



*Nature*Uganda



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32nd Annual General Meeting Chairman's Report

Year ending 2025

AGM held on 24th June 2026

By

Dr Robert Kityo

Chairman, Executive Committee

What is *Nature*Uganda

- Operational organisation of East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS)
- oldest conservation organization in East and central Africa
- set up in 1909 as a scientific organization with the primary aim of **documenting the diversity of wildlife in East Africa;**

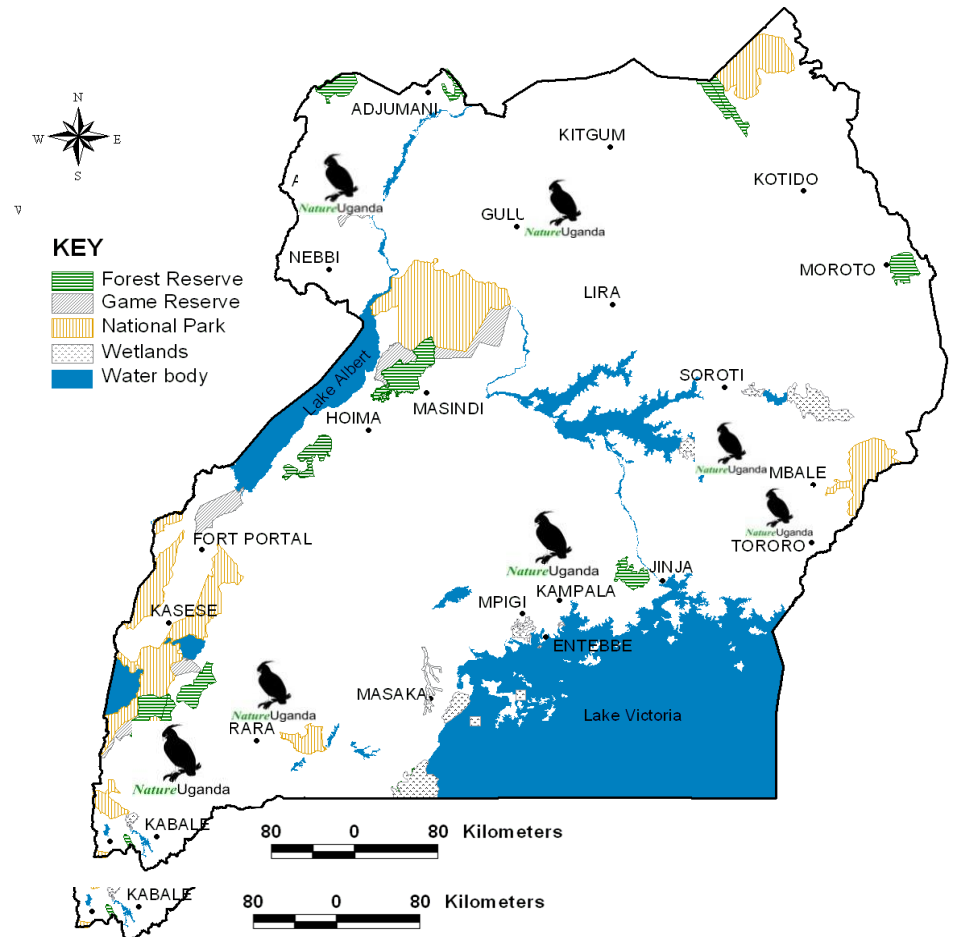
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117 years for nature

Partnerships at national and international



A national conservation and membership organization

- The **EANHS** in Uganda
- Partner of **BirdLife International** (*the largest network of CSO*)
- Member of **IUCN** (*the largest network of conservation institutions*)



Mission



Promote the **understanding, appreciation**
and **conservation** of nature

Understanding = Research/ information generation

Appreciation = Education and awareness

Conservation = Sustainable management of NR/
policy and advocacy



In pursuing the mission NU strives to:

1. Create a nature-friendly public (Awareness and Education)
2. Enhance knowledge of Uganda's natural history (Research and information generation)
3. Take action to conserve priority species, sites and habitats (Conservation)
4. Advocate for policies favorable to the environment (policy and advocacy)

Strategic Plan 2023-2028



NU is guided by 5 year strategic plan.

The Strategic goal of the new SP is ‘to increase conservation and sustainable use of natural environment for the benefit of humanity’

