage
1999	Mangabeys in Kibale	William Olupot
1999	Amphibian surveys in Lake Nabugabo	Matthias Behangana
1999	Radiotracking of Nahans Francolin	Eric Sande
1999	Effects of forest gaps on birds	Charles Kahindo
1999-2002	Forest surveys of chimpanzees and other large mammals	Sam Mugume, Debby Cox, Andy Plumptre
2000-2003	Forest edge effects in Bwindi	William Olupot
2000	Crested Crane Survey	Jimmy Muheebwa
2000	Fish survey	G. Namulemo
2000	Evaluation of community conservation	Arthur Mugisha
2000-2003	Assessing the impact of tourism on Mountain Gorillas	Alastair McNeilage, Fortunate Mudyambi
2000-2007	Mountain gorilla ecology and conservation	Alastair McNeilage, Martha Robbins, Jessica Ganas, John Bosco Nkurunungi
2001-2007	Core support to ITFC	Alastair McNeilage
2001-2007	Biodiversity surveys in the Albertine Rift Region	Andy Plumptre
2002	Surveys of Amphibians in the Albertine Rift	Matthias Behangana
2002	Bwindi mountain gorilla census	Alastair McNeilage, UWA, IGCP
2002-2005	Biological surveys of western forest reserves	Isaiah Owiunji, David Nkuutu
2002-ongoing	Training UWA Wardens for monitoring and research, developing and implementing UWA Monitoring and Research plan	Aggrey Rwetsiba, Andy Plumptre, Fred Wanyama, Charles Tumwesigye
2003	Virunga mountain gorilla census	Alastair McNeilage, Martha Robbins, Maryke Gray, Katie Fawcett
2003	Development of Chimpanzee action plan following census of chimpanzees across Uganda	Andy Plumptre, Debby Cox
2003-2004	Mountain gorilla use of regenerating forest in Mgahinga	Ghad Mugiri, Alastair McNeilage
2003-2004	Assessing the effectiveness of ICD interventions around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	Aggripinah Namara, Alastair McNeilage
2003-2005	Developing strategy for conservation of the Albertine Rift	WCS, WWF, IGCP, ITFC. DFGFI, MUIENR, ARCOS
2003-ongoing	Support to WCS Albertine Rift Program	Andy Plumptre
2003-ongoing	Transboundary collaboration between Uganda and DRC in Greater Virunga Landscape	WCS, UWA, ICCN
2004	Economic valuation of forests in Uganda	Glenn Bush
2004	Survey of the biodiversity of the Virunga Volcanoes	Isaiah Owiunji
2004	Establish Ugandas Mammal Conservation Group	D. Kateizi, Achilles Byaruhanga
2004-2005	Institutional Strengthening of Nature Uganda	Achilles Byaruhanga
2004-2006	Fish populations in Bwindis rivers	Aventino Kasangaki, Lauren Chapman
2004-2006	Albertine Rift endemic birds in Bwindi	Charles Kabusaasi, Isaiah Owiunji, Alastair McNeilage
2004-2006	The impact of an invasive species, Lantana camara in Bwindi	Safari Chrispine, Alastair McNeilage
2004-2007	Vegetation mapping in Bwindi	Dennis Babaasa, Alastair McNeilage
2005	Transboundary Plan for Greater Virunga Landscape developed	IGCP, UWA, ICCN, ORTPN, WCS

