
**TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION BETWEEN
VIRUNGA PARK, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
AND QUEEN ELIZABETH, RWENZORI AND SEMULIKI
PARKS, UGANDA**

REPORT OF TRANSBOUNDARY MEETING

20-21ST JUNE 2003

MWEYA, QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

**UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY
INSTITUT CONGOLAIS POUR LA CONSERVATION
DE LA NATURE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

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PARTICIPANTS

The following organizations, offices and projects were represented at the meeting:

Protected Area Authorities

UWA - Uganda Wildlife Authority (Headquarters, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Rwenzori Mountains National Park, Semuliki National Park)

ICCN - Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (Goma, Virunga North, East, Central and South)

Local Government

Resident District Commissioner for Bundibugyo

Regional Police Commander for SW Uganda

Minister for Environment, RCD-ML, Beni

NGOs/Projects

CARE - Co-Operative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (Queen Elizabeth National Park Programme)

DFGFE - Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund Europe (Mt Tshiaberimu project)

ECP - Elephants, Crops and People Project – Queen Elizabeth National Park

IGCP - International Gorilla Conservation Programme (AWF, FFI and WWF)

IUCN - International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Peace Parks Programme)

WCS - Wildlife Conservation Society (Albertine Rift Programme)

WWF - World Wildlife Fund (Uganda program and PEVi Kacheche)

FUNDING

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Virunga National Park (PNVi) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) stretches from the Virunga volcanoes, that straddle the border of sw Uganda, Rwanda and DRC, over 300 kms north to the Semuliki National Park in western Uganda. This park, Africa's first national park, is contiguous with six other parks: Parc National des Volcans (PNV), Rwanda, Mgahinga Gorilla (MGNP), Bwindi Impenetrable (BINP), Queen Elizabeth (QENP), Rwenzori Mountains (RMNP), and Semuliki (SNP) National Parks in Uganda. As such it forms a vital corridor linking these other protected areas, forming one large landscape of wild habitat, and at 13,100 km² it is the largest contiguous habitat in the Albertine Rift. It is also a region of incredibly rich biodiversity with more vertebrate species and endemic vertebrates than elsewhere in Africa. There is a great need to manage this region as one contiguous habitat with adjoining areas in Uganda such as Kibale National Park, Kigezi, Kyambura and Toro-Semliki Wildlife Reserves, and Kasyoha-Kitomi and Kalinzu Forest Reserves (see figure 1).