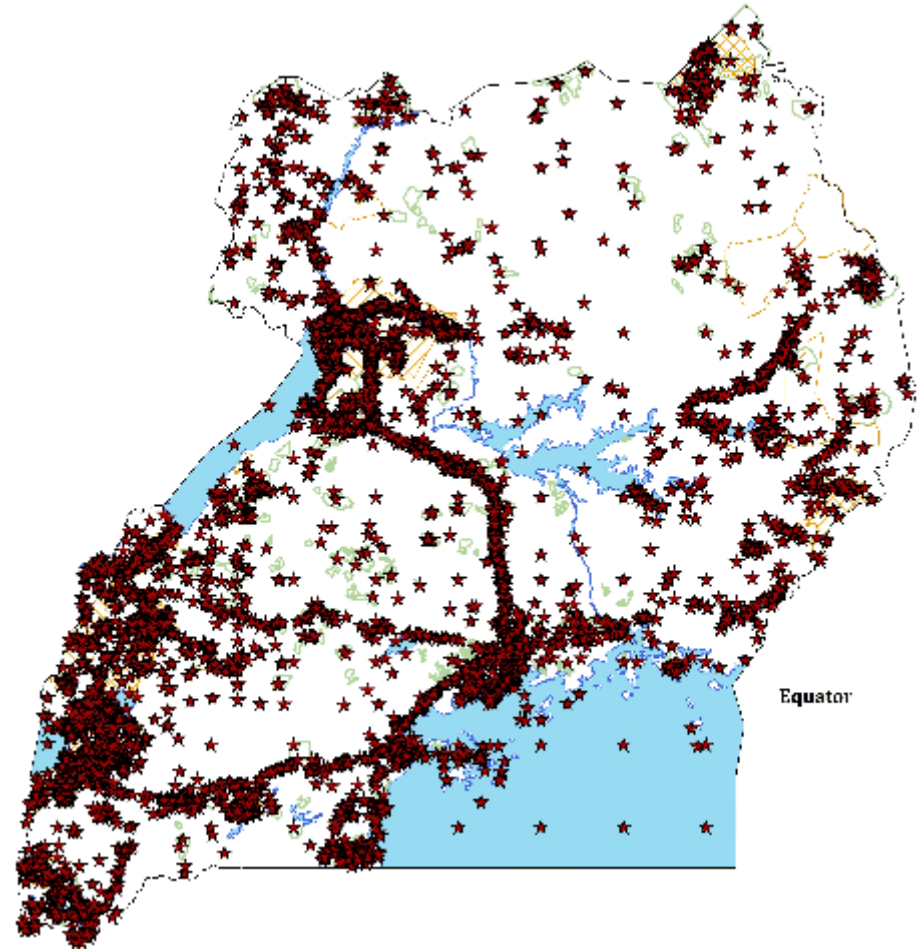
- **SO 1: Knowledge base for protecting threatened wildlife and natural resources and threats to their sustainable management increased**
- **SO2: Conservation and management of key species, sites, habitats increased**
- **SO 3: Sustainable use of natural resources and equitable benefit sharing therefrom increased**
- **SO 4: Institutional capacity of NU for membership mobilization and effective programme implementation increased**

SO 1: Knowledge base for protecting threatened wildlife and natural resources and threats to their sustainable management increased

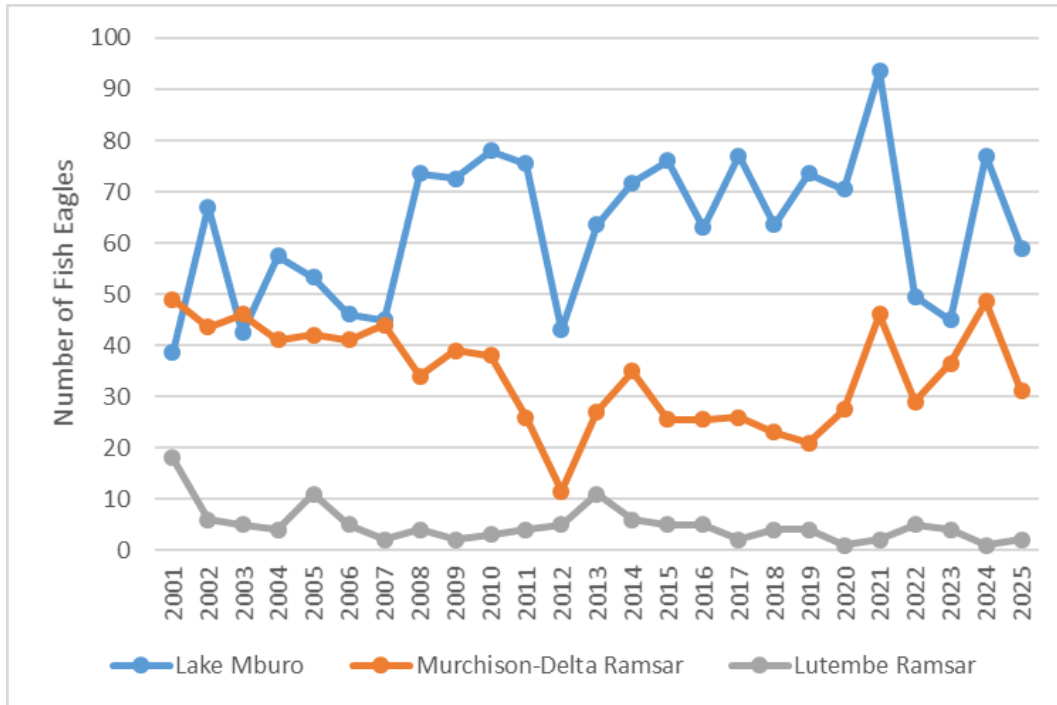


Research and information generation

1. Wetlands monitoring (African water bird census) covering 28 sites across the country
2. Terrestrial habitats (Bird population monitoring) covering 78 sites
3. Baseline assessments- covered 2 sites in 2025
4. Single species monitoring eg Grey Crowned Cranes, Grauer's Rush Warbler