Dates	Project	Implemented by
2005	Impact of the LRA conflict in northern Uganda on the environment	Guy Picton-Phillipps, Simon Nampindo, Andy Plumptre, Aggrey Rwetsiba
2005	Development of business plan for Rwenzori Mountains National Park	Jane Fisher, UWA
2005	Training staff from Uganda Wildlife Education Centre	Tom Naiman
2005-2006	Survey of Crowned Crane breeding sites	William Olupot, Hamlet Mugabe
2005-ongoing	Ranging of lions in Ishasha, QENP	Joel Ziwa
2005-ongoing	Summarizing research in Ugandas parks	William Olupot
2006	Construction of Conservation Resource Centre at ITFC	Alastair McNeilage
2006	Aerial census of large mammals in Greater Virunga Landscape	Andy Plumptre
2006	Bwindi mountain gorilla census	Martha Robbins, Alastair McNeilage, UWA, IGCP
2006-2007	Radiotracking elephants in the Greater Virunga Landscape	Polycarp Mwima
2006-2007	Evaluating the impact of oil exploration on the Albertine Rift	Louise Johnson, Isaiah Owiunji, Andy Plumptre, Ray Victurine
2006-2007	Biodiversity of fish on Lake George	David Baeinomugisha
2006-2007	Bird diversity on coffee farms around the Rwenzoris	Richard Ssemanda
2006-2007	Training customs and immigration about laws in wildlife trade	Isaiah Owiunji, UWA
2006-ongoing	Institutional Strengthening of Wildlife Clubs of Uganda	Joel Musaasizi
2006-ongoing	Camera trapping survey of carnivores in Forest Reserves	Andy Plumptre, Polycarp Mwima
2006-ongoing	Wetlands use by local communities	Robert Byagenda
2006-ongoing	Mapping vegetation and human impacts using aerial photography	Sam Ayebare
2006-ongoing	Mapping land cover in the Murchsion-Semuliki Landscape	Grace Nangendo
2006-ongoing	Development of census unit within UWA	Aggrey Rwetsiba, Fred Wanyama
2006-ongoing	Monitoring impact of Prime/West ICD project	Simon Nampindo, Andy Plumptre, Alastair McNeilage
2007-ongoing	The bushmeat trade in Uganda	William Olupot
2007-ongoing	Conservation Cotton Initiative	Alastair McNeilage, Simon Nampindo, Matthew Hatchwell, Ray Victurine
2007-ongoing	Wildlife, Landscapes and Development for Conservation in Northern Uganda	Alastair McNeilage, Ellen Bean, Andy Plumptre, Isaiah Owiunji, Grace Nangendo

WCS IN UGANDA TODAY

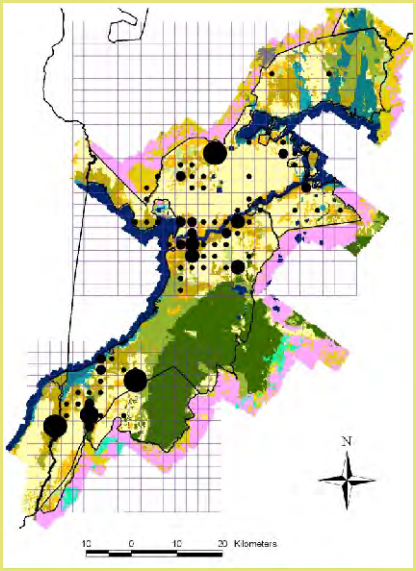
WCS's program today in Uganda has grown considerably from the early days of our conservation work in the country. Since 1999 the Society has been developing a broad program in Uganda and the Albertine Rift, with a growing permanent staff in country. Today our primary focus is on building the capacity of protected area authority staff and national NGOs and strengthening the management of the protected areas in the country. Applied research remains a core element of our programmes, but we also understand the need to broaden our expertise to include social sciences, economics, forestry, law and customs and immigration, as well as field biology.

Our recent focus has been on the protected areas and interconnecting natural habitats that form the landscapes of Uganda's Albertine Rift region. Our Albertine Rift Program compiled and synthesized the data for all the protected areas in the Albertine Rift and has been undertaking biodiversity surveys of many poorly known forests. This analysis showed that this region deserves "biodiversity hotspot" status, and resulted in it being recognized as part of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot.