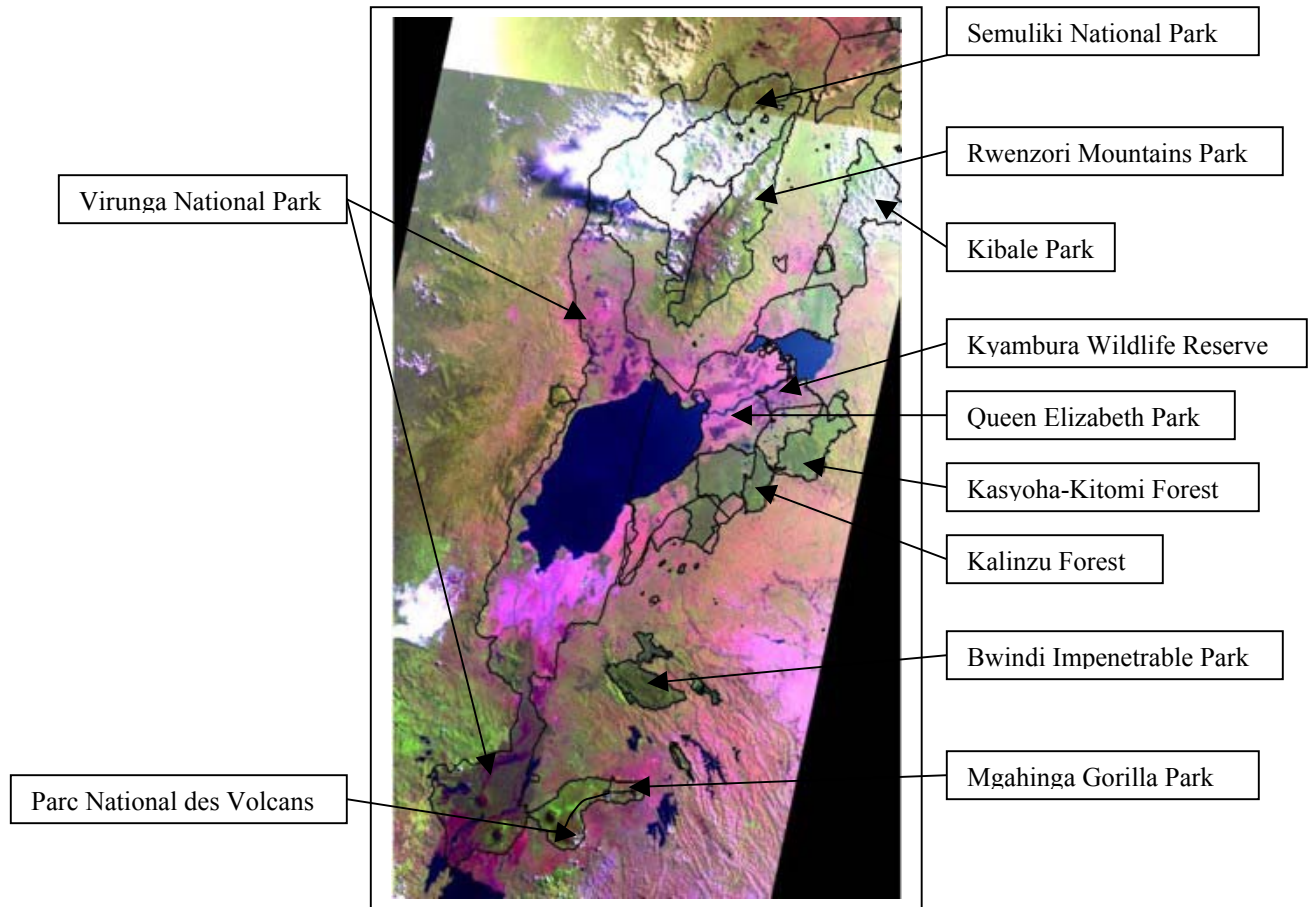


Figure 1. Map of the ‘Greater Virunga Landscape’ based on satellite images provided by NASA INFORMS Project (Nadine Laporte, Woods Hole Research Centre).

2. TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION AND AIMS OF MEETING

The International Gorilla Conservation Programme (a consortium of AWF, FFI and WWF) has been working in this region to develop transboundary collaboration between ICCN, UWA and the Office Rwandais de la Tourisme et Parcs Nationaux (ORTPN). They have focused on mountain gorilla habitat and hence the Virunga Volcanoes and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. In discussions between IGCP and WCS it was recognized that a similar process needed to take place in other parts of the ‘Greater Virunga Landscape’ (we use this phrase here to identify the Virunga park and connected protected areas although this is not fixed and is open to discussion) and subsequent discussions with UWA and ICCN showed that they had already started informal collaboration further north around Queen Elisabeth National Park. WCS had raised some funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to support transboundary collaboration north of Virunga Volcanoes and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and this meeting was held to help develop a more formal process of transboundary collaboration in this region and to identify needs for support.

The meeting brought together the two protected area authorities UWA and ICCN together with District officials and NGOs/projects working in the region.

The aims of the meeting were:

- To share what each of us is doing in the region and the main threats for conservation at each site
- Develop a more formal process of transboundary collaboration between UWA and ICCN for PNV north, center and east, QENP, RMNP and SNP.
- Discuss specific next steps that could be supported with funds that WCS has raised

The first day focused on the first aim and included presentations from each conservation group/project working in the region. The second day focused on identifying the threats and transboundary actions that could mitigate these.

3. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE PROTECTED AREAS

Presentations were given by the wardens of each protected area about the current situation on the ground. These are summarized here.

3.1 *Virunga North-N. Mushenzi*

Mr Mushenzi stressed the biodiversity composition of the region, which basically has the same natural resource composition as QENP, SNP, RMNP except for the okapis, bongos and eastern lowland gorillas which are found in Virunga North.

3.1.1 *Threats*

- Population pressure
- Poor management policies on land. Shifting cultivation is mainly practiced in this region
- Price fluctuation for cash crops
- Pests and diseases which affect coffee yields
- Political instability
- Effect of war, this has led to increased poverty, illegal possession of guns, institutional vulnerability, destruction of infrastructure, illegal settlements and other related problems.

