



Conservation of the African Grey Parrot in Uganda: Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework

By

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Presentation Outline



1. Introduction
2. Policy Framework
3. Legal Framework
4. Institutional framework
5. Current conservation efforts
6. Challenges
7. Future Direction





Introduction



- **18,783** species of fauna and flora recorded (among the top 10 most bio-diverse countries in the world)
- **Over 53%** (459 individuals) of the World's population of mountain gorillas
- **11%** (1080 species) of the world's recorded species of birds
(50% of Africa's bird species richness)
- **7.8%** (345 species) of the Global Mammal Diversity
(39% of Africa's Mammal Richness)
- **19%** (86 species) of Africa's amphibian species richness
- **14%** (142 species) of Africa's reptile species richness,
- **1,249** recorded species of butterflies – 600 species of fish.





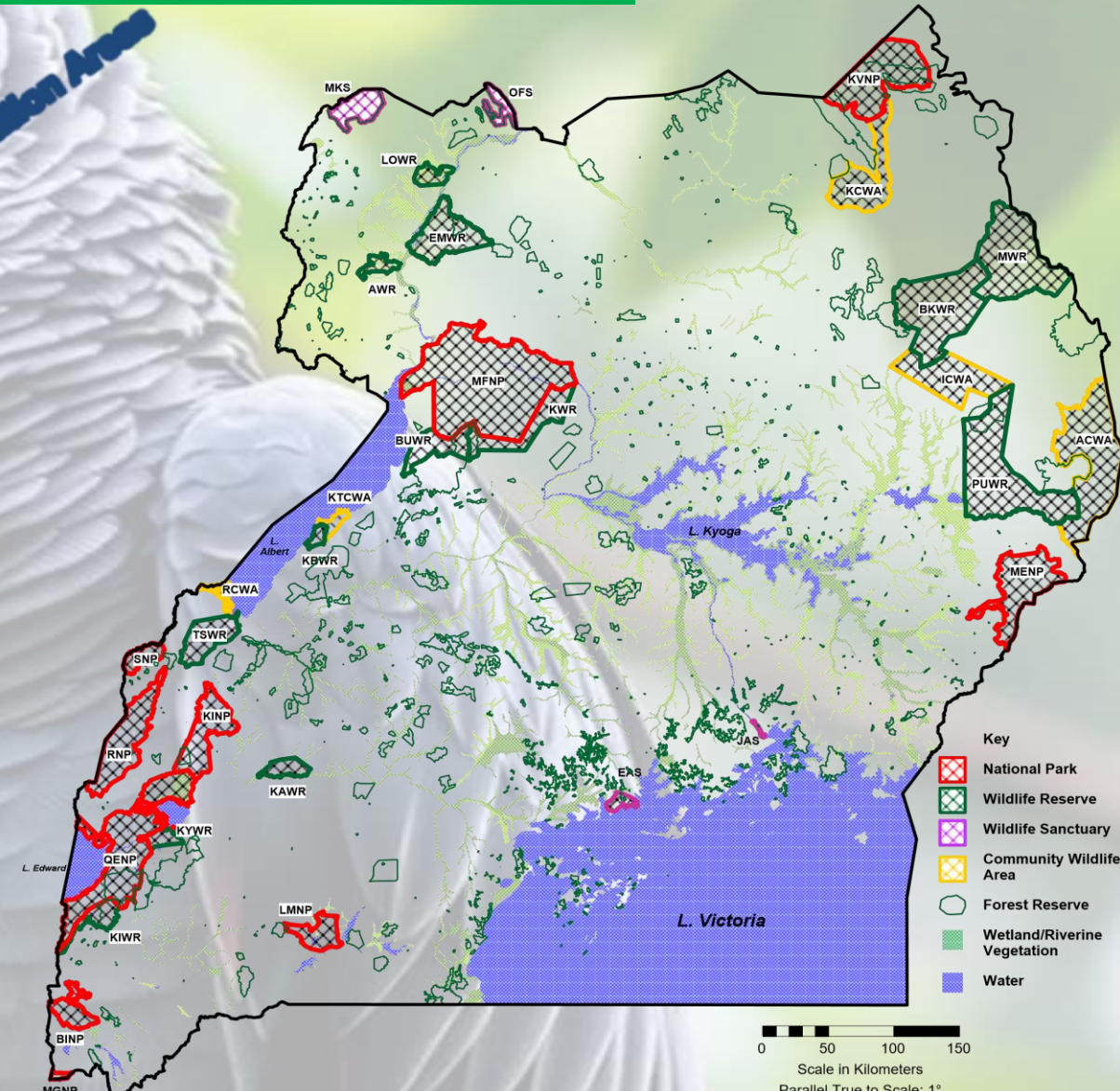
Introduction.....



