The Wildlife Investment Portfolio

A publication of Uganda Wildlife Authority
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Investments in Wildlife Protected Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wildlife Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Guidelines for Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Featured National Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Queen Elizabeth National park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lake Mburo National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Mt. Elgon National park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Murchison Falls National park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Kidepo Valley National park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Kibale National park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Rwenzori Mountains National park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photo Credit:**
UWA, Matthias Mugisha, Musiime Muramura

**Design:** Benon Ssebaggala
benon@dynamic-printers.com

No liability can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.

© 2014 Uganda Wildlife Authority
Background

Uganda is experiencing growth in tourism numbers. The visitor numbers has grown from 540,000 in 2006 to over 1.2 million visitors in 2012. Of these, over 200,000 tourists visit protected areas. It is projected that the tourism industry will grow by over 10% in real terms over the next 5 years.

The major reasons for this growth is the relative peace the country has enjoyed over the last 20 years, the natural beauty and diversity of ecosystems and wildlife that is being ‘discovered’ by the tourism world and the increased promotional efforts of the hoteliers, tour operators, government marketing agencies and the government itself. And now that there is total security in the country, UWA under the guidance of Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry has embarked on a number of initiatives to sustain the increasing tourism into the country.

It has been recognized that tourism is one of the leading foreign exchange earners, plays an important role in the livelihood of many communities who live near the protected area, the workforce who are employed directly in managing the protected area estate and those who carry out business in tourism promotion, tour operation and offer services to the whole tourism industry.

The protected area covers over 11% of Uganda’s total area.

Uganda gets international Accolades
Uganda has lately received significant tourism accolades, a sign that the tourism and conservation effort have started to bear fruit. This is a strong indication that the future of tourism is very promising. Among the accolades include:

- The **Lonely Planet** named Uganda as the no 1, tourism destination in 2012
- Bwindi Impenetrable National Park was recently voted the best birding place in Africa by the **African Bird Club** because of the diversity of migratory birds closely followed by Kruger National Park – South Africa,
- Rwenzori Mountains lying astride the Equator were voted No. 13 top hiking spot out of 15 in the World by the **National Geographic Society**.
- The Tree climbing lions of Ishasha picture was voted No.1 picture of 2010 November **National Geographic**. Ishasha lions are ones of the only three known in the world. The most recent lions sighted climbing elsewhere was at Lake Manyara Park–Tanzania in 2008,
- The Virunga volcanoes along Uganda's borders with DRC and Rwanda were identified as one of the top 20 places to visit in the world by **National Geographic**
- The Chobe Lodge Gym was voted No.5 by **CNN** because of the scenic view it commands in Murchison Falls National Park.
- **CNN Travel** voted Kidepo Valley National park the 3rd best park in Africa.
- Murchison Falls National Park was named no. 9 best birding spots in Africa by **Birdlife Africa**
- **New York Times** travel named Uganda among the 45 places to visit
- Kibale National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable and Queen Elizabeth National Parks received certificates of excellence from **Trip advisor** in 2013
- Uganda is regarded as Africa's best destination for birders. The country, which is the size of United Kingdom, boasts of over 1,058 bird species, accounting for 11% of the globe's total, and half of Africa's.

These recognition and growth need to be matched by an increasing investment and provision of accommodation and recreational facilities.
Uganda Wildlife Vision and Vision

Uganda Wildlife Authority Vision is “To be a leading self-sustaining wildlife conservation agency that transforms Uganda into one of the best ecotourism destinations in Africa” and our Motto is to “Conserve for Generations”.

While the mission is to: “To conserve, economically develop and sustainably manage the wildlife and protected areas of Uganda in partnership with the neighboring communities and other stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community”.

Investment Incentives

- Uganda Investment Authority offers some incentives for investors within the tourism sector. The following incentives are offered among others.
  - Supply of accommodation and tourism lodges outside Kampala is VAT exempted
  - Branded hotel equipment is tax exempted
  - Importation of Tour vehicles is duty free

Prospective investors are encouraged to check and verify the details of these and other incentives with Uganda Investment Authority.

Investment areas

There are opportunities for development of new eco tourism products and services, within and outside the national parks by the private sector or through public-private partnerships. These include:

- Luxury hotels, tented camps and cottages
- House Boats, Cruise Launches on the Nile and Sport fishing on the Albert, Edward and George
- Walking Safaris in the wilderness areas and the volcanic craters
- Canopy Walkways in tropical forests and sky trams
- New tourism activities on rivers and falls e.g. Mpanga Falls, Karuma and Murchison Falls
- Mountaineering packages for Rwenzori, Elgon and Mgahinga Mountains
- Nature walks, game farming, game
ranching and sport hunting on private property (private wildlife reserves)
- Internal air transport services to the national parks and other domestic touristic hubs.
- White water rafting on the Nile
- Stop over facilities en-route to the national parks along major tourism circuits
- Hot springs baths and supporting facilities
- Development of Lodges and other types of accommodation to suit the various categories of visitors

Benefits

These products and services, if developed will lead to:

- High return on your investment: provide opportunity for multiplying profits and growing capital for investors
- Improve visitor experience and satisfaction in the Park.
- Increase visitor numbers to the Park through provision of safe and enjoyable environment for tourists.
- Provide employment opportunities to the youth and professionals
- These opportunities will also raise the profile of the country and indeed make Uganda Africa's leading tourism destination.

Invitation

To achieve these, needs indentifies firms with established experience and capacity to develop and manage some of these activities either as independent private concessions or joint partners. We believe there is a lot of knowledge and experience out there, within this country, region or on the international market that can be tapped into to develop modern facilities for our visits.

These investments are what will turn Uganda's dormant resources into productive wealth.

There is no better time than now to come to join hands in rebuilding tourism facilities in the protected areas and participate in sharing the future benefits of tourism growth in the country
Antelopes

Uganda is home to an impressive 29 species of antelope, including the eland – the world's largest antelope, which can measure up to 180cm at the shoulder! Other large species include the greater kudu, which has long, elegant spiral horns and white side stripes; Jackson's hartebeest – an unusual, flat-faced creature found only in Uganda, and the shaggy waterbuck – often found near rivers and lakes, as their name suggests.

Fascinating yet rarely seen is the semi-aquatic sitatunga antelope, whose splayed hooves are adapted for life in the papyrus swamps. Much more common are Grant's gazelle, which can live in herds of hundreds of individuals, and the pretty Uganda kob – Uganda's national antelope.

Birds

Uganda is a birder's paradise. Over half of all bird species in Africa can be found here, making it one of the richest birding destinations on the continent. Crammed into this diminutive country is an astonishingly rich diversity of habitats, from the scenic shores of Uganda's many great lakes to the lush forests of the Albertine Rift and the banks of the mighty Nile River. The most prized species here is the incredibly rare, prehistoric-looking shoebill, located among the papyrus swamps. Keep an eye out for the...
beautiful grey-crowned crane – these elegant birds have wild gold crests and sport the same colors as the Ugandan flag (red, yellow and black) – it is the country's national bird. The saddle-billed stork also displays the flag's colors proudly across its vivid beak.

**Cape Buffalo**

Reaching a height of 165cm (65") at the shoulder and weighing in at 680kg (1500lbs), it is no wonder that the enormous Cape buffalo is one of Africa's “Big Five”. Though they are herbivores, feeding almost exclusively on grass, buffaloes are known to be one of the most dangerous species in Uganda thanks to their unpredictable and defensive nature. They will happily trample a lion who threatens to attack! Visitors to Uganda needn't worry about getting caught in a stampede however; the buffaloes' poor ability to regulate body temperature means that throughout the hot equatorial days they are most commonly found wallowing in mud or water – making them easy to view at close range during a launch trip. Two subspecies of buffalo exist in Uganda – the larger savannah buffalo and the smaller forest buffalo. They live in two types of groups – family herds, which contain mainly females and calves; and bachelor herds. A herd can contain several hundred individuals.