Monitoring wetland birds: African Fish Eagle



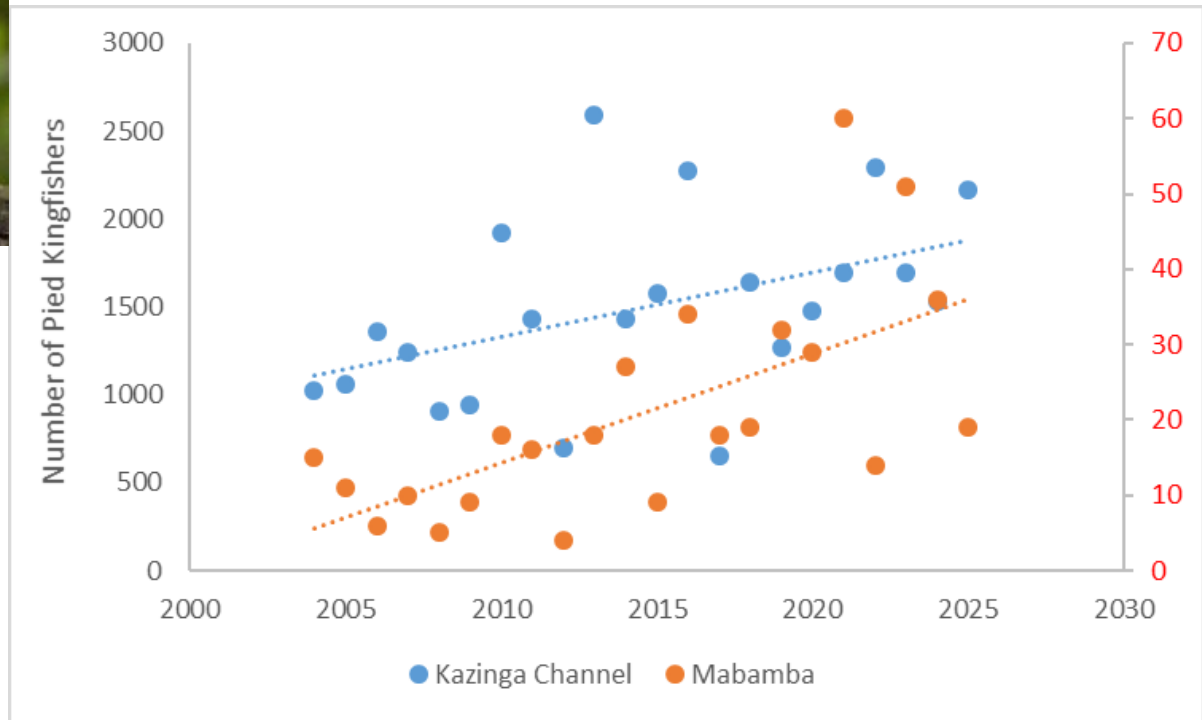
Monitoring Fish Eagle in Ramsar sites



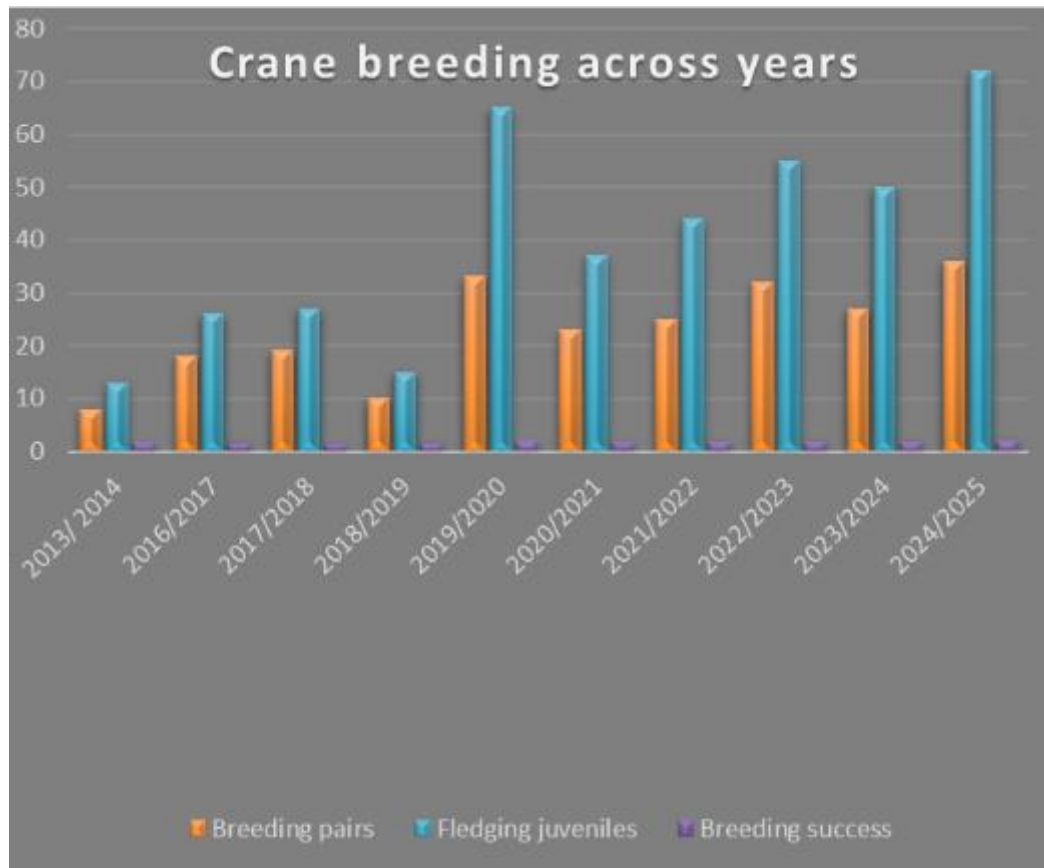
Monitoring waterbirds: Pied Kingfisher



The trend increasing for small fish eating birds in both protected and non protected sites