Distribution Uganda's wildlife resources

- About 50% of Uganda's total surface area is gazetted as wildlife conservation areas, forest reserves and wetlands
- 10 National Parks,
- 12 Wildlife Reserves,
- 10 Wildlife Sanctuaries,
- 5 Community Wildlife areas,
- 506 central Forest Reserves and
- 191 local forest reserves.

Conservation Areas





Introduction.....



The African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)

Habitat

The African Grey Parrot thrives in the lush, tropical forests and woodlands of Central and West Africa, including Uganda.

Ecology

Known for their intelligence and ability to mimic human speech, these parrots play a vital role in the ecosystem as seed dispersers and pollinators.

Status

The African Grey Parrot is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, with declining populations due to various threats.

Importance

These parrots hold significant cultural and economic value, making their conservation a priority for Uganda and the international community.



Native to equatorial Africa, including Angola, Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda. The species is found inside a range from Kenya to the eastern part of the Ivory Coast.



Introduction.....



Threats to the African Grey Parrot in Uganda

Poaching

Illegal hunting for the pet trade remains a significant threat, with birds captured and smuggled across borders.

Habitat Loss

Deforestation and habitat fragmentation due to agricultural expansion, logging, and human settlement pose a grave danger to the parrot's survival.

Illegal Wildlife Trade

The lucrative international market for exotic pets fuels the illegal trade in African Grey Parrots, further depleting their populations.

Climate Change

Changing weather patterns and extreme weather events can disrupt the parrot's natural habitats and food sources.





Policy Framework



Internationally-Uganda is Signatory to:

1. CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora)

- Uganda has been a signatory to CITES since 1992
- In the context of CITES, **wildlife trade** is any movement of wild animals and plants, their specimens, products or derivatives from one country to another for any purpose.
- Takes four forms; **Export, Import, Re-export & Transit**
- **Listed under App I**

2. CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) with several Agreements such as AEWA, Gorilla Agreement, etc

Parties that are a Range State to a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavour to strictly protect them by: prohibiting the taking of such species, with very restricted scope for exceptions; conserving and where appropriate restoring their habitats; preventing, removing or mitigating obstacles to their migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them.

3. CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) preamble recognizes;

- ❖ dependency of indigenous and local communities on biological diversity
- ❖ Article 8(j) encourages Parties to promote equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources



Policy Framework.....



Nationally:

1. The 1995 Uganda Constitution

- Objective XIII provides for State protection of important natural resources such as land, water, wetlands, minerals, fauna and flora on behalf of the people of Uganda.
- Under Objective XXVII, provides for creation and development of parks, reserves, recreation areas and conservation of natural resources by central and or Local Governments.
- The same objective further obligates the state to promote the rational use of natural resources so as to safeguard and protect the biodiversity of Uganda.

2. Wildlife Policy 2014

- The Policy provides for sustainable management and developed wildlife resources in a manner that contributes to the development of the nation and the well-being of its people.



Policy Framework.....



Objective 1: To promote sustainable management of wildlife Protected Areas

Strategies and actions

g) Promote ecological research and monitoring

Objective 2: To sustainably manage wildlife populations in and outside wildlife protected areas

Strategies and Actions

a) Develop and implement an integrated National Management Plan for wildlife outside protected areas

b) Promote sustainable wildlife utilization programmes as an incentive for wildlife management on private land

h) Strengthen collaboration between wildlife, forest reserves and wetlands management institutions



Policy Framework.....



Strategies and Actions for wildlife species-specific conservation

- a) Formulate and implement species-specific national conservation plans, strategies and programmes for rare, threatened, endemic, endangered or extinct species
- c) Establish and maintain ex-situ conservation facilities and programs
- f) Promote trans-boundary collaboration on wildlife conservation and management
- g) Ensure that wildlife populations are surveyed at a frequency which enables their status to be adequately monitored and management decisions taken
- j) Identify wildlife species that should be classified as protected species
- l) Promote community conservation initiatives through alternative livelihood improvement projects.
- m) Support initiatives for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience
- n) Strengthen sector institutional capacity to effectively conserve species



Policy Framework.....