**Chimpanzee**

Our closest cousin, the chimpanzee, shares at least 94% of its DNA with humans. Sociable, communicative and intelligent, one of the chimp's most astonishing traits is its ability to use tools such as rocks for smashing nuts, empty pods for scooping water and sticks for drawing termites from their nests. As these skills are passed from generation, it has been observed that different troops are specialists in different tasks, depending on their habitat and diet. Chimpanzees live in communities containing from 10 to 100 members. They hold hands, kiss, groom each other and babysit for each others' offspring – young chimps do not become independent until around the
Aged four. But they can also be aggressive and unfriendly, particularly towards unrelated individuals. Though they spend a lot of time on the ground, chimpanzees usually eat and sleep in trees. Their varied diet includes leaves, fruit, flowers and seeds.

African Elephant

The largest living land mammal, the African elephant, is a sight to behold on Uganda's sprawling savannah. Their massive black forms can be seen from far away marching across the grasslands in search of the incredible amounts of vegetation they need to eat each day, along with around 30–50 gallons of water. This constant grazing is essential to the ecosystem, as it prevents the savannah and shrubland from turning into impenetrable forest. The elephant's trunk is by far its most useful feature – it is used with absolute precision to dig, signal, gather food, spray water and dust, siphon water into the elephant's mouth – and even as an extra foot! They are also sociable, affectionate animal, and have been observed caressing companions with their trunks, and greeting other family members when they meet. They will care for weaker individuals, adopt orphaned calves and even display grieving behavior over dead companions.

Rothschild Giraffe

Confusing to early explorers, who described it as a cross between a camel and a leopard, the giraffe is certainly an awkward-looking creature. Its swaying gait comes as a result of it moving both right legs simultaneously, followed by both
left legs; and its favourite food is the hideously spiky acacia, which it strips of leaves using its long, dark purple tongue. Though they are the world’s tallest land mammal – even a newborn giraffe stands at six feet (2m) tall! – their neck contains just seven vertebrae – exactly the same as a human.

Little wonder, then, that this curious gentle giant fascinated Africa's prehistoric inhabitants, who depicted it in cave paintings across the continent. Unfortunately, the giraffe's unique characteristics also led to them being heavily hunted. Their tails alone were made into bracelets, fly-swatters, threads for sewing and threading beads, and the species found in Uganda – Rothschild giraffe – is now one of the most endangered giraffe species, with fewer than 700 individuals remaining in the wild.

**Mountain Gorilla**

Uganda’s dense forests are home to over half the world's 750 or so mountain gorillas – the rest live in the neighboring Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As they do not survive in captivity, preservation of these fragile habitats is essential for their survival. Sharing over 98% or their DNA with humans, gorillas display uncanny human characteristics. The close-knit family groups are headed by a silverback – a mature male – who selects places for the group to eat and sleep, and has many privileges, including the right to feed first. This privilege pays off for the rest of the family, as if the group is threatened, the silverback – weighing up to 120kg (260lbs) – will defend them to the death, if necessary. Generally though, the gorilla is a gentle species. They are considered to be highly intelligent, have been observed using tools like other great apes, and communicate using a variety of vocal sounds. The name gorilla comes from the Greek gorillai – meaning hairy women.

**Hippopotamus**

Hippos are the third largest land mammal after the elephant and the rhinoceros. Weighing in at 1,500–1,800 kg (3,300–4,000 lb), an adult male stands up to 1.5m (4.5 feet) at the shoulder, and, oddly enough, their closest living relatives are whales and dolphins. Hippos
spend most of their days submerged in water to keep cool, as they have no sweat glands. Though they have webbed feet, their huge bulk prevents them from floating and they cannot swim. Their size does not, however, prevent them from outrunning a human – hippos have been estimated to reach terrifying speeds of up to 30 or even 40km per hour on land. An adult hippo can spend as long as six minutes underwater, and their raised eyes, ears and nostrils allow them to remain almost entirely submerged for long periods of time. After spending the day bathing, hippos venture out at dusk and spend the night grazing, traveling up to 8km (5 miles) and consuming up to 68kg (150lbs) of grass each night to maintain their enormous size.

Hyena

The spotted hyena’s famous “laugh” is actually a sound made to alert other group members to a source of food. This noise can be heard up to three miles away, and is one of many sounds made by this sociable species to communicate with each other. Hyenas are skilled hunters as well as scavengers, and their large, powerful jaws allow them to chomp through every part of their prey, including the skin and bones. The only parts which cannot be digested are hair, horns and hooves – the hyena will regurgitate these in pellets. Hyenas are found in many habitats, including woodland, savannah and desert, though being nocturnal, they are rarely observed. Human–wildlife conflict has long been a problem. Hyenas are known to have eaten people, though it is more likely that they will kill livestock, which results in them being targeted by hunters.

Lion

The lion is one of the most sought-after safari species, and one of the most impressive to observe, Living in prides or around 15 individuals, lions
adhere to strict social structures. Groups consist of related females and their cubs, who are often born around the same time and raised communally. New mothers, however, will live in dens with their cubs for the first few weeks, moving them one by one to a new den every few days to avoid building up a scent which would attract predators. A new male taking over a pride will often kill all cubs, and mate with each of the females. The male’s distinctive mane plays a role in making it look much larger and more intimidating to other lions and spotted hyenas – the lion’s main rivals. It is the lionesses, however, who are responsible for around 90% of the hunting, doing so in coordinated groups which can allow them to pursue larger species such as buffalo and giraffes as well as smaller antelope. The kill is not shared evenly, however, and only the larger prey is brought back to the pride, making survival difficult for cubs during times of hardship.

**Leopard**

The striking leopard is one of the hardest large species to observe in Uganda, thanks to its nocturnal, solitary behavior and well-camouflaged coat. Their survival is partly due to their adaptability to warm and cold climates and ability to climb trees while carrying heavy prey – keeping it safe from other predators such as lions and hyenas. They can run at incredible speeds of up to 58 km (36 miles) per hour, and hunt antelopes and monkeys as well as fish, birds, insects and reptiles. Historically, leopards were hunted for their beautiful fur; loss of habitat is now their greatest threat.

**Primates**

Uganda is home to many different primate species, with Kibale National Park containing the highest density in all of Africa. As well as
the chimpanzee and gorilla, the black-and-white colobus, red-tailed monkey, grey-cheeked mangabey, l’Hoest’s and blue monkeys, and olive baboons can be seen during game drives, launch trips or nature walks, along with smaller nocturnal species such as the bushbaby and potto. Mgahinga National Park also contains one of the last remaining habitats of the endangered golden monkey.

Black-and-white colobus monkeys are among the most frequently spotted species. The name “colobus” means “mutilated” in Greek, as, unlike other primates, they are lacking thumbs. The troops of 5–10 individuals are easily seen in the branches as a result of their striking coloring – black with long white hair running from the shoulders to rump, and white tufts at the ends of their long tails. Infants are born pure white.

The dog-like baboons live in large groups and are regularly seen along roadsides, where they wait to ambush cars in search of food. They spend more time on the ground than most other primate species, but sleep in trees at night. If water is scarce, they can survive for long periods by licking the dew from their fur.

**Reptiles**

Thanks to its hot equatorial climate, Uganda is a haven for many cold-blooded reptiles. The largest of these is the Nile crocodile, observed along the banks of rivers and lakes, basking open-mouthed in the heat.
as blackbird plovers pick tasty morsels from between their teeth. The species was once threatened with extinction as a result of being hunted for its high quality leather. They typically grow to between 3.5 and 5 meters (11.5 to 16 feet) in length, though examples of over 6.5 meters have been reported! Much less scary are the diminutive three-horned chameleons, living at higher altitudes on the slopes of the Rwenzori. They are often bright green, changing their color rapidly according to their mood and temperature. One eye moves around independently of the other, giving them 360 degree vision, and they will whip out their extraordinarily long tongues in order to catch unsuspecting insects to eat.