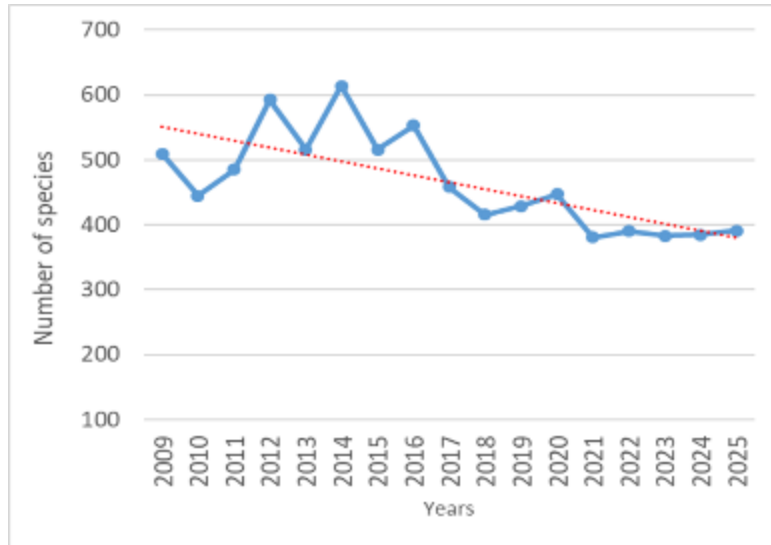


Information and data for Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) generated and/or updated

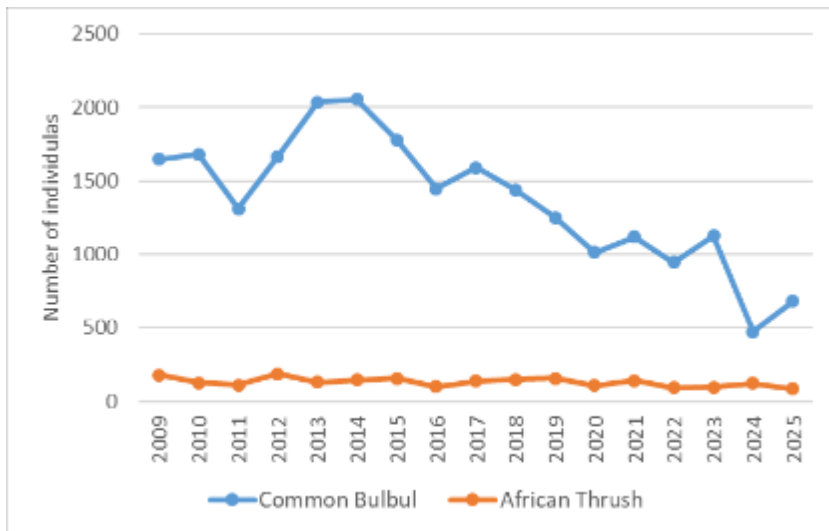


Monitoring cranes in Uganda

Are common birds common; a case of land birds



May reflect the increased degradation of agricultural landscapes



Unravelling the mystery of the herpetofauna in Uganda

- Capacity building in Herpetology:
"Training a cohort of herpetologists to increase data knowledge and build capacity from baseline herpetology surveys in key ecosystems of Uganda"
With support from JRS Biodiversity Foundation
- Under the leadership of Dr Mathias Behangana, the project has been training 10 MSc students from different Universities - Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Gulu University, Muni University, Islamic University in Uganda and Busitema University



Mentoring young conservationist through research and conservation of globally threatened species

- Documenting the status of breeding sites for critically endangered vultures in Uganda
(Ivan Oruka)
- Documenting the status of Critically Endangered Du Toit's Torrent Frog (*Arthroleptides dutoiti*) in Mt. Elgon National Park
(Violet Kantono)
- Documenting the status and conservation of papyrus endemic birds
(Loy Natukunda)
- Documenting the status and conservation of Fox,s Weaver and Karamoja Apalis, the only endemic birds for Uganda (Jonathan Onongo)



CONSERVATION OF RÜPPELL'S VULTURE IN UGANDA

Vultures in Uganda

Vultures are scavenging birds that feed on dead livestock or wild animal carcasses. Across Africa, there are eleven (11) vulture species. Nine (9) of these historically range in Uganda's protected areas, mostly in national parks and wildlife reserves. This makes Uganda very important for vulture conservation in Africa.

Why Vultures are Important

Vultures play a vital role as nature's clean-up specialists (nature's garbage collectors). By feeding on animal carcasses;

- They provide natural waste disposal services.
- Recycle nutrients back into ecosystems.
- Keep villages and grazing areas clean.
- May prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases such as rabies, botulism, and brucellosis, which affect both animals and humans.
- Help keep nature healthy.

