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Sustainable Financing of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park (SFRMNP)



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RMNP-Ecological importance

- Rwenzori Mountains National Park (RMNP), covering 995 km²
- Highest tropical mountains at the equator in Africa, also has 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th highest peaks in Africa standing at 5109m



Ecological importance

- A UNESCO world heritage since 1994 and Ramsar site in 2009, part of the Greater Virunga Landscape
- One of the Largest water catchment areas in Uganda, with over 40 Permanent streams originating from the mountains and 20 lakes scattered with in the mountains.



RMNP-Biodiversity importance

- Home to threatened mammals
 - Rwenzori leopard,
 - Rwenzori red duiker,
 - African elephant,
 - Chimpanzee;
 - Three Horned Cameleon
- Unique vegetation with endemic birds species including 19 Albertine Rift endemics



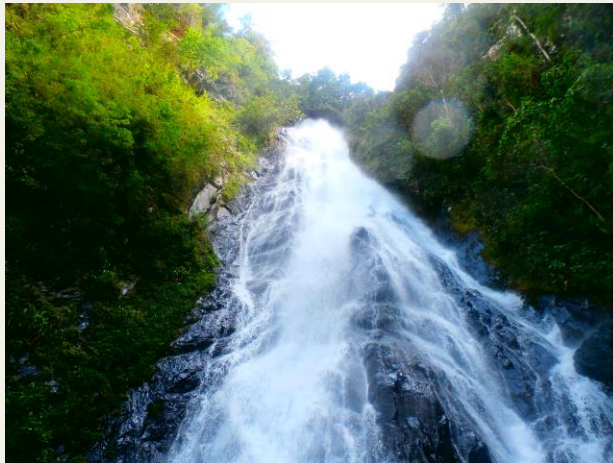
Livelihoods and economic importance

- Serves 805,000 people living in foothills, all dependent on subsistence agriculture
- 95% are dependent on the forests on upper slopes for fuelwood and other resources
- Tourism



Livelihoods and economic importance

- Industrial users-hydro power, mining, cement companies
- Water tower providing drinking water to over 2m people, including communities, municipalities and towns



Threats to RMNP ecosystem

- Increasing human population (with growth rate $>5\%$ per year) creating high demand for use of park resources
- Climate change- irreversible melting snow, receding glacier
- Increasing floods, river sedimentation





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Threats to RMNP ecosystem





Sustainable Financing of RMNP-project vision

Overall objective

Biodiversity and ecosystem services of RMNP and of the buffer zone are secured and contributing significantly to local livelihoods by 2020

Specific objective

By 2017, the adoption and strengthening of sustainable financing mechanisms ensure the long term financial stability of the RMNP, for the conservation of its ecosystem and biodiversity and increasing benefits to local communities

Project duration

42 months, started in November 2013

Project Implementation strategy

Private sector
engagement for long-
term conservation
financing

Work with poor
park-adjacent
communities to
improve
livelihoods

Establishment of policy
and institutional
frameworks for effective
conservation financing





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Project Key Result Areas ...

- **Expected Result 1**: The private sector participation in the financing of the Rwenzori Ecosystem has increased
 - ✓ National and International companies contribute to the financing of RMNP through PES and their CSR policy
 - Companies directly dependent on water and other resources, those using Rwenzori for marketing their brands, those with strong CSR, like Coca cola, telecom companies, etc



Key Achievements- Corporate Engagement...

- Over 20 companies mapped out, initial discussions held; positive response to supporting conservation of Rwenzori landscape
- Economic study for RMNP conducted, aims at generating information to rally support from beneficiaries of RMNP ecosystem services
- Preliminary results indicate that companies based in Kasese especially those that deal in power generation, companies that are heavily reliant on water for production and those with a strong CSR policy were supportive of PES.
- Drafting the corporate engagement strategy on-going



Project Key Result Areas ...

- **Expected Result 2:** Institutional frameworks in place to support sustainable conservation financing
 - ✓ Support the development of the national framework for PES by end of 2017
 - A chapter in draft National Environmental Management Policy(NEMP)
 - A chapter in draft National Environment Bill (National Environment Act upon approval)



Key Achievements- National PES policy framework...