Objective 3: To promote sustainable and equitable utilization of wildlife as a viable economic form of land use

Strategies and Actions for extractive wildlife utilization

- a) Formulate regulations, standards, guidelines and procedures for sustainable utilization of wildlife
- b) Promote sustainable wildlife trade in Uganda
- c) Promote value addition to wildlife products/specimens including meat, trophy and skin/hides processing
- e) Ensure that sustainable off-take levels are maintained in wildlife extractive utilization
- g) Create capacity in sustainable wildlife trade among private wildlife entrepreneurs
- h) Monitor and ensure compliance to standards and regulations for all forms of wildlife utilisation



Policy Framework.....



Objective 5: To promote wildlife research and training

Strategies and Actions

- b) Design, implement and or support wildlife research that is relevant to defined national development priorities
- c) Conduct regular selective wildlife population surveys
- d) Monitor wildlife species and their habitats
- f) Support human resource capacity building for wildlife management
- g) Collaborate with Universities and research institutions in wildlife research and training



Policy Framework.....



Objective 6: To promote and support wildlife conservation education and awareness

Strategies and Actions

- c) Establish and maintain wildlife education centres and facilities across the nation
- d) Establish collaboration mechanisms with relevant institutions to enhance wildlife conservation education and awareness
- e) Integrate conservation education in national curricula at all education levels



Policy Framework.....



Objective 8: To effectively combat wildlife crime

Strategies and Actions

- c) Regulate possession, use and trade in wildlife products/specimen
- e) Eliminate illegal wildlife off-take (Poaching) within and outside protected areas
- g) Collaborate with all relevant enforcement agencies and other stakeholders at local, national, regional and international level to stop illegal wildlife trade and trafficking
- h) Promote legal means of wildlife utilization through use rights regimes



Policy Framework.....



Objective 9: To promote local, regional and global partnerships for conservation of wildlife

Strategies and Actions for local partnerships

- e) Where appropriate, allow people from the neighbouring communities controlled access to conservation areas for the sustainable harvest of wildlife products of traditional value.
- f) Support community initiatives to provide alternative sources of wildlife products of traditional value
- g) Support initiatives aimed at enhancing positive attitude towards wildlife
- h) Mainstream wildlife management in Local Government decision making

Strategies and Actions for regional and global partnerships

- a) Promote trans-boundary collaboration on wildlife conservation and management
- b) Proactively participate in negotiations, ratify, domesticate and implement all wildlife related international agreements, treaties, conventions and protocols that are in Uganda's national interests.
- c) Harmonise wildlife-related policies, plans and programmes in line with East African Community ideals



Legal Framework



Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 under Section 35 provides for 8 Wildlife Use Rights classes, A to H

- Class A - Hunting
- **Class B – Farming/breeding/propagation**
- Class C - Ranching
- **Class D - Trading**
- **Class E - Educational or scientific purposes including medical experiments and developments;**
- Class F – Community resource access;
- **Class G - wildlife Pets or ornaments; and**
- **Class H - Tourism and recreation.**



Legal Framework.....



Section 62: Illegal import, export or re-export

- A person who imports, exports or re-exports or attempts to import, export or re-export any species or specimen-
- (a) without a permit; or
- (b) without passing through a designated customs post or port; commits an offence

A person who is convicted of an offence under this section is liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand currency points or to life imprisonment or both.

Section 63: Failure to comply with regulations on import, export, transit or re-export

The Minister may, after consulting the Minister responsible for trade, make regulations imposing additional restrictions on import, export, re-export or transit of wildlife species or wildlife specimen.

A person who contravenes the regulations made under subsection (1) commits an offence



Legal Framework.....



Section 71(1): Offences relating to protected species:

(1) A person who without a permit issued in accordance with this Act-

(a) takes, hunts, molests or reduces into possession protected specimen; or

(b) is found in possession of, sells, buys, transfers or accepts transfer of protected specimen;

commits an offence, and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand currency points or to life imprisonment or both.

Section 71(2): Offences relating to classified protected species

where an offence on protected specie is related to a specie classified as-

(a) extinct in the wild;

(b) critically endangered; or

(c) endangered;

a person shall on conviction be liable to a fine of not exceeding one million currency points or to life imprisonment or both.



Legal Framework.....