About the Rüppell's Vulture

The Rüppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*) ranks among the most threatened bird species and is at risk of extinction in the wild. Each pair produces only one chick per year, and the young bird takes about 5-6 years before it begins breeding.

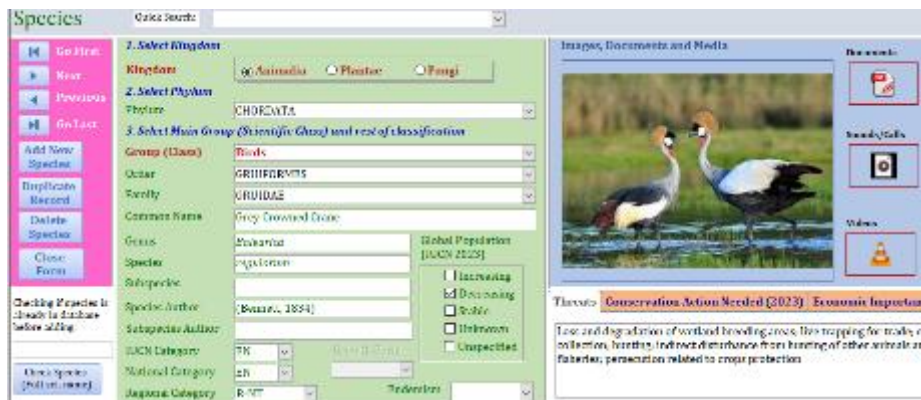


Rüppell's Vulture | KenyanOrlando

Significance of Luku Central Forest Reserve

In Uganda, Luku Central Forest Reserve is an important area for the survival Rüppell's Vulture. The vulture, locally known as Rokoze, nests on steep rocky cliffs known locally as Rokoze. The degradation of this habitat poses a severe risk to Uganda's remaining population.

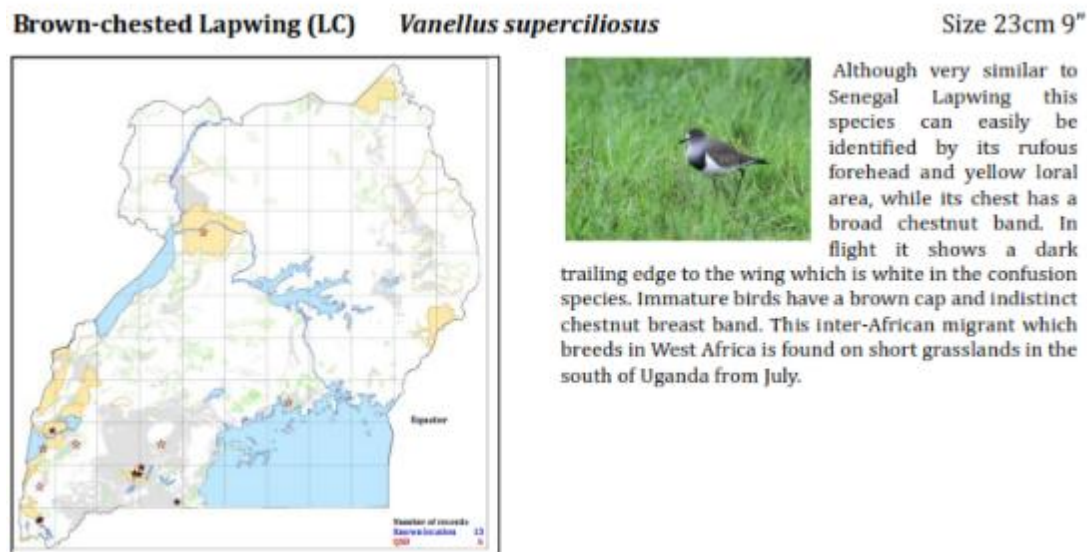
Biodiversity and Socioeconomic Database and Information System (BioInfo)



Species distribution records (all higher taxa), georeferenced.
About 250,000 records currently in the database