3.1.2 Current activities

- Workshop with local authorities
- Ranger training
- Ranger equipment
- Law enforcement
- Sensitization in collaboration with partners
- Micro projects
- Boundaries are being demarcated

3.1.3 Recommendations for transboundary collaboration

- Design policies for sharing information on animal movements, poaching and coordinated patrols.
- Design anti-poaching policies for the region.
- Tourism development i.e. develop the region into one tourism circuit.
- Improvement of managerial policies by providing logistical support and find out means by which communication (transport) within the region can be harmonized.

3.2 Virunga central and east – J. Mirindi

Lulimbi in the eastern sector was created in 1970 as a research station for research on ornithological studies, ecology and biology of hippos and biodiversity research.

3.2.1. Problems with management

- Law enforcement problem whereby courts normally free convicted poachers
- No compensation is provided for crop raiding victims
- Extra civil services which are not concerned with fishing exist within fishing villages.
- Unemployment problems

3.2.2 Main threats

- Fire
- Lack of dialogue between the park and the local population
- Poaching both subsistence and commercial
- Illegal settlements

3.2.3 Current activities

- Law enforcement
- Material equipment seized from illegal owners
- Re-acquisition of land from illegal settlers especially cattle grazing communities
- Some illegal fishing villages have been destroyed

3.2.4 Recommendations for transboundary collaboration

- Equip forest guards to combat illegal poaching by providing tents, uniforms, GPS, communication gadgets and patrol vehicles.
- Promote transboundary patrols
- Permanent salary to motivate rangers
- Improve on collaborative measures with local communities
- Sensitization of political authorities
- Compensation budget for crop raiding

3.3 Queen Elizabeth National Park - Louis Onzima

3.3.1 Shared threats

- Poaching
- Resource harvesting
- Bush fires
- Encroachment
- Political instability/bandits
- Expansion of fishing communities

3.3.2 Recommendations for transboundary collaboration

Animals do not respect national boundaries cross border management helps to track their movements which would lead to continued tourist flow in the region. Animal movement has threats attached to it for instance existence of increased poaching in some areas compared to others particularly hippos and elephants. In a recent incident poachers from Congo have used Uganda as an outlet with valid permits from the DRC.

3.4 Rwenzori Mountains National Park - James Okware

UWA is in process of formulating the management plan for the park - such a meeting would help to bring out some issues to be considered in the plan.

3.4.1 Main threats

- Unclear boundary
- Encroachment especially in Kyabalungira and Mpata
- Game poaching
- Limited political support
- Excessive use of resources especially *bamboo*, debarking of *Prunus africana* and *smilax*
- Lack of buffer zone
- Ad hoc and unregulated protected area resources
- Inadequate education equipment and material
- Problem animals
- Lack of integrated land use planning
- Lack of visitor information center

3.4.2 Recommendations for transboundary collaboration

- Flora and fauna in relation to general ecosystem changes e.g. snowline retreat and migratory patterns respectively.
- Development of a tourism plan for the park
- Collaborative resource use by raising awareness, law enforcement along transboundary area

3.5 Semuliki National Park - Moses Mapesa

The ecosystem of SNP is largely a forest surrounded by a Semuliki River on which a lot of fishing occurs. The forest is inhabited by the Batwa communities and the management of the forest needs to

take their needs and their impacts on the forest into account. A management plan has been set up based on policies and legislation currently in operation.

The park is managed together with neighboring Toro-Semliki Wildlife Reserve an area which has faced an influx of refugees due to the war in Eastern Congo.

UWA is keen to seeing collaboration between ICCN and UWA work for the benefit of the local and global community. He cited the Parks Congress which he said supports the objectives of the workshop and called upon collaborative agencies (IUCN, UNESCO, WWF, WCS and others) to participate in this regard.

He suggested that a common approach should be applied for it saves time and resources.

3.5.1 Problems that need addressing

- Language problem
- Security concerns

4. THREATS ANALYSIS AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THREATS

4.1 The process used to identify transboundary actions for conservation

A process was used to identify actions that are needed to support transboundary collaboration as follows:

- define and map threats to the integrity of these sites
- identify threats that have transboundary causes or effects
- develop actions that can mitigate the transboundary threats.