**Warthog**

This comical-looking creature seems to have oversized head, protruding tusks, bristly mane and excessively long–skinny legs, causing it to kneel down to graze. When frightened, they run away with their tails standing vertically. Warthogs cannot dig so they use holes dug by other creatures to sleep in. When chased, they will back into a burrow, allowing them to surprise their aggressor by charging out, tusks first – they have even been known to kill lions by inflicting severe wounds.

Warthogs can easily be seen in Uganda’s savannah National Parks. Be careful not to store snacks in your tent if you are camping – they have been known to rip through the canvas if they can smell food!
Queen Elizabeth National Park is understandably Uganda’s most popular tourist destination. The park’s diverse ecosystems, which include sprawling savanna, shady, humid forests, sparkling lakes and fertile wetlands, make it the ideal habitat for classic big game, ten primate species including chimpanzees and over 600 species of birds.

Set against the backdrop of the jagged Rwenzori Mountains, the park’s magnificent vistas include dozens of enormous craters carved dramatically into rolling green hills, panoramic views of the Kazinga channel with its banks lined with hippos, buffalo and elephants, and the endless Ishasha plains, whose fig trees hide lions ready to pounce on herds of unsuspecting Uganda kob.

As well as its outstanding wildlife attractions, “Queen” has a fascinating cultural history. There are many opportunities for visitors to meet...
the local communities and enjoy storytelling, dance, music and more. The gazetting of the park has ensured the conservation of its ecosystems, which in turn benefits the surrounding communities. Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park is truly a Medley of Wonders!

**Areas of Interest**

**Lake George**

The papyrus swamps of this RAMSAR site are home to the semi-aquatic sitatunga antelope. One can spot the elusive shoebill plus other native birds on the lake.

**Explosion Craters**

The 72 huge round basins scattered across the equator are evidence of the Albertine Rift's bubbling volcanic past, and are a must-see for those with a particular interest in the region's fascinating geological history. The 27km drive between the Kabatoro gate and Queen's Pavilion takes in views of the enormous craters, circular lakes, the Rift Valley escarpment and the Kazingachannel, all in front of the mighty backdrop of the Rwenzori Mountains.

**Katwe**

One of the most famous lookout points in Uganda is in the Katwe–Kabatoro community on Katwe Salt Lake where traditional salt mining has been practiced since the 16th
The neighboring Lake Munyanyange is a bird sanctuary, as well as a migratory location for the lesser flamingo from August to November.

Kasenyi Plains

The vast savanna of Kasenyi is the perfect setting for a classic African safari experience. Huge herds of Uganda kob attract prides of lions; warthogs graze bent down on their knees; guinea fowl scuttle through the grassland; and huge dark elephants stride across the game drive tracks, providing dream photo opportunities for visitors.

Mweya Peninsula

Mweya is Queen's focal point. It contains the Visitors Centre, a luxury lodge and
restaurant, hostel, campsite, budget food options and the departure point for the Kazinga Channel launch trip – and is still jam-packed with birds and animals. Its elevated position commands gorgeous views of the Kazinga Channel and surrounding savanna, and its proximity to Kasenyi and the North Kazinga plains make it an ideal departure point for wildlife-filled game drives in the morning or evening.

**Kazinga Channel**

A cruise down the Kazinga channel is the most relaxing way to enjoy a wildlife safari in Queen. The banks are crammed with hippos, buffalos and water birds, along with caimans, monitor lizards, marabou storks, weaver birds and elegant pairs of fish eagles. Elephants stride along the banks – all you need to do is sit back in your seat with your camera or binoculars at the ready, and enjoy the incredible spectacle.

**Kyambura Gorge**

The Kyambura River flows through this thick “underground forest”, 100 meters below the Kichwamba escarpment. The gorge is best known for its resident chimpanzees – some of which are habituated and can be tracked through the forest with trained UWA guides. While walking through the gorge, you may spot other primates and some of the many birds found in the forest. The entrance to the gorge is also a pleasant spot for a picnic.

**Kyambura Wildlife Reserve**

The beautiful crater lakes of this reserve, located to the east of Kyambura Gorge, offer excellent opportunities to observe many water birds including greater and lesser flamingoes and the great egret.

**Maramagambo Forest**
Buzzing with primates, including chimpanzees, baboons and several monkey species, the forest is also alive with numerous birds including the rare forest flycatcher, white-naped pigeon and the striking Rwenzorituraco. One can also visit the 'cormorant house', a large tree that has been turned white by the birds that roost here at night. The shady forest also conceals crater lakes and a "Bat Cave" with a specially constructed viewing room.

**Ishasha Sector**

This remote southern region enjoys fewer visitors than the north – but those who venture this far may be rewarded with sightings of Ishasha's most famous residents – the tree climbing lions – lounging in the branches while keeping a close eye on herds of Uganda kob. It is also home to many buffalo and elephants as well as the rare shoebill. Ishasha is also a convenient region to pass through on the way to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Wildlife and Birding**

**Big Game**

With an astonishing 5000 hippos, 2500 elephants and over 10,000 buffalo thriving in its grasslands and shorelines, Queen guarantees sightings of some of Africa's most iconic species. Hearing the elephants' calls reverberate around
Queen’s crater–filled valleys is a magical experience. Other common herbivores include warthogs, waterbuck, Uganda kob and topi, as well as the sitatunga antelope.

Primates

Ten species of primates enjoy the park’s diverse habitats, the most popular of which is undoubtedly the chimpanzee. Vervet and black-and-white colobus monkeys are easily spotted in the trees, but the boldest of all are the baboons — be sure to keep car windows closed to avoid food thefts!

Big Cats

Queen’s most elusive inhabitants are its felines: lion, leopard, civet, genal and serval cats.

Lions are found throughout the park, but the most renowned live in the southern sector of Ishasha, where they rest on the limbs of fig trees. Solitary leopards are nocturnal and fiendishly well camouflaged, making a glimpse all the more rewarding! The smaller cats are also predominantly nocturnal and best spotted on night game drives.

Birds

Birding in Queen Elizabeth National Park is an incredible treat as it contains a variety of habitats that range from savanna to wetlands to lowland forests. This diversity is reflected in the list of over 600 bird species, the biggest of any protected area in East Africa. A majority of the birds found in this area are regarded as famous birds of East Africa and are a must see for birdwatchers in Africa!

Accommodation opportunities

- Develop 20 bed Tented camp at Bwentale in Kigezi Wildlife Reserve.
- Construct a 16–24 bed capacity cottages including restaurant at Ishasha.
• Advertise for development of Bwenda Guest house in Kyakitale into modern guest house, with conference, accommodation facilities for the middle end tourists and a cultural centre.
• Concession out construction of a low impact but luxury tented lodge at Pelican Point.
• Kikorongo–Equator: Construct an accommodation facility on the upper side of Lake Kikorongo.
• Establish a 20-bed low impact visitor accommodation facility (Bandas) at Kyambura.

These will help increase accommodation, improve visitor experience and satisfaction and will be private concessions.

Product development opportunities

• Develop water based tourism—canoeing, sport fishing and water sailing safaris on L. Nyamusingiri and concession it.
• Explore the opportunity for carrying out Paragliding/ hot air balloons from Kyambura escarpment to Mweya.
• Develop canoeing, nature walks and tourism circuits along L. Mashece.
• Advertise and concession out
a) Nature walk along forest edge
b) boat cruises and
c) sport fishing on Lake Kibwera.
• Introduce a Luxury Passenger Cruise Boat on a Water Tourism Circuit from Mweya through Kisenyi to Rwenshama
• Concession out Water tourism (luxury boats) on L.Edward

These will help improve visitor experience and satisfaction and will be outsourced.