The database integrates socio-economic data and heritage sites and their values



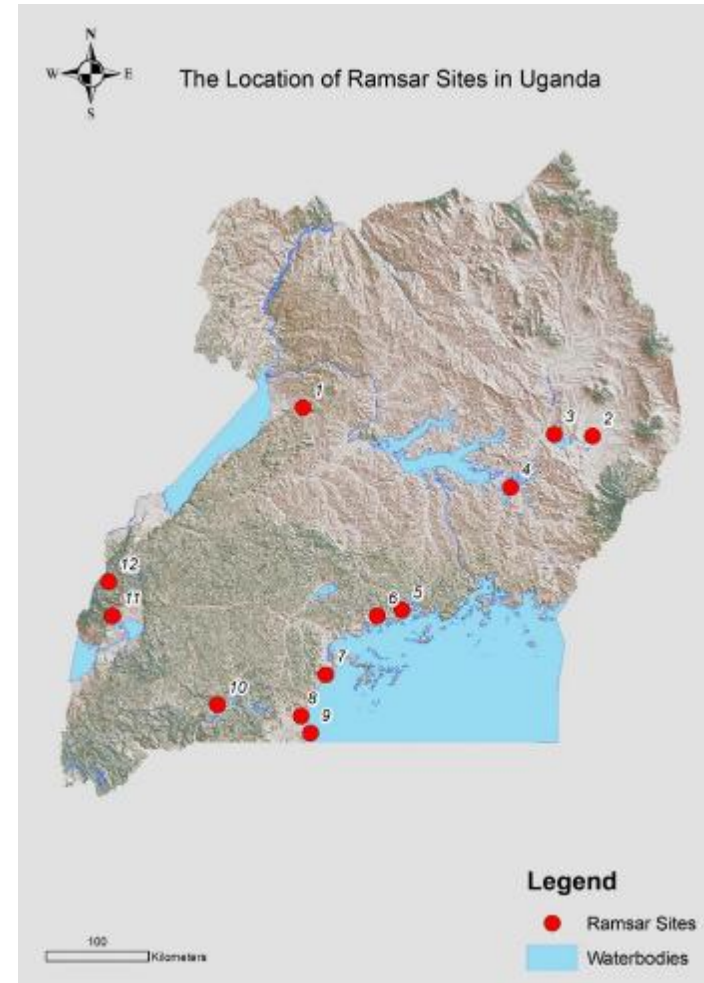
Building capacity of citizen scientists for sustainable in species and site monitoring

- Echuya & Katsyoha Kitomi FR have established CBM monitoring teams
- Crane custodians supporting Grey Crowned Crane monitoring in South West Uganda
- Community/ PA tourism guides; Improved understanding of the natural world and long term support protection of species and sites



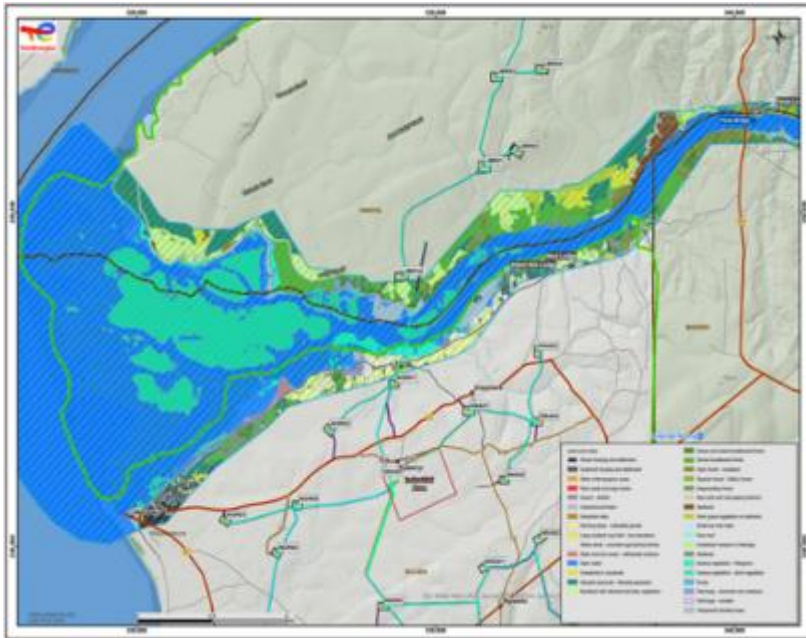
SO2: Conservation and management of key species, sites, and habitats improved

Stakeholder engagement to conserve Wetlands and Ramsar sites



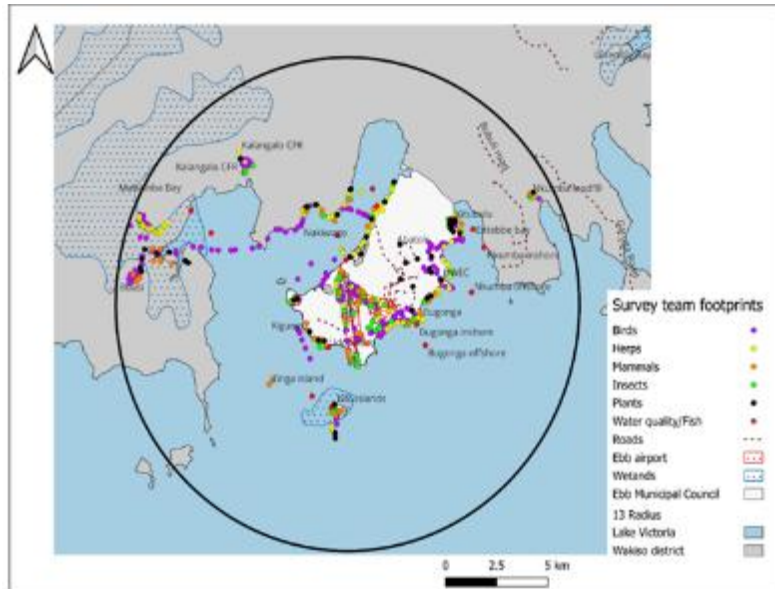
Two new Ramsar sites were proposed : Lake Bunyonyi in Rubanda and Kiyanja wetlands in Lwengo districts respectively

Private sector in site and species conservation



Restoration of Lake Elbert Delta Murchison Ramsar site with support from TotalEnergies

