



© Gregoire Dubois, Chimpanzee, Kibale Forest National Park, Uganda

8.22 Uganda

Protected and conserved areas in Uganda⁹⁷

Uganda has 712 protected areas covering 39,059 km² of the land (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019w).

Uganda is a convergence zone for five of Africa's important ecological zones and home to an estimate of half the world's mountain. In recent years Uganda has been seen as a model case study for numerous and varied approaches to address complex and connected conservation and development challenges such as community-based conservation to payments for ecosystem services. An example is the project funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) providing incentives to individual landowners to conserve and restore forest habitats important for chimpanzees and other flora and fauna. It provided incentives to some 400 farmers (private forest owners) in 68 villages for conserving biodiversity in forests on private and public land not gazetted as forest reserves.

In 2018, the government embarked on a process of gazetting and declaring some of Uganda's wetland cover as a protected area. Uganda's wetlands cover an area of 11% of the land area. One of the major trends for protected areas in Uganda is the reduction of forested areas in protected areas, in national parks and wildlife reserves and central forest reserves. The forest cover declined from 1.59 million ha in 1990 to 1.13 million ha in 2015.

Transboundary protected and conserved areas

Uganda includes parts of five transboundary conservation areas, namely Greater Virunga Landscape, Kagera TFCA, Kidepo Landscape, Mount Elgon and Sango Bay-Minziro.

Policy context

A comprehensive report on legislation and policy related to protected area management, governance and equity was undertaken by the BIOPAMA programme. It identified 48 relevant laws and policies in Uganda (Tessema, 2019).

Key species⁹⁸

Uganda is rich in biodiversity, with close to 19,000 species of flora and fauna. Knowledge about these species is skewed towards mammals, birds, butterflies, some plants, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Uganda is home to about 380 mammal species and over 1,000 bird species, representing almost half of all species recorded in Africa. Fish biodiversity in Uganda is dominated by the Cichlid family, with a high level of endemism. There are 98 species of amphibians and 150 species of reptiles found in Uganda. Of the approximately 5,000 species of higher plants, 70 are endemic. Fungi, lichen and insects are less well documented.

97 The section draws on information contained in Uganda's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Uganda National Environment Management Agency, 2014)

98 The section draws on information contained in Uganda's Fifth National Report to the CBD and its Second NBSAP (Republic of Uganda, 2016; Uganda National Environment Management Agency, 2014).

Figure 8.43 Uganda Summary



Total Population (millions)
42.72



Population growth (annual %)
3.70



Surface area (km²) (thousands)
241.60



GDP (current US\$) (billions)
27.48



GDP growth (annual %)
6.10

Source: The World Bank Group, 2018.

Area Protected:

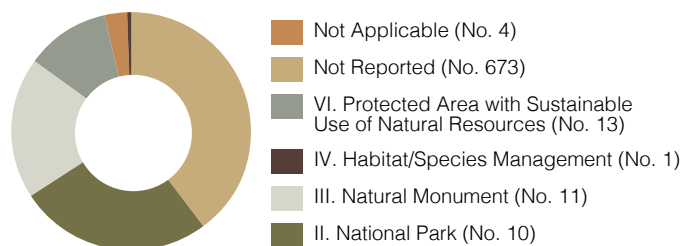
712 protected areas



covering **39 059 km²** of land

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, (2019w)

Protected and conserved areas in Uganda in IUCN Management Categories



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019w).

19 000 species of flora and fauna



380 mammal species



1,000 bird species



150 reptile species



98 amphibian species



5 000 plant species

Coverage of protected areas in Uganda

Type of protected area	Area protected or conserved*	Area protected or conserved**
Terrestrial and inland water	16.06%	0.80%

* WDPA dataset

** From National Report on Biodiversity

Source: Uganda National Environment Management Agency (2014); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019w).

Protected and conserved areas designated as global sites of importance in Uganda

Global designation	No. of sites
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	2
UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Natural or Mixed)	2
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	12

Source: Ramsar (2019); UNESCO (2019a, 2019b).

Protected and conserved areas in Uganda in IUCN Governance Types



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN ((2019w).

National designations of protected and conserved areas in Uganda

National designation	No.	Area (km ²)
Sanctuary	1	187
National Park	10	11 251
Wildlife Reserve	12	8 461
Community Wildlife Management Area	5	4 239
Forest Reserve	661	12 342
Wildlife Sanctuary	7	554

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019w).