Partnership opportunities

• Construct modern gate access at Kasenyi and at Ishasha southern circuit into the park and other park entry points.
• Design and construct visitor information and interpretation centres at various areas: at junction from Ishasha – Bwindi junction, Kyambura fig tree, Nyamusingiri and Mweya peninsula with office, curio shop and with other relevant facilities. Explore the opportunity to establish visitor centres country wide
• Acquire two boats (8 and 15 seater) for special groups, patrols and monitoring activities.
• Develop the equator as a product (Market equator, the crater equinoxes, Queen’s visit, archeological sites, Omukama of Toro etc). Link with and assess this opportunity together with set up of information centres.
• Habituate chimps and offer habituation experience in Kigezi Wildlife Reserve. Develop the product and facilities for visitor experience.
• Develop bird watching experience as a product in Kigezi Wildlife Reserve and Queen Elizabeth National Park, through guide training, guide books, interpretation, birding hides and plat forms, birding equipment such as recorders, telescopes and binoculars. Consider this opportunities for all the parks.

These will help improve visitor experience and satisfaction and will be partnerships.
Lake Mburo National Park is a compact gem, located conveniently close to the highway that connects Kampala to the parks of western Uganda. It is the smallest of Uganda’s savannah national parks and underlain by ancient Precambrian metamorphic rocks which date back more than 500 million years.

It is home to 315 bird species as well as warthogs, buffalos, oribis, Defassa waterbucks, leopards, hippos, hyenas, topis and reedbucks.

Together with 13 other lakes in the area, Lake Mburo forms part of a 50km-long wetland system linked by a swamp. Five of these lakes lie within the park’s borders. Once covered by open savannah, Lake Mburo National Park now contains muchwoodland as there are no elephants to tame the vegetation.
In the western part of the park, the savannah is interspersed with rocky ridges and forested gorges while patches of papyrus swamp and narrow bands of lush riparian woodland line many lakes.

**Areas of Interest**

**Rwonyo Rest Camp**

Rwonyo is the center for tourism activities in the park. It is the starting point for nature hikes, quad biking, game drives and forest walks. There is also a craft shop which sells some books.

**Lake Mburo**

Lake Mburo is a natural haven for fauna and flora. The bank teems with animals and birds. Crocodiles and hippopotami are permanent residents, and buffalos come to drink during the dry season. The wide variety of resident birds includes malachite kingfishers, pied kingfishers, African fish eagles, rufus long tailed starlings, blue–headed weavers, green–necked doves, hammerkops, pelicans, herons, cormorants and even rare shoebills.

**Rubanga Forest**

Though small, this tract of forest on the western side of Lake Mburo
provides a taste of tropical high forest with a closed canopy. It is home to a variety of forest birds; commoner species include the Harrier Hawk, Green Pigeon, Narina Trogon, Grey-backed Cameroptera and Double-toothed Barbet. Rubanga can be explored with a ranger guide.

**Game Tracks**

There are several tracks on the eastern hinterland of the park where a variety of animals and birds can be seen. A hilltop viewpoint offers panoramic vistas of the park and its five lakes.

**Wildlife and Birding**

**Wildlife**

The park's varied habitats support 68 mammal species. Rarities include impala, which, in Uganda, only lives in Lake Mburo, and Burchell's zebra and eland which are found only here and in Kidepo. Other species include warthog, buffalo, oribi, Defassa waterbuck and reedbuck. Leopard and hyena are also present while crocodile and over 300 hippos are found in the lake. Previously extinct in the park, lions have recently been sighted again.

**Birds**

Around 315 bird species have been recorded to date. These include the red-faced barbet, only seen in Lake Mburo, African Finfoot, the rarely seen Shoebill Stork, Papyrus Yellow Warbler, Saddle-billed Stork, Brown-chested Lapwing, African-wattled Lapwing, Carruther's Cisticola, Tabora (Long-tailed) Cisticola, African Scops Owl, Abyssinian Ground
Hornbill, and White-winged Warbler.

Acacia woodland bird species are especially well represented, while forest species may be found in Rubanga forest. These include Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Hairy-breasted Barbet and Yellow-rumped tinkerbird, among others.

**Accommodation Opportunities**

- Develop a 5 star, 100 bed MICE and domestic tourism accommodation facility at Kigarama Hill.
- Develop a tented camp with 10 tents and 20 bed capacity at former Interpretation Centre.
- Advertise for development of tented camp at Mwijikuru/ former hot ice.
- Develop an exclusive campsite at South Kigarama.

These will promote domestic tourism and increase accommodation in the park.

**Partnership opportunities**

- Construct modern access gates at Nsanga and Nshara main gate. Opportunities to operate some facilities ie restaurant, café and other facilities at the gates.
- Redesigning, redeveloping and equipping the Community education centre, with conference hall, bigger dining hall and student dormitory. Opportunity to construct and equip all information centres.
- Acquire, launch and promote night game drive vehicles. Assess the opportunity and develop this product in all parks, as appropriate, considering all the training and safety requirements.
- Develop sport fishing on Lake Kikagambira and Rwenzori.
- Acquire and manage 1 Boat cruise.

Better Customer service, increased visitor experience and better student accommodation facilities will be realised through a partnership arrangement.
Mt. Elgon has the largest volcanic base in the world. Located on the Uganda-Kenya border it is also the oldest and largest solitary volcanic mountain in East Africa. Its vast form, 80km in diameter, rises more than 3000m above the surrounding plains. The mountain's cool heights offer respite from the hot plains below, with the higher altitudes providing a refuge for flora and fauna.

At 3840km² Mt. Elgon has the largest volcanic base in the world. Located on the Uganda-Kenya border it is also the oldest and largest solitary, volcanic mountain in East Africa. Its vast form, 80km in diameter, rises more than 3000m above the surrounding plains. The mountain's cool heights offer respite from the hot plains below, with the higher altitudes providing a refuge for flora and fauna.

The park was gazetted in 1993 and is home to a variety of birds, small antelopes and forest monkeys, with elephants and buffalos also living on the mountain's lower slopes. The higher slopes are protected by national parks in Uganda and Kenya, creating an extensive trans-boundary conservation area which has been declared a UNESCO Man & Biosphere Reserve.

A climb on Mt. Elgon's deserted moorlands unveils a magnificent and uncluttered wilderness without the summit-oriented approach common to many mountains: the ultimate goal on reaching the top of Mt. Elgon is not the final ascent to the 4321m
Wagagai Peak, but the descent into the vast 40km² caldera.

**Areas of Interest**

**Forest Exploration Centre**

The Forest Exploration Centre at Kapkwai, 13km from Sipi town, doubles as an educational centre for schools and a trailhead for mountain climbers. Three circuits of varying length, 3–8km, run through the surrounding forest to visit caves, waterfalls and viewpoints. It is also the starting point for the Sipi Trail to the caldera. Equipment, tents, camping mats, boots and other essential climbing gear can be hired here.

**Caves**

Mount Elgon’s slopes are riddled with caves left by moving lava and erosion of soft volcanic deposits. The most accessible are Kapkwai Cave, near the Forest Exploration Centre and Khauka Cave on Wanale Ridge. Historically, such features sheltered climbers and their porters and today campsites are still located at Hunters Cave, Mude Cave and Tutum Cave.

**Jackson's Pool and Jackson's Peak**

The Sasa Trail passed Jackson's Pool stands at 4050m and is a natural pool named after an early explorer. This lies in the shadow of the 4165m high Jackson's Peak, a free standing volcanic plug rising from the western flank of the mountain. These features remember Frederick Jackson who in 1889 was the first European to climb Mount Elgon.
The peaks and the caldera

Mount Elgon’s highest peaks are formed by high points around a jagged rim enclosing a extensive caldera. The tallest peak is the 4321m Wagagi, followed by Sudek (4303m), Koitobos (4222m) and Mubiyi (4210m).