Understanding nature through science and research

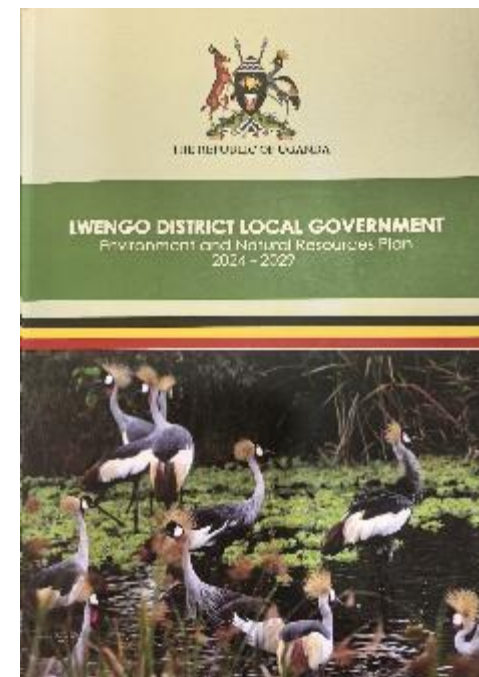


Supporting UCAA to manage Wildlife hazards at Entebbe International Airport

Taxon	# species recorded
Birds	162 including 17 species of conservation concern and 30 migrants
Mammals	54
Herps	21 amphibian and 16 reptiles
Aquatic ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09 species • 41 phytoplankton • 26 zooplankton • Macroinvertebrates
Insects	102 butterflies and 31 dragonflies
Plants	440 including six species of global conservation concern

Communities secure the majestic Shoebill at Mabamba Bay with support from Tusk Awards

- Achilles Byaruhanga was awarded the Prince William Award for Conservation in Africa in 2022.
- The proceeds of the award were further invested into conservation
- Monitoring of water birds at the Mabamba Ramsar site
- NU supported capacity building of MWETA group in Sustainable Ecotourism - 31 members were trained
- NU developed the Lwengo District Environment and Natural Resources Action Plan



Supporting conservation of priority forests

In KK and Echuya FR, we support Collaborative Forest Management (CFM)



Sustaining forest integrity for climate resilience – the PPNIII programme funded through DOF

- Formation and strengthening of local Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) groups that take on and share roles and responsibilities with NFA
- Promoted the use of ESS; intervention that has significantly reduced HH use of firewood by 50%.
- Encouraged agroforestry, trees planted on farmland - increasing tree cover, combat soil erosion, enhance resilience to climate change
- CFM members are helping to stop forest destruction. NFA reports of a canopy cover increase from 70% (in 2013) to 96% in 2025
- Promoted IGAs (banana growing, beekeeping and banana wine) - reduced the communities' reliance on the forest for their livelihoods.



Empowering women as champions of climate resilience, the AfricElle project funded through NABU

- Project Goal - to empower women around Echuya CFR to become champions for agroforestry, biodiversity, and climate resilience, thereby and contributing to ecosystem conservation.
- We have reached over 400 women as direct and secondary beneficiaries.
- Women were supported to establish functional leadership structures, and participate in two green value chains; viz Apiary and Hass avocado - ecosystem-friendly livelihoods. Women were equipped with practical skills in gender equality, leadership, and financial literacy, communication, and GBV awareness.
- Representatives have been in Tanzania to learn from Projects hosted by sister organisation NatureTanzania



SO 3: Sustainable use of natural resources and equitable benefit sharing therefrom increased

Supporting communities in the uptake of climate-smart agriculture to increase income and improve food security

- Women empowerment in the Echuya landscape; Promoting Hass avocado for increased income generation at HH level
- Apiary farms / Honey production in KK and Echuya. Seven groups in KK and Echuya trained and supported with 500 beehives (and additional 6000 from NFA) and other honey harvesting equipment. KK community groups harvest over 5000kg a year
- Over 300 households in Echuya landscape (including Batwa) supported with sheep (to provide organic manure)



Sustainable tourism development

- Increasing benefits to the local people while minimising environmental impacts
- However, we need avoid environmental degradation from increased traffic