Working groups were formed to look at four regions: PNVi center, east and south; PNVi north; QENP; and SNP & RMNP. Each group identified and mapped the threats to their region and identified the causes of the threats. The groups then identified those threats and actions which had a transboundary source/effect. This was reported back to the whole group for discussion. The group then divided into two to look at 1. QENP and the bordering sectors in PNVi and 2. PNVi north, RMNP and SNP and identify actions that could be taken jointly to improve the conservation of these regions.

4.2 Threats

For each working group and region the threats and their causes were identified and these were mapped by the group on tracings of accurate maps of the parks. The threats and causes are summarized here in table form and the maps given as figures for each of the four regions analysed.

4.2.1. Virunga Park – Central, eastern and southern sectors

Threats and their causes:

Threat	Direct causes
Encroachment/Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population movements * - Demand for land - Lack of presence of ICCN
Cattle Grazing – eg Mikeno & Kiorirwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population movement * - Demand for pasture land
Armed Poaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presence of military and militias * - Proliferation of guns - Commerce
Traditional hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local livelihood needs *
Crop Raiding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pressures within park causing animals to flee outside * - No buffer zone - No appropriate management strategies
Charcoal and firewood - eg.Mikeno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livelihood needs * - Insufficient tree plantations - Lack of alternative sources
Timber harvesting – eg. Sarambwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate law enforcement - Population growth within fishing villages *
Fish landing sites – eg Lulimbi and Vitshumbi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commerce - Livelihood needs * - Inadequate law enforcement - Proliferation of army and civil services within villages
Uncontrolled fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poaching activities - Uncontrolled movement of people in park - Lack of appropriate management strategies
Weak Capacity of ICCN (an indirect threat) **	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political crisis - Lack of funding
Low involvement of communities (indirect threat) **	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of policies - Low funding

* can be addressed with transboundary collaboration; ** Should be addressed at local level but can be supported with regional activities.

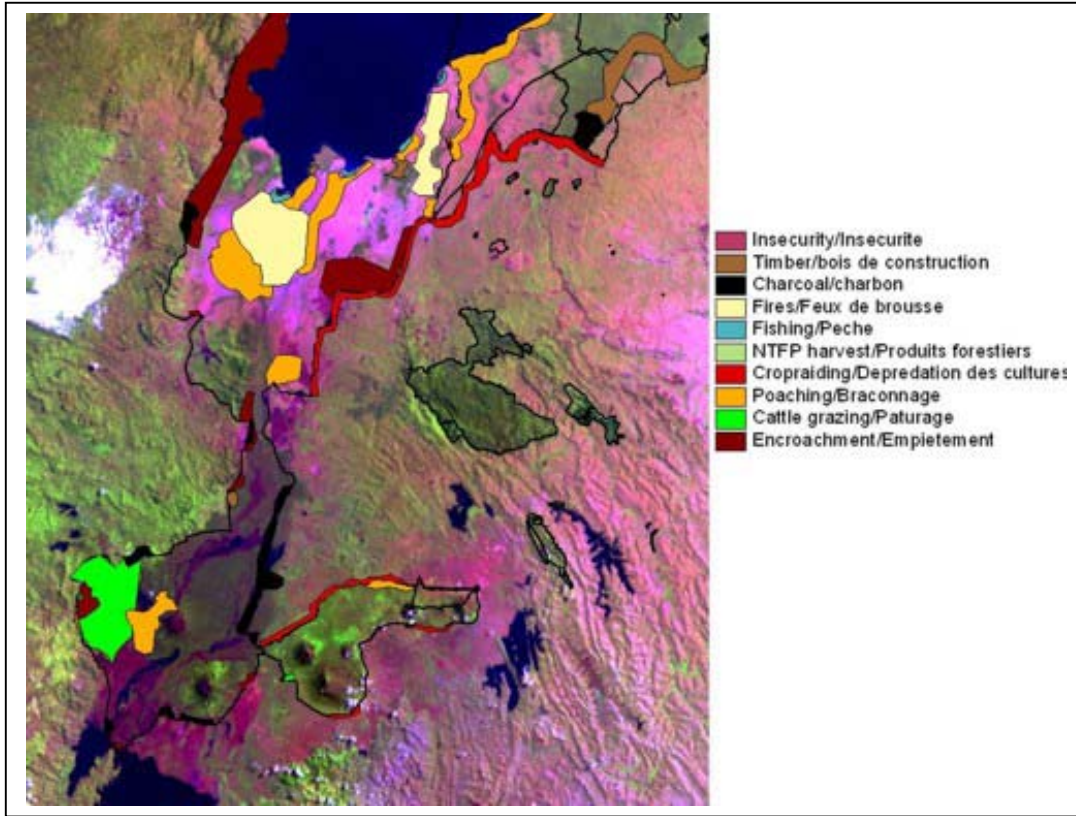


Figure 2. Threats mapped for the PNVi center, east and south

4.2.2. *Virunga Park – Northern sector*

Threats to Virunga north and their causes included:

Threats	Direct Causes	Status
Encroachment for agriculture - Lubiliya - Mayangose/Mavivi - Kyavinyonge - Tshiaberimu - Kanyatsi	- Poor law enforcement * - Demand for land - Poor law enforcement - Movement due to insecurity - Unemployment - Overpopulation - Political stirring - Demand for land/overpopulation - Poor law enforcement	- 80% enforced - 5% enforced - 50%enforced - 70% enforced - not tackled yet
Grazing cattle - Karuruma	- Political settlement by Uganda *	- not tackled yet
Armed poaching – savannah	- Presence of several armed groups	- 25-30% enforced
Lowland forested area	- Presence of bandits *	- not tackled yet
Firewood collection - Mavivi	- Commerce of coffee and papaya * - No alternatives	- Law being enforced at present

Charcoal making – Lubilya, Kyavinyonge, Mavivi	- Poor law enforcement * - Commerce	- 40% enforced
No patrol access/ Insecurity – Rwenzori and Semliki	- Insecurity/armed bandits *	- not tackled yet
Illegal fishing – Lake Edward	- Poor law enforcement of fishing laws *	- not tackled yet
Human settlement in park – Lubilya - Kavinyonge	- Poor law enforcement - Demand for land	- 80% enforced - 50% enforced
Uncontrolled fires - Kararumya	- Management of pastures *	- not tackled yet
Trafficking of live animals	- Demand *	- not tackled yet