In the north eastern corner of the caldera, hot springs are found at the head of the deep Suam Gorge.

Vegetation

The mountain slopes are covered with olive Oleahochstetter and Aningueria adolfi-friedericii wet montane forest. At higher altitudes, this changes to olive and Podocarpus gracilior forest. This is an excellent place for viewing primates such as the black-and-white colobus, red-tailed and blue monkeys and baboons.

The summit of the mountain is vegetated by rare afro montane plants that include giant forms of lobelia and groundsel.

Nkokenjeru Ridge

The Nkokenjeru Ridge is a distinctive finger of forest extending outwards from the main massif of Mount Elgon. This covers a 25km-long tongue of lava that flowed out of the side of the volcano after the cone collapsed to block the main vent. Nkokenjeru culminates at the superb Wanale Cliffs which tower above Mbale Town. A trail at this western end of the ridge explores regenerating forests within the national park and visits Khauka Cave where petrified wood can be found.

Beyond the park

Sipi Falls

The northern and western sides of Mount Elgon rise in a series of massive basalt cliffs, often several kilometres in length, over which the mountain’s rivers plunge as beautiful waterfalls. The best known are the three waterfalls at Sipi on the Kapchorwa road, just outside the park. The lowest of these falls is the most spectacular as it cascades over a 100m cliff. The second, known as
Simba, plunges 69m over the entrance to a cave. Visitors can stand in the cave and enjoy a view of the back of the falls. The third waterfall, also known as Ngasire, gushes over an 87m high ridge. Sipi Falls is less than an hour’s drive from Mbale on a paved road.

Waterfalls are also found at Sisyi and Bulago, Chebonet and Wanale.

Tewei Hill

Outside the park overlooking Sipi Falls is the hill where, during the 1960s, Chemonges Kingo, King of the Sabiny would meet his subjects. From the top you can view the three falls, the Karamajong plains and the Wagagai peak.

Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve and Bokora and Matheniko Wildlife Reserve.

In the plains of Karamoja to the north of Mount Elgon lies the expansive Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve. It is the largest reserve in Uganda with an area of 2788 sq. km. Wildlife includes rare species such as roan antelope, lesser kudu, Bright's gazelle and ostriches which, in Uganda, are found only here and in Kidepo Valley National Park. Wildlife is concentrated around the Loporokocho swamp; bird species encountered here include Hartlaub’s Turaco, Eastern Bronze-napped Pigeon, Lemon Dove, Dusky-Turtle Dove, African Hill Babbler, Alpine Chat, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Grey Cuckoo-Shrike.

There is also the Nakadanya shrine, where locals perform spiritual rituals.

Nyero Rock Paintings

65km north of Mbale, the Nyero Rock Paintings are the finest of several rock art sites in the region. Three panels are found within
the extensive granite outcrop of MoruIkara, 10km from Kumi Town, 55km from Mbale on the Soroti road. The most impressive is Panel Two which includes two canoes bearing human figures.

**Scenic viewpoints outside the park**

A detour to Bulagooff the Mbale–Sipi road reveals a village standing high above a waterfall facing the Simu Valley toward Butandiga ridge. The route to Kapchorwa beyond SipiFalls to the north provides a stunning view towards Mount Kadam and the vast plains of Karamoja. The top of the Sironko Valley, in Budadiri, enclosed by the Mudangi Cliffs and the Nkonkonjeru Ridge provides a picturesque view of the montane forest and caldera peaks. Visitors should also drive to the top of Wanale Cliff for panoramic views over the town of Mbale.

**Wildlife and Birding**

**Wildlife**

The Park supports a variety of wildlife including elephant, buffalo, Defassa waterbuck, oribi, bushbuck, leopard and spotted hyena. However these animals are rarely seen in the forest setting. The most commonly seen creatures are black-and-white colobus and blue monkeys, duiker and tree squirrel.

**Birds**

The mountain is home to 296 birds including 40 restricted range species. Birds whose Ugandan range is limited to Mount Elgon include Jackson's Francolin, Moustached Green Tinkerbird and Black-collared Apalis. Among those limited to just a few mountains in eastern Uganda are the Black-shouldered Kite and Tacazze sunbird. Mount Elgon is one of the few places in Uganda where the endangered Lammergeyer can be seen, soaring above the caldera and Suam Gorge.

**Accommodation Opportunities**

- Redevelopment of Bandas and tented camps at Kapkwai to incorporate the necessary visit
facilities in Kapkwai Cottages and offer for private management.

These will increase accommodation under a private concession.

**Product Development Opportunities**

- Construct canopy walk in the natural high forest at Kapkwai.
- Develop Rock climbing and Construct Cliff Swings at Kapkatwa.
- Introduce rock climbing and abseiling, sunrise/sunset viewing, and tree climbing.
- Introduce Cultural tourism (circumcision, bull fighting, cultural dances) package. Opportunity for developing the product, marketing and providing attendant facilities is available.
- Introduce new products in Mount Elgon such as Butterfly viewing, mountain biking and horse riding. Opportunity to develop, marketing and provide related services in the area.

These will help improve visitor experience and satisfaction and will be private concessions and partnerships.

**Partnership Opportunities**

- Development of Mount Elgon Climbing experience through development of climbing facilities, provision of equipment, training of guides, provision of safety and rescue equipment construction of accommodation on the trail, Construction of bridges and ladders at various huts.

Improved visitor experience and service under a partnership arrangement.
Murchison Falls National Park
Murchison Falls National Park lies at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley, where the sweeping Bunyoro escarpment tumbles into vast, palm-dotted savanna.

First gazetted as a game reserve in 1926, it is Uganda’s largest and oldest conservation area, hosting 76 species of mammals and 451 birds.

The park is bisected by the Victoria Nile, which plunges 44m over the remnant rift valley wall, creating the dramatic Murchison Falls, the centerpiece of the park and the final event in an 80km stretch of rapids. The mighty cascade drains the last of the river’s energy, transforming it into a broad, placid stream that flows quietly across the rift valley floor into Lake Albert.
This stretch of river provides one of Uganda’s most remarkable wildlife spectacles. Regular visitors to the riverbanks include elephants, giraffes and buffaloes; while hippos, Nile crocodiles and aquatic birds are permanent residents. Notable visitors to the park include Winston Churchill, Theodore Roosevelt, Ernest Hemingway and several British royals.

**Areas of Interest within the Park**

**Murchison Falls**

Murchison Falls is characterized by eternal war between rock and water. The waters violently compress through a narrow gorge, spraying misty droplets along their wake over a 50m radius. This creates a permanent rainbow over the battlefield and causes a continuous roar. From Baker Point on the southern side, you can also view the Nile splitting into the smaller Uhuru Falls, created in 1962 when the river burst its banks.

**River Nile**

A boat ride along the Nile to the foot of Murchison Falls is a rewarding experience for nature lovers, as the northern bank teems with a variety of mammals, birds and reptiles. Guided nature walks along both the north and south banks are another refreshing activity, and sport fishing is also possible here. Rafting will be available starting in 2012.

**Nile Delta**

This wide, calm stretch of water, where the tranquil Victoria Nile flows into Lake Albert, is a key area for birdwatchers. Its papyrus-lined banks are bursting with birdlife, including Goliath herons, great egrets, and African fish eagles. The most sought-after species here is the rare shoebill.
**Buligi Game Tracks**

The Buligi game tracks, stretching between the Victoria and Albert Niles, are the Murchison's most popular safari destination. At around 120–170km in length, they pass through open savanna grassland, woodland, acacia and riverine vegetation. Most of the park's game can be viewed here, especially during early morning and early evening tours.