Tourists at Mabamba wetland



Climate smart interventions to increase resilience of communities

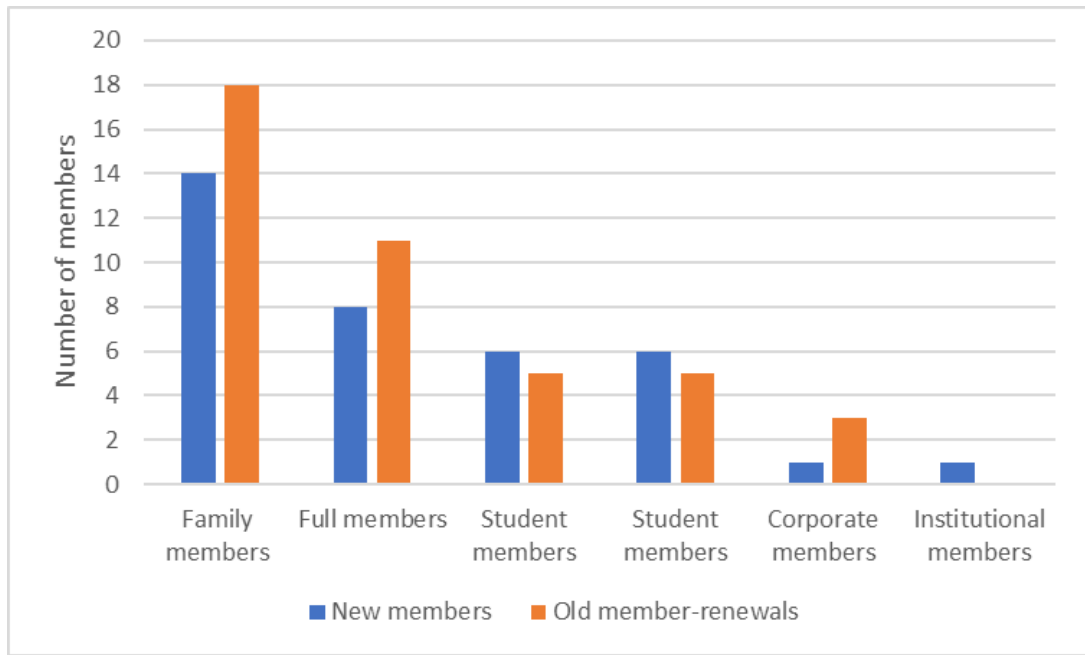
- Over 1500 Energy saving stoves distributed in Rubirizi, Rubanda, Kisoro districts. Monitoring shows reduction in firewood consumption by 50% at HH level



SO 4: Institutional capacity of NU for membership mobilization and effective programme implementation increased



Engaging members of NatureUganda



Membership activities

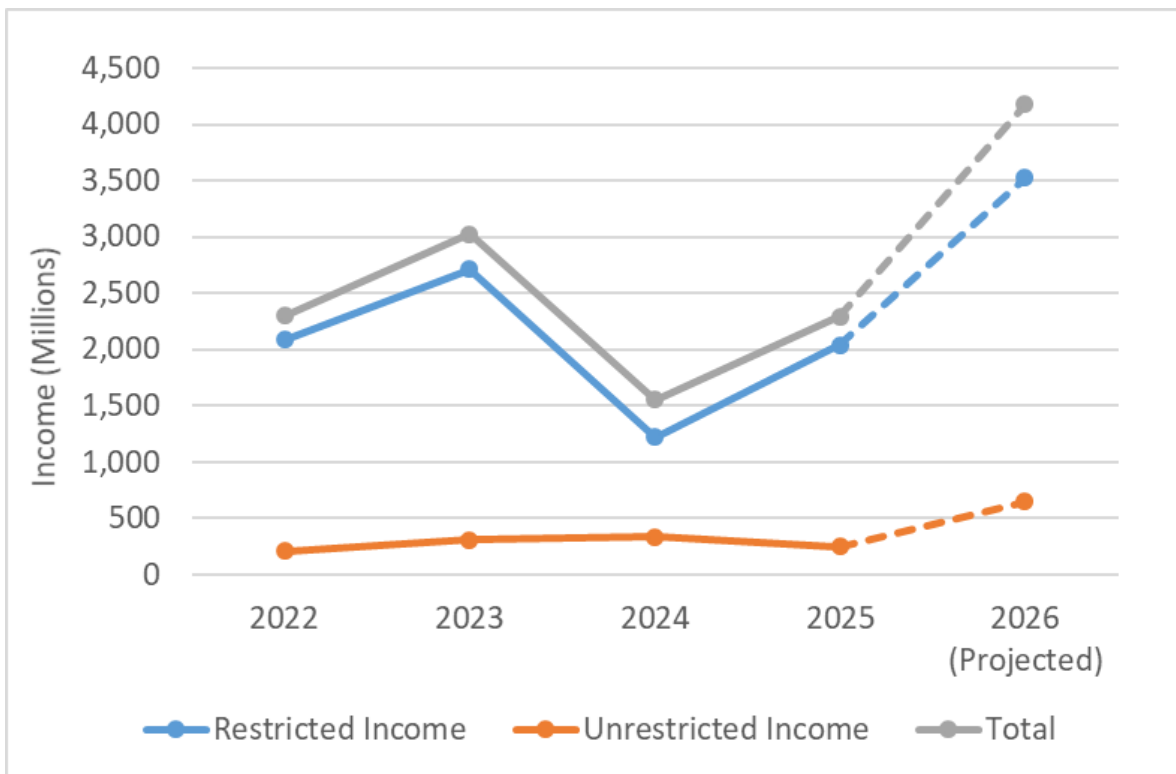
- Conservation conference with MTWA
- Naturewalks for members (Mpnga, Mabira)
- Excursions (QENP)
- Engagement with branches (research and celebration of national events)

Membership

Corporate Members



Resource mobilization



There has been shifting donor priorities and difficult to cope with these fluctuations. However, our projection is positive for 2026-2027

- New project in 2026 IKI funded project in Sango Bay (Consortium Euro \$ 4.6m)

- Biosphere Reserve: Mt Elgon (Euro 560,000)

- Ecosystem Restoration Fund on AEWA (consortium £7.5m)

Moving forward

- Executive committee is reviewing opportunities to strengthen income generation at national level
- Membership growth has slowed and reviewing other approaches to increase members participation and motivation
- Inadequate financial resources to fully implement all our strategic actions



Thank you

