



European Union, WWF contributing to improved community livelihoods while achieving conservation objectives through innovative people centered approaches.



Empowering local communities to conserve Rwenzori Mountains National Park

WWF with funding from the European Union and the French Facility for Global Environment is implementing the sustainable Financing of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park project. The project is piloting a Payment for Ecosystem Services Scheme, a conservation financing mechanism where landowners/farmers who practice good land management practices that safeguard the environment are rewarded by the businesses that benefit from these protected resources. In the Rwenzori landscape, water is the major resource that is consumed by the surrounding businesses. Businesses that extract water from Rivers Mubuku and Nyamwamba will commit money to support farmers in these catchments who adopt good agricultural practices such as river bank protection, agroforestry, mulching, and terracing. These climate smart practices will reduce soil erosion, sedimentation and river siltation and hence reduce the de-silting costs as well as improve crop yields due to reduced soil erosion and increased water retention. Over 200

farmers in the Mubuku catchment area have so far registered into the scheme.

Eco-tourism and nature-based enterprises form another conservation financing approach adopted by the project to increase financial benefits accruing to local communities and to Rwenzori Mountains National Park (RMNP). The aim is to increase livelihood options of the poor populations near the protected area and hence a reduction on their dependence on the park resources. Increased tourism revenues will cover operation costs of the Protected Area.

Three (3) community based organisations were identified and supported to boost their activities in Kasese and Kabarole districts. Kinyampanika Chimpanzee Development Association (KICHIDA), one of the organizations, was started in 2011 by a small group of people who belong to the Batanghi clan with the main aim of protecting the chimpanzee, their totem. This provided a rare and sustainable opportunity of achieving conservation goals through a community/cultural approach. Chimpanzees are among the threatened species in Uganda and globally

with some of the reasons for the decline in numbers being poaching and habitat destruction. KICHIDA with support from WWF and Uganda Wildlife Authority has developed strategies to reduce human wildlife conflicts and poaching through organizing sensitization and awareness meetings for the community, regular chimpanzee and habitat monitoring and growing garlic along the park boundary to keep the primates away from community land. As a result over 20 poachers have denounced the vice and joined the Association. The membership is continuously growing currently with 73 members (34 women and 39 men).

Alongside the chimpanzees, the association is also embracing the cultural aspect within the community to develop the 'Rwenzori Cultural Tourism Experience'. Attractions along this trail include birding, community tourism, scenery and nature walks. This fusion of nature and culture approach provides a basis for tourism diversification in Rwenzori, helps to improve the livelihood of the local communities and is an ideal avenue for conservation through community engagement.

reduced through widespread access to clean and renewable sources of energy in Uganda.

So far the project achievements include the strengthened technical capacity of 25 technicians from selected community based organizations (CBOs) to install, operate and maintain solar PV technology. In collaboration with Enterprise Uganda, the project has also built capacity of these CBOs in small business development and management to distribute solar systems.

Furthermore 47 target schools and 20 health centres have been identified for the installation of solar PV systems of up to 1kW in the districts of Arua, Masindi and Kasese. In addition, 7 trading centres have been identified in the district of Kasese for the installation of 7 mini-grids to power businesses and households.

WWF Uganda recognizes the efforts of EU in environmental protection and Climate change mitigation and adaptation in Uganda and also acknowledges the milestone EU is taking to enable Uganda achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3, 4, 7 & 13, Vision 2040 and NDP 11.



Practicing climate smart agriculture has improved crop yields of the farmers



community volunteers play a significant role in curbing poaching and encroachment in protected areas

Building capacity and entrepreneurial skills of CBOs to increase access to clean energy in rural communities

WWF is also implementing the Scaling up Rural Electrification Using Innovative Solar Photovoltaic Distribution Models Project in the districts of Kasese, Masindi, and Arua with funding from the European Union. The project builds on the already existing WWF's Champion District Initiative; a district led approach towards increasing access to clean and renewable energy for rural communities. The project aims to replace kerosene and candle lighting and provide access to solar energy for communities living in areas that are currently off the national grid. The overall objective of the project is that by 2025, rural livelihoods are improved and greenhouse gas emissions are



Solar PV plays a key role in increasing access to clean and renewable energy for off grid communities