**Paraa**

Paraa, meaning "home of the hippo" in the Luolanguage, is the park's tourism hub. All the park's access roads converge here as the northern and southern banks are linked by a passenger ferry, and several accommodations are located nearby. Additionally, a museum and giftshop can be found on the north bank, and most game drives, launch trips and nature walks commence here.

**Karuma Falls**

The Karuma Falls are located in Chobe, in the northeastern sector of the park. The roaring waterfalls on the Victoria Nile are made up of a series of natural rock formations which cause the waters to ripple and give them a white, foamy appearance. It is an ideal area for sport fishing.

**Kaniyo Pabidi Forest**

In the south of Murchison Falls Conservation Area, Kaniyo Pabidi contains black-and-white colobus and blue monkeys, olive baboons, and a habituated chimp group which can be tracked. Elephants, buffalos, lions and leopards are also frequent visitors.
Many forest birds can be viewed here, including the chocolate-backed kingfisher, white-thighed hornbill and Puvel'silladopsis which is found nowhere else in East Africa.

Kaniyo Pabidi has a campsite, cottage accommodation, forest walks and excellent bird watching.

**Rabongo Forest**

Surrounded by savanna and covering just 4km², Rabongo Forest is considered a birders' paradise because of the endangered species found here. Rabongo is ideal for educational tours as it provides opportunities to identify animals, birds, medicinal plants and trees. For relaxation, visitors can camp and enjoy picnics by the Wairingo River.

**Wildlife and Birding**

**Large mammals**

The park is home to 76 species of mammals including four of the “Big Five”, with huge herds of buffaloes and elephants, well-camouflaged leopards and a healthy population of lions. It is also known for its giraffes, as in Uganda these can only be viewed here and in Kidepo Valley. Other species viewed regularly along and game tracks include Jackson's hartebeest, bushbucks, Uganda kob, waterbucks and warthogs. Resident crocodiles and hippos as well as other, visiting wildlife are found along the river. Olive baboons are common along the roadsides – be sure to keep car windows and doors shut if you don’t want to lose your lunch! Blue and red-tailed monkeys and black-and-white colobus can be found in the forested sectors. The
A savanna-dwelling patas monkey is only found here and Kidepo Valley National Park. Around 800 chimpanzees live in the Kaniyo Pabidi and Budongo Forests.

**Birds**

The varied habitats of Uganda’s largest park make it home to a variety of birds with 451 species recorded. The list includes the Shoebill Stork, the Goliath Heron – the largest heron in the world – and pairs of elegant Grey Crowned Cranes – Uganda’s national bird. Also seen along the banks of the Nile are the Blue-headed Coucal, Swamp Flycatcher, Squacco Heron, African Jacana, Sandpipers, Denham’s Bustard, Abyssinian Ground–Hornbill, Black-billed Barbet, Black-headed Gonolek, Eastern Grey Plantain-eater, Piapiac, Silverbird, Weaver Birds, Pied, Giant and Malachite Kingfishers, Red-throated Bee-eater, White-browed Sparrow Weaver, Speckle-fronted Weaver and African Quail–Finch.

**Accommodation Opportunities**

- Construct 30 bed mid budget accommodation at Rabongo.
- Construct 40 bed mid budget accommodation facility at Bugungu.
- Construct 100 bed high end accommodation at Kiba.
- Construct a 40 bed high end accommodation at Karuma.
- Construct a 40 bed accommodation and restaurant facility at Paraa (near workshop)

These will help increase and improve accommodation in the park under private concessions.

**Product Development Opportunities**

- Build tree platforms for canopy views in Rabongo forest.
- Advertise and run spot fishing activity in Murchison Falls National Park between Karuma and Top of
falls.
• Development of two white water rafting concessions (between Karuma–Ayago, Ayago to top of falls).
• Establish Walking safari walks (from Tangi gate/ river–Nyamsika, Nyamsika cliffs to River Nile).
• Acquire and operate a river Cruise/house boats or launch experiences: with Sundowner and dinner cruises on River Nile, above the Murchison Falls.
• Establish and operate hot air balloons on the Northern Bank of the Park

These will diversify tourism product offering through private concessions.

**Partnership Opportunities**

• Acquire and operate two fishing boats with all related fishing equipment and provide training to fishing guides.
• Conduct guide training (for various guides—cultural, fishing, birding, and wildlife) and provide digital and manual training guides and interpretation. Training opportunity for guide services is available for across the parks.
• Redevelop and implement top of falls development plan. This is includes modern camps, cross over bridge, interpretation centre and restaurant. Some operations will be privatized.
• Development of nature trails, interpretation materials and establishment of facilities for nature walks, birding, butterfly watching, sport fishing and hill climbing in Murchison Falls national park. This collaboration is envisaged in all parks.
• Develop birding watching experience and facilities (such as literature, trails, bird hides, sound recorders, training, board walks, etc in Murchison Falls National park.
• Procure two game drive vehicles for Paraa Area, equipment for night walks, game drive experience and guides such as guide books, binoculars, videography and photography equipment. Opportunity to develop these facilities, trail and develop capacity of UWA is available.

**Improved service delivery, customer service, visitor experience and satisfaction will be achieved through private concessions and partnerships.**
Kidepo Valley National Park lies in the rugged, semi arid valleys between Uganda's borders with Sudan and Kenya, some 700km from Kampala. Gazetted as a national park in 1962, it has a profusion of big game and hosts over 77 mammal species as well as around 475 bird species.

Kidepo is Uganda's most isolated national park, but the few who make the long journey north through the wild frontier region of Karamoja would agree that it is also the most magnificent, for Kidepo ranks among Africa's finest wildernesses.

From Apoka, in the heart of the park, a savannah landscape extends far beyond the gazetted area, towards horizons outlined by distant mountain ranges.

During the dry season, the only permanent water in the park is found in wetlands and remnant pools in the broad Narus Valley near Apoka. These seasonal oases, combined with the open, savannah terrain, make the Narus Valley the park's prime game viewing location.

Areas of Interest

Apoka Tourism Centre

Overlooking the game-rich Narus
Valley and home to an upmarket lodge and simple UWA-run cottages, Apoka is the park’s tourism hub. Ranger guides are stationed at Apoka to escort tourists on game drives and walks. For those without their own transport, park trucks can be hired. There is also a craft shop with books and souvenirs. Water, sodas and beer can also be purchased here.

**Narus Valley**

Narus Valley is a rolling grassland plain enclosed by distant mountains. The valley has permanent water and, for much of the year, the park’s wildlife is congregated here. Thus, the area is well provided with game tracks, four loop circuits exploring the valley around Apoka. Many creatures such as lions, Jackson’s hartebeest, buffaloes, giraffes, oribis and reedbucks can be seen in the valley. Less commonly seen are cheetahs and leopards. The Narus dam and the water hole near the Tourism Centre are perfect observation points for game, especially during the dry season. At the southern end of the Katurum loop, Katurum kopje (the site of a derelict lodge) is an attractive destination with superb views north across the valley towards the Morungule mountain range.

**Kidepo Valley and Kanangorok Hot Springs**

For most of the year, a lack of surface water means that little wildlife is found in Kidepo Valley, though it is still worth the drive to visit the dry Kidepo River to stroll along its 50m wide bed of white sand between banks covered with borassus palms. Kidepo means “to pick from below”, and the valley was visited by people coming to gather fallen borassus fruit for fermenting to make palm beer. The Kanangorok Hot Springs lie 11km beyond the Kidepo River on the Sudan border. Though the springs are less than impressive, this is a glorious place to sit and view the mountains beyond the frontier.

**Mount Morungule**

Mount Morungole stands at 2750m
and is crossed by the Kidepo and Narus Rivers that nourish the park’s wildlife and this natural habitat as a whole. The Morungole Range marks the southern boundary of the park and rises from the plains a few kilometres northeast of Apoka. This region can be explored on foot with a ranger. The mountain is home to the IK people, the smallest ethnic group in Uganda with their own unique culture.