Priority areas for conservation



4 sites
Alliance for Zero Extinction sites



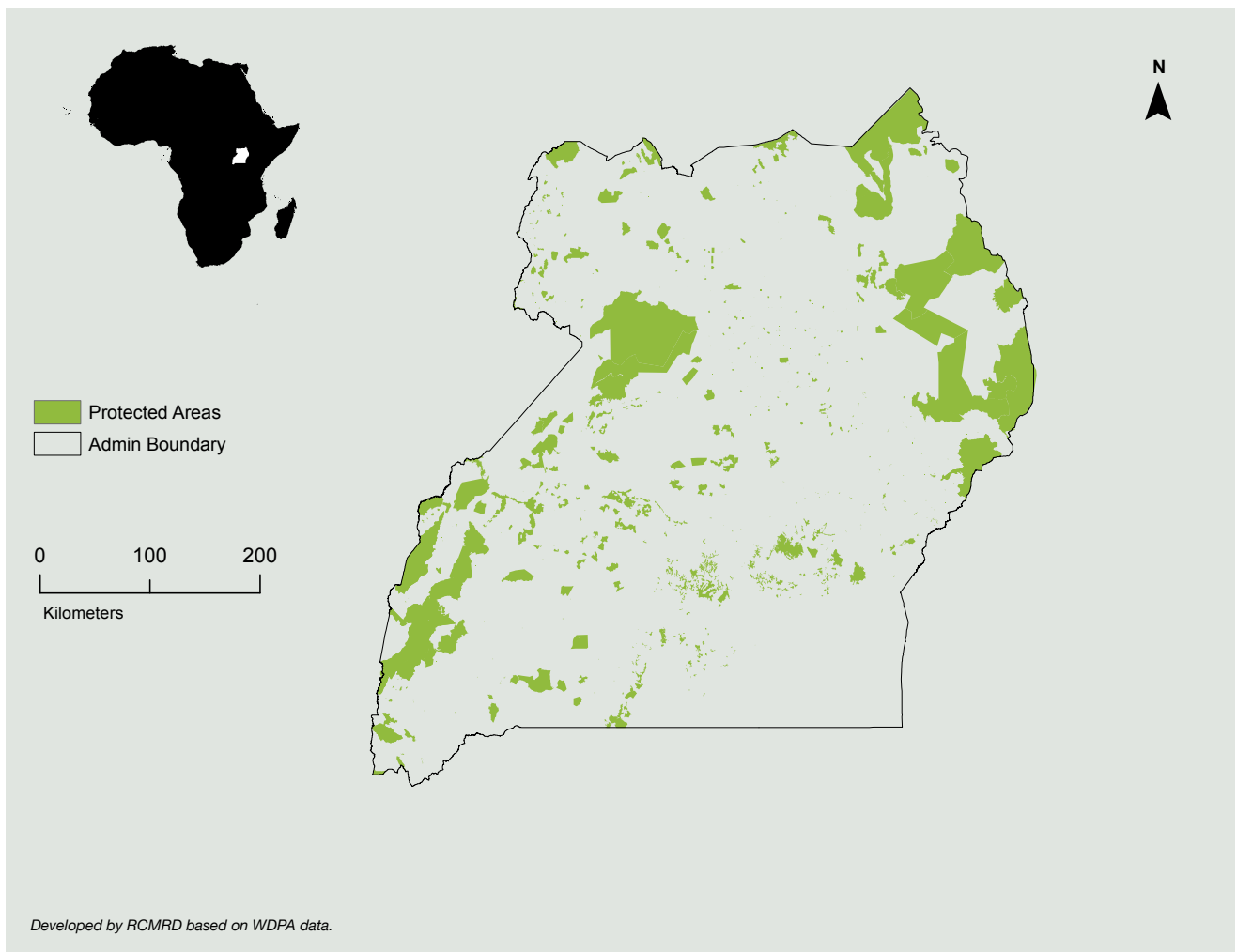
34 sites
Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas



33 sites
Key Biodiversity Areas

Source: AZE Secretariat (2019); BirdLife International (2019b, 2019c).

Figure 8.44 Uganda protected areas



Pressures and threats⁹⁹

Uganda has many threats to its biodiversity, the most serious of which is the loss and degradation of habitat. Encroachment is prevalent and human-wildlife conflict is a perennial and growing problem. Poaching and the illicit trade in wildlife is also a serious problem, as is destructive fishing practices. Alien invasive species pose particular threats to certain ecosystems.

The high rate of human population growth and the rapid development in Uganda are taking a toll on the remaining natural habitats in the country. High levels of poverty mean that people are still reliant on natural resources for survival.

⁹⁹ The section draws on information contained in Uganda's Fifth National Report to the CBD and its Second NBSAP (Republic of Uganda, 2016; Uganda National Environment Management Agency, 2014).