Other laws

- The National Environment Management Act 2019
- The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003
- The Anti Corruption Act;
- Anti Money Laundering Act;
- The Customs Management Act;

- The draft Uganda Wildlife (Trade) Regulations aims to provide further and specific guidance on requirements and procedures for both national and international wildlife trade.
- The draft Uganda Wildlife (Pets & Ornaments) Regulations





Institutional framework for Parrot Conservation



- **Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and antiquities**- overall coordination and supervision of implementation of wildlife policy and laws; CITES Management Authority
- **UWA**- Management of wildlife and PAs licensing WUR, SA on wild fauna
- **UWEC**- captive breeding, Rescue and quarantine center
- **MAAIF**- management, monitoring, regulation and licensing of fisheries, SA on ornamental fish, Phyto-sanitary certification, veterinary certification,
- **MWE (FSSD)** -overall supervision of the forestry sector, SA on wild flora, licensing trade in timber products,
- **NFA**- management of CFR, issuance of permits
- **DLG**- management of LFR including issuance of movement permits
- **UWRTI**- specialized Wildlife research and training
- **Civil Society and Academia**



Current efforts



- ✓ An enabling policy and legal framework (new environment and wildlife laws-2019)
- ✓ Gazettement and management of wildlife and forest conservation/protected areas.
- ✓ National Management Plan for wildlife outside protected areas
- ✓ African Grey Parrot Conservation program at UWEC-Research and Education supported by JICA
- ✓ Ban on trade in wild-captured birds-2015
- ✓ Amnesty and registration of parrot pets owners



Current efforts.....



- ✓ Strengthening inter-agency coordination and collaboration (**formation of a NWCCTF**).
- ✓ Strengthening the capacity for law enforcement (recruitment, training and equipment).
- ✓ National Strategy to Combat Poaching, Illegal Trade and Trafficking of Wildlife and Wildlife Products.
- ✓ Creation of a special court- Utilities, Standards and Wildlife Court.



Challenges



1. International demand for Parrots as pets.
2. Limited awareness and appreciation among the stakeholders about the plight of parrots and wildlife in general.
3. Limited capacity of law enforcement agencies in terms of personnel, skills and equipment
4. Limited knowledge/information on population and distribution of the African Grey Parrot in Uganda
5. Poverty among communities neighbouring protected areas
6. Land tenure/ownership/conflicting land uses
7. Human population growth



Future Directions



1. Strengthening Law Enforcement

Improved Monitoring

Enhancing monitoring and surveillance systems, including the use of drones and camera traps, to detect and deter poaching activities.



Specialized Training

Providing specialized training for law enforcement personnel to effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes.



Stricter Penalties

Advocating for stiffer penalties and harsher sentences for those involved in the illegal trade of African Grey Parrots.



Cross-Border Cooperation

Fostering international cooperation and information-sharing to disrupt wildlife trafficking networks across borders.





Future Directions.....



2. Community-Based Conservation Initiatives

Restoration

Engaging local communities in reforestation and habitat restoration efforts to create sustainable, protected habitats for the African Grey Parrot.

Ecotourism

Promoting ecotourism programs that allow visitors to **observe and appreciate the African Grey Parrot in its natural habitat**, generating income and fostering community stewardship.

Conservation Education

Implementing educational programs to raise awareness and build a sense of ownership among local communities, empowering them to actively participate in conservation efforts.

Livelihoods

Developing alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities, reducing their reliance on activities that threaten the African Grey Parrot's habitat.



Future Directions.....



3. Innovative Conservation Technologies

1

Satellite Monitoring

Using satellite imagery and remote sensing technology to track and monitor parrot populations and habitat changes in real-time.

2

Tagging

Implementing digital tracking devices and microchips to identify and monitor individual African Grey Parrots, deterring poaching and illegal trade.

3

Acoustic Monitoring

Deploying acoustic sensors to detect and record the distinctive calls of African Grey Parrots, providing valuable data for population assessments.

4

Modeling

Leveraging advanced data analysis and predictive modeling to identify high-risk areas and inform targeted conservation interventions.





Future Directions.....



4. Collaboration, Coordination & cooperation

1. Collaborating with national, regional, and international conservation organizations to share knowledge, resources, and best practices for protecting the African Grey Parrot.
2. Coordinating all range states to develop a comprehensive regional strategy for the conservation of the African Grey Parrot.
3. Mobilisation of resources/funding to support the African Grey Parrot conservation initiatives and capacity-building efforts.
4. Consider including the African Grey Parrot in Appendix I of CMS since the threats are more than just trade.



Conclusions



- ✓ Adequate policy, legal and institutional framework
- ✓ Sustainable Utilisation can create benefits and secure support for conservation
- ✓ Need for enhanced monitoring & implementation/ enforcement of existing frameworks
- ✓ Stakeholder collaboration, coordination, cooperation and support



THANK YOU
For God and my Country