**Namamukweny Valley**

Namamukweny is a Napore word meaning "a place with no birds" or "a lonely place with few people" — though quite the opposite is true! The valley is inhabited by a large number of bird species such as the Eastern Paradise-Whydah, White-crested Turaco, Common Bulbul, Abyssinian Roller and Green Wood Hoopoe, among others. It is located in the north west of the park and can be accessed by car or on foot.

**Lamoj Hills**

The Lamoj Hills are a close drive from the headquarters. They are a good viewing point for birds and wildlife, including the mountain reedbuck.

**Beyond the park**

**Lonyili Mountain**

Lonyili Mountain lies between Kitgum and the Sudan border. It is mainly covered in montane forest and home to primates such as colobus monkeys. Due to the unpredictable conditions in this area you are strongly advised to contact UWA for information on the status and safety of the road before embarking on your journey to the mountain.

**Matheniko-Bokora Reserve**

Matheniko-Bokora Reserve lies in the Karamoja plains outside the park. This is part of a larger ecosystem of savannah and mountains in a semi-arid area. The reserve is home to significant numbers of game species due to the various rivers and green river valleys. Game drives are organized although not well developed. Cheetahs can be found here, as well as species found within the park such as kudu and gazelle.

**Wildlife and Birds**

**Wildlife**

The park contains one of the most exciting faunas of any Ugandan national park. Along with the neighboring Karamoja region, it contains many species found nowhere else in Uganda, including
the greater and lesser kudu, eland and cheetah. Carnivores here include the lion, leopard, spotted hyena and black-backed and side-striped jackals. Other large species regularly seen here are elephant, Burchell’s zebra, bushpig, warthog, Rothschild’s giraffe, Cape buffalo, bushbuck, bushduiker, Defassa waterbuck, Bohor reedbuck, Jackson’s hartebeest and oribi.

Birds

The park boasts an extensive bird list of around 475 species, making it second only in Uganda to Queen Elizabeth National Park. A few species of note are the Ostrich, Kori Bustard and Karamoja Apalis. Kidepo is notable for its birds of prey. Of the 56 species recorded, 14 – including Verreaux’s Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and Pygmy Falcon – are believed to be endemic to the Kidepo and Karamoja region. There has, however, been no comprehensive survey of birds in Kidepo and visitors stand a good chance of adding to the current list.

Accommodation opportunities

- Advertise and concession out two high end lodges for development of two high end lodges at Nataba and Rionomoi in the park.
- Redevelop the dilapidated Katurum Lodge, into high 40 bed, high end facility.
- Identify and develop two tented camps in two locations.

These will improve accommodation in the park through private concession.

Partnership opportunities

- Management of Lipan Community wildlife area in Kitgum together with the Local government and Uganda Wildlife Authority. Opportunities for putting up accommodation facilities and tourism activities within the protected area exist.
- Procure tourism equipment for management of camping, procurement of game drive vehicles, birding equipment such as telescopes, binoculars and other night vision and interpretation facilities. The opportunity for the interested firm is to identify and supply these equipment at competitive prices.
- Introduce hiking in Morungole hills (Morungole expedition).

These will help diversify tourism product offering, improve visitor experience and satisfaction through partnerships.
Kibale National Park contains one of the loveliest and most varied tracts of tropical forest in Uganda. Forest cover, interspersed with patches of grassland and swamp, dominates the northern and central parts of the park on an elevated plateau. The park is home to a total of 60 mammal species, most famously 13 species of primate including chimpanzee. It also contains over 375 species of birds. Kibale adjoins Queen Elizabeth National Park to the south to create a 180km-long corridor for wildlife between Ishasha, the remote southern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park, and Sebitoli in the north of Kibale.

The Kibale–Fort Portal area is one of Uganda's most rewarding areas to explore. The park lies close to the
tranquil Ndali–Kasenda crater area and within half a day’s drive of the Queen Elizabeth, Rwenzori Mountains and Semuliki National Parks and the Toro–Semliki Wildlife Reserve.

**Areas of Interest within the Park**

**Kanyanchu River Camp**

Kanyanchu, in the central part of Kibale, is the main trailhead for the park’s famous forest walks, the most popular of which is the daily Primate Walk. There are 13 species of primate to search for but habituated chimpanzees are the main attraction. Bird walks, nature walks for kids and guided night walks are also available.

**Sebitoli Forest Camp**

Kibale’s secondary tourism centre in the north of the forest offers guided forest walks and a chance to encounter red colobus, black-and-white colobus, blue and vervet monkeys. Visitors may also spot a variety of birds and enjoy views of the Mpanga River.

**Areas of Interest outside the Park**

**Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary**

Rich in biodiversity and beautiful scenery, the wetland is a bird watcher’s paradise with about 138 species. Located outside the park in Magombe Swamp it also hosts eight species of primates including the black-and-white colobus, red-tailed, grey-cheeked mangabey, l’Hoest’s and blue monkeys, as well as olive baboons. Bushbucks and mongooses can also be found here. The sanctuary was set up to preserve the exclusive environmental features along with the wetland and is managed by the local community.

**Kihingami Wetland**

Located outside the national park near Sebitoli in northern Kibale, the community-run project offers excellent bird watching and visits to the local tea estates and factory. Nature walks will bring you up close to primates such as the black-and-white colobus, red colobus and red-tailed monkeys. Other animals like
otters, mongooses, and bushbucks can be observed in the wetlands.

**Wildlife and Birding**

**Primates**

The diversity and density of primates in Kibale is the highest in Africa. The most famous of its 13 species is the chimpanzee, our closest relative. Kibale’s 1450 chimpanzees represent Uganda’s largest population of this endangered primate. The forest is also home to East Africa’s largest population of the threatened red colobus monkey and the rare I’Hoest’s monkey. Other primates include the black-and-white colobus, red-tailed and blue monkeys, grey-cheeked mangabey, olive baboon, bush baby and potto.

**Other Wildlife**

At least 60 mammal species are present in the park though ground-dwelling animals are difficult to see in dense forest. An estimated 500 elephants are present, along with buffalos, leopards, warthogs, bush pigs, golden cats and duikers. A keen observer may spot reptiles and amphibians as well as a colorful variety of 250 species of butterflies.

**Birding**

The park boasts more than 375 species of birds. Kibale specials include the African Pitta, Green-breasted Pitta, Afep Pigeon, White-naped Pigeon, Crowned Eagle, Red-chested Owlet, Black Bee-eater, Western Nicator, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Little Greenbul, Brown-chested Alethe, Blue-

**Accommodation opportunities**

- Develop and concession out family bandas and tree houses with canteen facility at Kanyanju.
- Develop and Concession out 40 bed facility and tree houses at at Sebitole.
- Set up a 20 bed eco lodge at Bumaga within Semuliki National Park.

These will increase park accommodation through private concession.

**Product Development Opportunities**

- Develop and operate a canopy walk at Sebitole.
- Develop rafting adventure tourism on river Mpanga.
- Develop and introduce mountain climbing

An Increase in customer experience through private concession.
**Park at a Glance**

*Size: 996km².*

- The park was gazetted in 1991 and was recognized as a World Heritage site in 1994.

- Highest point: 5109m above sea level on Mt Stanley’s Margherita Peak. Mt. Stanley is bisected by the border with the DR Congo.

- The Rwenzoris were christened the “Mountains of the Moon” by the Alexandrine geographer Ptolemy in AD 150.

- The explorer Henry Stanley placed the Rwenzori on the map on 24th May 1888. He labeled it ‘Ruwenzori’, a local name which he recorded as meaning “Rain-Maker” or “Cloud-King.”