Over the last 5 years, WCS has been focusing on three main strategies in Uganda's Albertine Rift:

1. Applied Research to help protected area managers better understand and manage their parks and reserves. Recent activities have included:
   - Biodiversity surveys of all large forests in Albertine Rift
   - Socioeconomic surveys to better understand needs of local communities around protected areas
   - Economic valuation of the value of forests to people in Uganda
   - Assessing the impact of Integrated Conservation and Development projects
   - Assessing the impact of oil exploration and mining in Uganda and assessing how well mitigation measures meet international practice
   - Assessing the impact of armed conflict on the environment in northern Uganda
   - Landscape and threatened species ecology lions, elephants, crowned cranes, endemic bird species, mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, other primates

   Many of these studies have been carried out by Ugandan scientists from the National Universities.
2. Skills transfer to build the capacity of national institutions in Uganda. Recent activities have included
   - Support to UWA to design and develop a national Research and Monitoring Plan
   - Training UWA staff in wildlife census and monitoring techniques especially those used in forests
   - Building the institutional capacity of NatureUganda and Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
   - Supporting the institutional development of ITFC and the redesign of Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC)
   - Mentoring Ugandan scientists to undertake research projects
3. Conservation of large landscapes in the rift, focusing on transboundary collaboration between DRC and Uganda. Recent activities include:
   - Promoting the conservation of the Greater Virunga Landscape
   - Supporting transboundary collaboration between park staff in DRC (ICCN) and Uganda (UWA)
   - Supporting wider transboundary collaboration between police, judiciary, customs and immigration together with protected area authorities
   - Developing a transboundary strategic plan with UWA, ICCN and Rwandan parks authority (ORTPN) and International Gorilla Conservation Program for Greater Virunga Landscape
   - More recently we have expanded our transboundary collaboration to start a similar process between Southern Sudan and Uganda - a MOU has been signed between both Governments and field activities will start in the near future



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WCS's work in Uganda has been made possible through the help and support of a partners and donors both within the country and around the world. We are particularly grateful to Uganda Wildlife Authority and the National Forest Authority for their support, cooperation and permission to work in National Parks, Wildlife and Forest Reserves. We also thank Makerere University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology, the International Gorilla Conservation Program, the World Wide Fund for Nature, Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust, NatureUganda, Wildlife Clubs of Uganda and CARE International for their collaboration on a range of projects.

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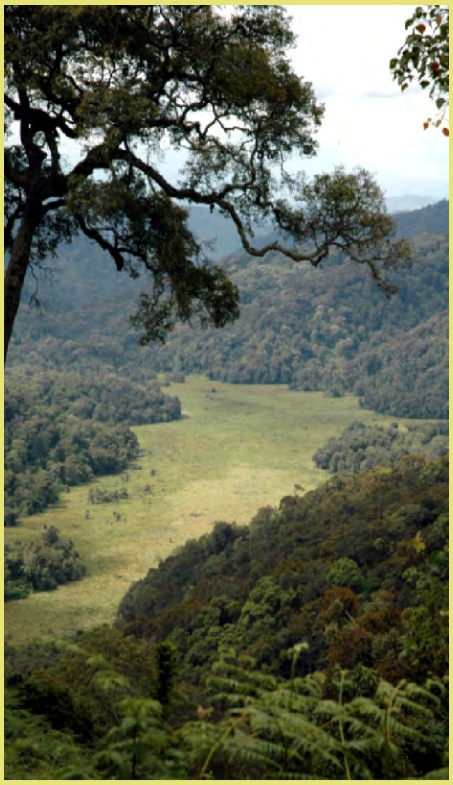
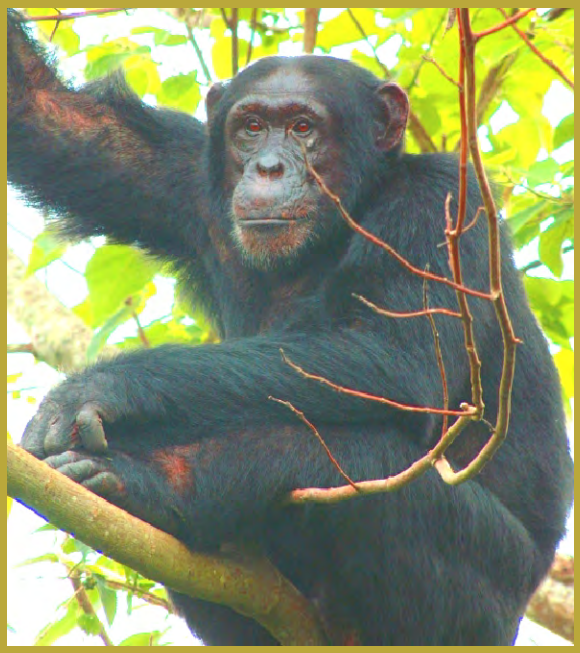
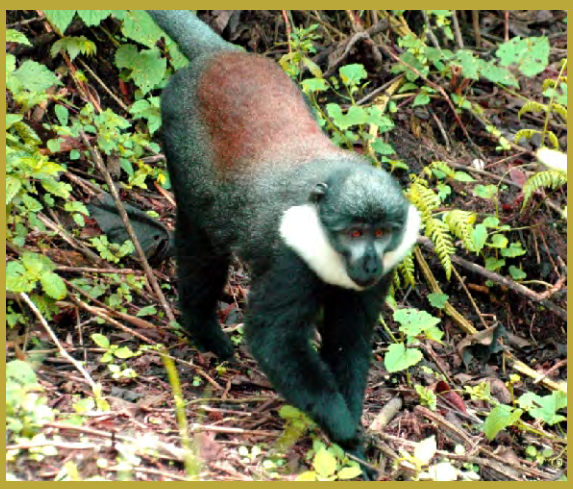
FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR WCS IN UGANDA