- Working with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), constituted the Technical Working Group (TWG); composed of officials from NEMA, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Ministry of Water and Environment, National Forestry Authority, Uganda Tourism Board, Climate Change Department, CSO engaged in PES
- Roadmap for developing the PES policy framework developed
- Draft chapters/sections developed for PES in the National Environment Management Policy and Bill



Project Key Result Areas ...

- **Expected Result 3:** A water payment for ecosystem services scheme is developed and adopted, contributing to increasing benefits derived by the communities and to financial sustainability of the RMNP by 2017
 - ✓ Conduct baseline studies- hydrological & agronomic, socio-economic studies
 - ✓ Design the PES scheme
 - ✓ Engage farmers and private companies to enter in agreement and implement PES
 - ✓ Monitor farmer contracts and PES scheme

Key Achievements- **Baseline studies...**

- Hydrological & agronomic study for PES conducted, results validated



- Socio-economic study data collection yet to start

Project Key Result Areas...

- **Expected Result 4:** Financial benefits accruing to local communities and to RMNP from tourism and nature-based enterprises, are increased by 2017



- ✓ Support the development of new tourism products for RMNP
- ✓ Support communities community-based tourism
- ✓ Support development of tourism component/ business plan for RMNP General Mgt Plan

Key Achievements- Capacity Development...

- Feasibility assessment for tourism potential in and around RMNP conducted
- Community-Based Tourism (CBT) assessment for all CBTs around RMNP, 3 CBTs selected, conducted needs assessment
- Developed a capacity development plan for CBTs
- Training of 10 members of Kyanjuki Handcraft Women's Association in improved handcraft making.



Key Achievements-Capacity Development...

- Trained CBTs in OD, business/ financial management, basic accounting and record keeping
- Exposure visit to Sipi (Mt Elgon Region) for 12 members of Busongora Joint Farmers' Association to learn good agricultural practices (GAPs)
- Trained 6 members of Kinyampanika Chimpanzee Conservation and Development Association around RMNP in Chimpanzee monitoring, survey and habituation in Kibale Forest National Park.
- Sub-grants to CBTs





Project Key Result Areas ...

- **Expected Result 5:** Lessons learned on sustainable financing shared and promoted, synergies developed with other sustainable financing initiatives by 2017
 - ✓ Demonstrate other sustainable financing initiatives by end of project
 - ✓ Document uptake of RMNP tourism and CSR business model in other national parks by end of project
 - ✓ Disseminating lessons in regional and international conferences and workshops



Key Achievements-Communications and visibility...

- Brochures
- Pull-up banners
- Media articles-
 - ✓ European Year of Development,
 - ✓ ROA newsletter,
 - ✓ Articles in 2 annual EU-Uganda corporation magazine,
 - ✓ Various articles in national leading print media, and WWF Uganda website

[http://wwf.panda.org/who we are/wwf offices/uganda/news2222/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/uganda/news2222/)



Moving forward...

- Conducting socio-economic baseline study
- Finalising corporate engagement strategy
- Private sector mobilisation for long-term conservation financing
- Awareness creation for private sector, including learning visit to Naivasha to learn about watershed PES
- Designing the PES scheme, facilitate implementation
- Embark on tourism products development for RMNP to diversify tourism within RMNP



Moving forward- sharing lessons...

- Share lessons learnt and experiences at national and international level
 - ✓ Attending COP21 in Paris to present '*Mountain ecosystems coping strategies to climate Change, the case of Rwenzori Mountains*'. Side event on 4 Dec 2015 at 14h00.
 - ✓ WWF Uganda/project team is part of the 25zero expedition (www.25zero.com) to climb Rwenzori Mountains to draw attention to the impact of climate change on mountains ecosystem.
 - ✓ Continue to publish project successes in EU-Uganda partnership annual magazine, national media,
- Share experiences with practitioners in the region



Funding and implementing partners

Funders



Implementing partners



Major stakeholders



1. Directorate of Water Resources Management
2. District Local Governments, especially Kasese



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Thank you!