- The Rwenzori is not volcanic like East Africa’s other major mountains but is a block of rock upfaulted through the floor of the Western Rift Valley.

  - The oldest person to reach Margherita Peak was Ms Beryl Park in 2010, aged 78!

---

The Rwenzoris – the fabled “Mountains of the Moon” – lie in western Uganda along the Congo border. Their equatorial snow peaks include the third-highest point in Africa, while the lower slopes are blanketed in moorland and rich montane forest. Huge tree-heathers and colorful mosses are draped across the mountainside with giant lobelias and “everlasting flowers”, creating an enchanting, fairytale scene.

Rwenzori Mountains National Park protects the highest parts of the 120km-long and 65km-wide, Rwenzorimountain range. The national park hosts 70 mammals and 177 bird species including 19 Albertine Rift endemics, as well as some of the world’s rarest vegetation.

The Rwenzoris are a world-class hiking and mountaineering destination. A nine-day trek will get skilled climbers to the summit of Margherita – the highest peak – though shorter, non-technical treks are possible to scale the surrounding peaks.
For those who prefer something a little less strenuous, neighboring Bakonzo villages offer home cooked local cuisine, homestead visits and cultural performances.

**Areas of Interest**

**Equatorial snow peaks**

The high Rwenzori comprises six distinct mountains. Although located just miles north of the equator, the highest of these, Mount Stanley (5109m), Speke (4890m) and Baker (4843m) all bear permanent snow and glaciers. The snowpeaks can be reached by hiking the Central Circuit and Kilembe Trails.

**Land of the Triffids**

The misty, boggy, glacier-carved valleys of the high Rwenzori form a strange botanical world inhabited by triffid-sized forms of lobelia, heather and groundsel, crisp 'everlasting flowers', garishly coloured mosses and gnarled trees draped with curtains of lichen. The result is an otherworldly setting which, over the years, has been compared to the forests of the Jabberwock, the Seven Dwarves and, inevitably, Tolkein's Middle Earth. These strange plants rank among the world's botanical treasures, being found only on the highest mountains of East Africa.

**Lakes**

There are over 20 lakes in Rwenzori Mountains National Park. The lowest and most accessible is Lake Mahoma (2651m) in bird-rich forest on the Central Circuit. The beautiful Lake Bujuku lies at the head of the deep, glacier carved Bujuku valley in the shadow of Mts Stanley, Baker and Speke. In the Nyamwamba Valley, ascended by the Kilembe Trail, dams created by glacial moraine have created a string of eight delightful lakes.
Ruboni

Ruboni, found at the southeastern foot of the Rwenzori Mountains, is the trailhead for the seven day Central Circuit route to the high peaks. It is also the starting point for hill walks, bird and nature treks and walks through the traditional homesteads of the local Bakonzo community. Accommodation catering for a range of budgets offers gorgeous mountain views up the Mubuku valley.

Visitors Information Centre

A new Visitor Information Centre, which will contain exhibits relating to the Rwenzori Mountains, is being developed at Ruboni. Until it is completed, all information regarding park activities will be available at Rwaking Headquarters, close to Ruboni Community Camp. Hiring of equipment and booking guides and porters can also be carried out here.

Bulemba

Bulemba houses the remains of Rwenzururu’s first King, Isaiah Mukirania Kibanzanga, who is believed to have saved the Bakonzo tribe from the Batooro oppression. Each year on 2nd September, every Mukonzo attends the pilgrimage to this sacred site to make sacrifices.

Bwamba Pass

Before a road was built in 1938 to link Fort Portal with the remote town of Bundibugyo, local people followed the most direct route between these settlements – a tough, 1500m high trek over the steep north Rwenzori ridge, known as the Bwamba pass. The Abanya Rwenzori community groups lead visitors over the mountain through isolated mountain villages to visit the bamboo forest and enjoy superb rift valley views.
**Wildlife and Birding**

**Wildlife**

The park is home to 70 species of mammal, including elephant, chimpanzee, the Rwenzori otter and leopard. Though wildlife is difficult to spot in the dense forest, do look out for primates such as colobus (Angola and black-and-white varieties are both present) and blue monkeys, small antelope such as bushbucks, antelopes, and reptiles, such as the three-horned chameleon.

**Vegetation**

Rwenzori Mountains National Park is known for its distinctive flora rather than its fauna. On the route to the peaks, hikers climb through a series of distinct altitudinal vegetation zones; montane forest, bamboo, tree heathers and afro-alpine. The latter, with its emblematic giant forms of Senecio (groundsel) and lobelia, is one of the world’s rarest botanical communities, being limited to East African mountains above 3800m.

**Birds**

The park is home to 177 bird species including several Albertine Rift endemics. The forest zone at 1800m contains a diversity of birds including the Rwenzori Turaco, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Long-eared Owl, Handsome Francolin, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Archers’ Robin-chat, White-starred Robin, Rwenzori Batis, Montane Sooty Boubou, Lagden’s Bush Shrike, Slender-billed Starling, Blue-headed Sunbird, Golden-winged Sunbird, Strange Weaver and several varieties of Barbets, Greenbuls, Apalises, Illadopsis, Flycatchers and Crimsonwings.

**Accommodation Opportunities**

- Improve accommodation facilities on the central circuit. Put new huts and renovate others.
- Review mt. Rwenzori climbing operations and put in plan to improve service and operations.
- Review and develop boating and rock climbing in mt. rwenzori national park.

These will help increase accommodation and improve mountaineering service through private concession.
Identification of Investments

Management uses its internal structures and procedures to identify opportunities for investments within the various protected areas, prior to inviting partners to express interests. These opportunities are either spelt out in the General Management Plans, Business Plans, Strategic Plan, Marketing Plan and any other sources.

Once identified, the opportunities will be openly advertised or given out in a manner that is consistent with the Procurement Regulations.

Alternatively, opportunities that are identified by the private investor will be discussed on their merit and value addition to UWA and decision made, by the Board of Trustees on the investment.

Expressions of Interest

Potential investors (Partners) will be formally invited to express interests in identified investment opportunities, directly or through National, Regional, or International bid adverts, prepared and issued according to the procurement Guidelines issued by the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA).

Invitation to bid

Identified shortlist of potential partners will be invited to submit detailed business plan or project proposal. The project proposals will be based on the applicants
understanding of the project without necessarily undertaking a detailed feasibility study.

**Feasibility Study**

Depending on the complexity and the number of partners involved, the partners may resolve to undertake a joint feasibility study for a better understanding of the investment. The consultancy will recommend on the size, design, costs and other aspects of the investments. There may be no need for feasibility studies for smaller investments, or when the bidders have submitted detailed business plans based on their own feasibility studies.

**Evaluation of proposal or bids and award**

- Bid evaluation is a rigorous process involving a multidisciplinary evaluation committee. After successful evaluation, there is negotiation of the contract or project terms, which included in the concessions agreement with the investor.

- The concessions agreement covers the duration, fees and other financial terms, business plan, conditions for termination and other key aspects.

- Environmental Impact Assessment: This is one of the requirements for implementing the project, and approval is given by the NEMA, the National Environment Management Authority.

- Concession Terms

  Concessions terms are usually negotiated with the investor, depending on the project, however, the following may generally apply:

  - Period of concession may vary from 10 to 15 years depending on type of project. The concession is renewable depending on performance

  - Exclusive zones are not allowed in the parks

  - Concessionaires are allowed to use but not lease the land

  - The concessions agreement requires investors to pay a negotiated contract signing fee, with an annual fee in addition to the variable fees based on facility usage
Contacts for follow up

The Executive Director
Uganda Wildlife Authority
Plot 7 Kira Road, Kamwokya
P.O.Box 3530
Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 (414) 355000, +256 312 355000
Fax: 256 (414) 346291
Email: info@ugandawildlife.org
www.ugandawildlife.org