Over the next five years, WCS will continue to develop its program in Uganda, with both a wider geographic focus and a broader range of conservation interventions. Northern Uganda is entering an era of peace building and stability after more than two decades of conflict. The consequent large scale migrations of internally displaced people homeward, coupled with demands for agricultural and hydrocarbon development, escalate the threats to biodiversity and urgency to find long-term sustainable approaches to managing Northern Uganda's valuable natural resources. over the next three years WCS will be implementing a major new project, funded by USAID, which will strengthen biodiversity conservation in this region by improving the available knowledge base on the biodiversity of the area, working to strengthen the management of the most important protected areas within these landscapes, improving land use planning and management, and promoting biodiversity friendly land and natural resource use options in key corridors and buffer zones. This will involve working closely with local government, land owners and communities, as well as protected area authorities, and setting up mechanisms and economic incentives to manage corridors with biodiversity conservation as a primary goal. There are a number of biologically important landscapes within this region on which the project will focus, stretching from Murchison Falls National Park north along the River Nile to the border with Southern Sudan, and eastwards to Kidepo Valley National Park. Several of these landscapes cross over the border, and the project will seek to promote transboundary collaboration between the two countries for their management.

Along with our new initiatives in northern Uganda, we will continue to support conservation in the Albertine Rift both within Uganda and in neighbouring countries. As in northern Uganda, our programs in the Albertine Rift will focus on the major threats to protected areas and wildlife. Applied monitoring and research, support to protected area management and transboundary collaboration will continue to be core elements of our conservation strategy. However, we will also seek to develop new initiatives to create incentives for local communities to support and participate in conservation activities, and to ensure their financial sustainability. Conservation landscapes in the Albertine Rift, particularly the Greater Virunga Landscape, consist of an interconnected network of national parks and reserves. Conservation of critical corridors in these landscapes will be a focus of our programs. In engaging with large scale with large scale commercial activities which are posing new threats to biodiversity, we plan to work on developing a sensitivity atlas for oil exploration and mining which would help identify the critical conservation areas within the Albertine Rift oil concessions in Uganda. At a national level, WCS will continue to help develop the capacity of national institutions with responsibility for biodiversity conservation, and to increase awareness and encourage a supportive constituency for conversation among the general public.







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The Wildlife Conservation Society (formerly the New York Zoological Society) has been supporting conservation in Uganda since 1957. The Society's history and achievements in Uganda, along with our current programs and future priorities are presented here to celebrate our 50th anniversary in this biodiversity rich country, truly gifted by nature.