*- threats that can be tackled using transboundary collaboration

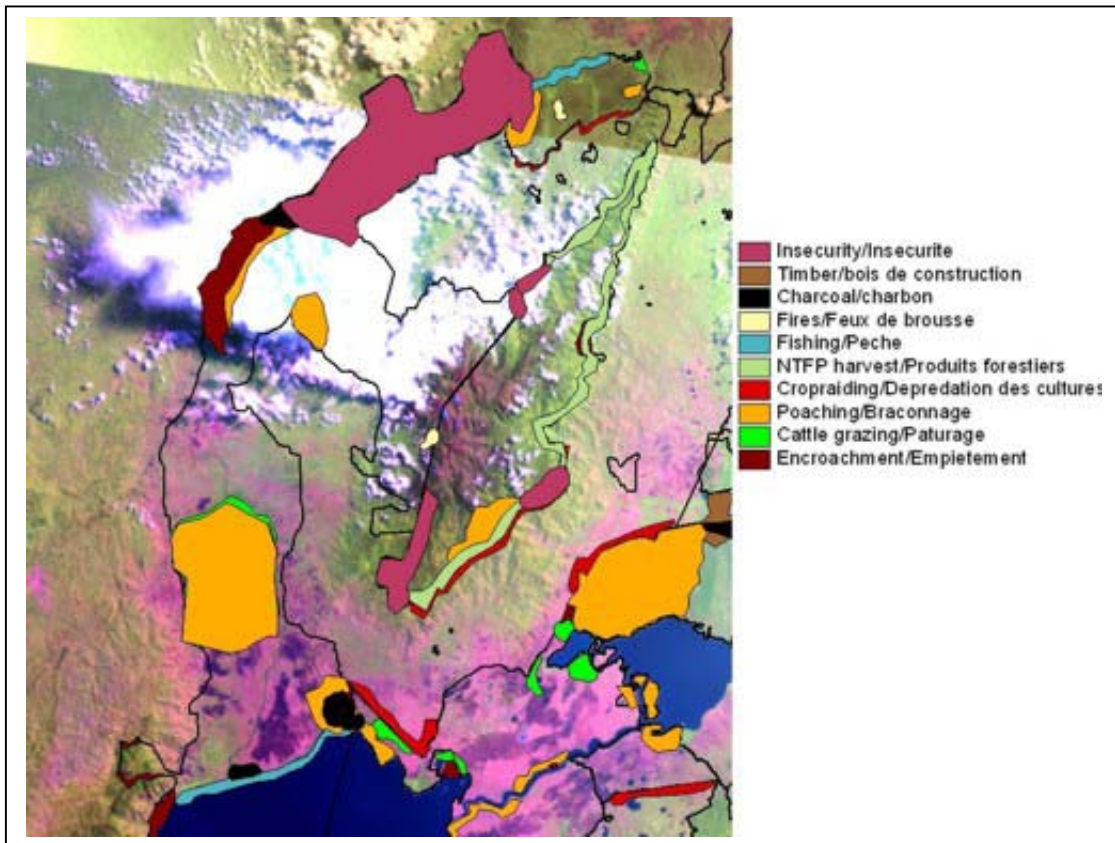


Figure 3. Threats mapped for the PNVi north.

4.2.3 Queen Elizabeth National Park

Threats to QENP include:

Threats	Causes
Cattle grazing – Katwe, Nyakatonzi, Kahendero, Hamukungu	- overstocking - Low productivity stock - Cultural attitudes
Armed poaching * – Kazinga channel, L. George shores and islands, Kyambura, Kasese town, Kyondo	- Commerce - Illegal arms and insecurity
Traditional hunting - Ishasha river, Kigezi, L. Edward flats, Kyambura, Kiyanga	- Subsistence needs - Cultural reasons
Crop Raiding * - Nyanga, Rushoroza, Kibimbiri, Mpondwe, Kikarara, Kyambura, Karusandara, Rwehingo	- Elephants, baboons, bushpigs - Close human settlement - Palatable crops grown at boundary
Patrols cannot enter areas * - international borders	- No agreement between countries to allow access - Few staff in field
Timber harvesting - Dura, Maramagambo, Kiyanga, Kigezi WR	- Demand for timber - Poor monitoring by FD
Charcoal making - Dura, Kayanja/Mpondwe, Kigezi WR, Kikoni	- Commerce
Settlement - Fishing villages, Mweya peninsula, Kasese and Ishasha town	- Uncontrolled human population
Uncontrolled fires - Widespread in grasslands	- Poaching - Activities of people adjacent to park - No fire management plan
Fish landing sites * - Fishing villages	- Political pressure
Roads and highways* - Kasese-Mbararara, Ishasha-Katunguru, Ishasha-Kameme, Rwenshama-Rukungiri, Mpondwe-Katwe	- Speeding on roads - Inability to check traffic

*- threats that can be tackled using transboundary collaboration

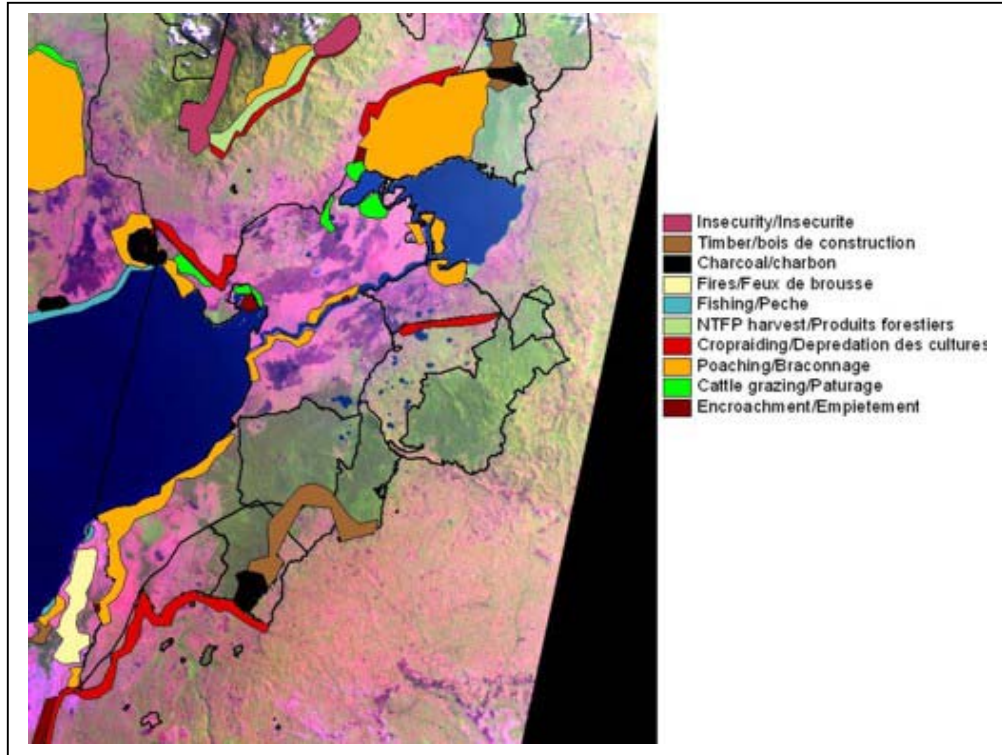


Figure 4. Threats mapped for the QENP

4.2.4. Rwenzori mountains and Semuliki parks

Threats and their causes to RMNP and SNP included:

Threats	Causes
Encroachment - Mbata and Kasangali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unclear and unmarked boundaries - Political incitement - Demand for land - Insecurity in neighbourhood - Kilembe Mines concession - Refugees *
Crop raiding - Kyarumba, Kilembe, Bugiye, Thandiro, Kitholu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monkeys, pigs and buffalos - No buffer zone - Cutting of migratory routes - Migrations *
Poaching (armed and traditional) - Kilembe and Rukoki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand for meat * - Low number of patrols * - Culture - Vigilantes *
Resource harvesting – NTFPs - Bundibugiyi, Kazingo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction - Fuelwood - Medicine - Food

Settlements	- Batwa in Semuliki
Illegal Fishing *	- Commerce - Livelihood needs
Uncontolled fires - Kitandara	- Hunting
Antipersonnel mines	- Rebels and UPDF
Oil exploration *	- Demand for energy - Development
Geothermal energy	- Demand for energy
Inconsistent policies, legislation and regulations *	- No regional strategy in place
Poor communication *	- Lack of common language
Trade in wildlife and wildlife products *	- Demand from outside

*- threats that can be tackled using transboundary collaboration

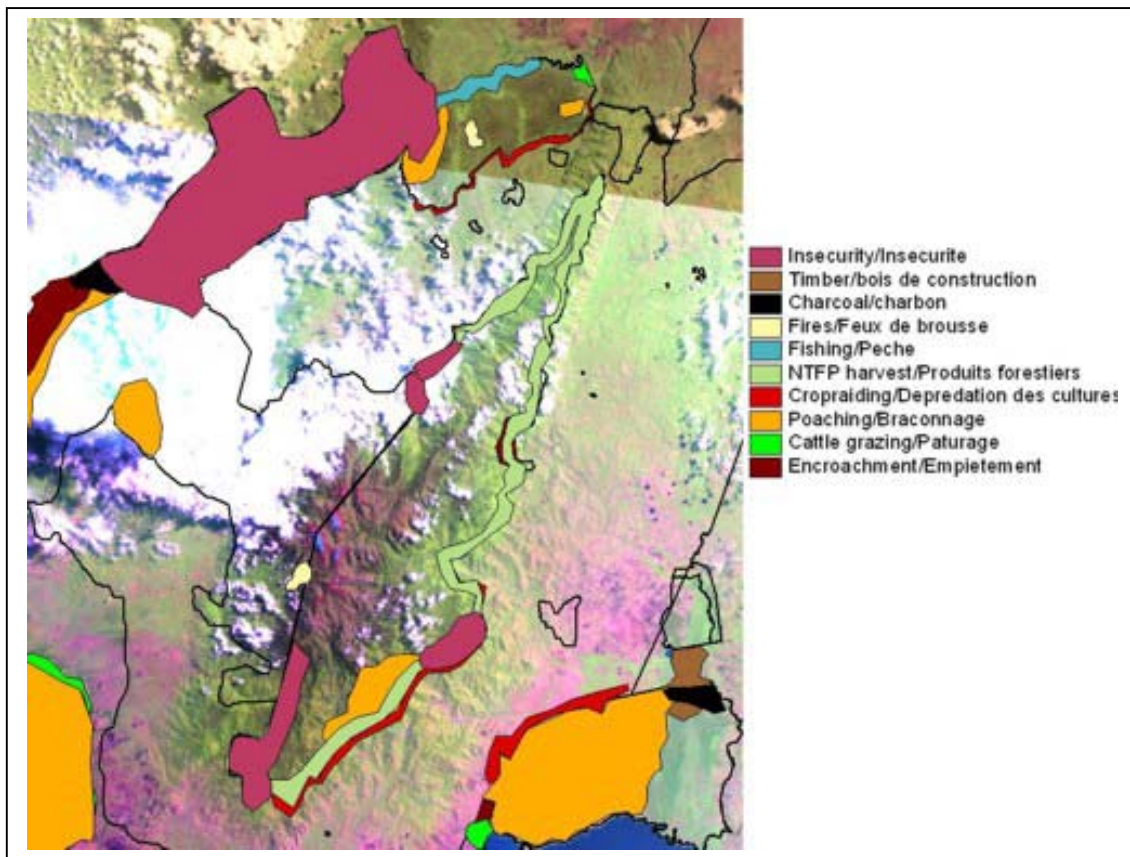


Figure 5. Threats mapped for the RMNP and SNP

4.3 Transboundary actions to mitigate threats

4.3.1 PNVi center, east, south – QENP, Kyambura & Kigezi WR

Transboundary actions that were identified as needed to mitigate the threats identified for Queen Elizabeth National Park and contiguous areas in DRC:

Threats	Actions	Responsibility
Encroachment and settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross border communications - Coordinated patrols - Inter-state agreement on joint transboundary management of 'Greater Virunga landscape' 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN and partners
Cattle Grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education of authorities - Coordinated patrols 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN
Armed and traditional poaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated patrols - Information sharing - Cross-border communication - Inter state agreement on transboundary management 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN
Crop Raiding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative monitoring and research established - Share experiences - Coordinated building of barriers 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN & Partners
Charcoal and firewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated patrols - Information sharing - Alternative energy sources 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN & Partners
Timber harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated patrols - Information sharing - Effective law enforcement 	UWA, ICCN, ORTPN, Forest Department, & partners
Fish Landing sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated patrols - Effective law enforcement 	UWA, ICCN, Fisheries Department
Institutional Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional training (language, monitoring, law enforcement, community conservation, tourism etc) - Networking 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN & Partners
Low involvement of communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benefit sharing - Study tours - Extended community programme - Establish dialogue committees 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN & Partners
Roads and species trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information sharing - Check points manned by rangers on key roads 	- UWA, ICCN, ORTPN & Partners

4.3.2 PNVi north, Rwenzori Mountains and Semuliki parks

Transboundary actions that were identified to mitigate the threats identified for Rwenzori mountains, Semuliki National Parks and Virunga north:

Threat	Action	Responsibility
Encroachment	- Public awareness - Law enforcement - Better demarcation of park boundaries	- ICCN, UWA
Poaching	- Law enforcement - Public awareness to the vigilantes	- ICCN, UWA
Livestock grazing	- Law enforcement - Public awareness - Alternative sources of meat (goats, rabbits, chicken etc)	- ICCN, UWA
Charcoal burning	- Law enforcement - Public awareness	- ICCN, UWA
Illegal fishing	- Law enforcement - Public awareness	- ICCN, UWA
Wildlife Trade	- Law enforcement - Public awareness	- ICCN, UWA
Lack of Regional Protocol/ formal agreement	- Legislation – harmonization between countries - Coordination structure	- ICCN, UWA, Ministries

Further details about some of these actions were provided by the group as follows:

- a. Law enforcement – communication equipment, legal framework for joint transboundary activities, ranger training
- b. Public Awareness – Radio broadcasts, Transboundary meetings, local authority meetings, community based organization meetings
- c. Illegal fishing law enforcement – provide appropriate nets
- d. Wildlife trade – need to exchange official documents that licence trade and translate these so that officers on each side of the border know the law on the other side.

Some discussion was had following the presentation of each of these series of actions. Of particular note were the following:

- a. The cattle and their herders that have been settled in the Virunga Park (north) – there is a need for the RDC Kasese and the Administration in Beni to meet together and discuss how these people can be returned to Uganda (if that is where they are from – they speak English). It was made clear that any settlement on their part in DRC was not Government policy in Uganda
- b. Joint patrols and communication requires agreements between governments. One such agreement that might help is the Lusaka Accord which Uganda has signed but DRC and Rwanda have not signed. If these countries were to sign it would make transboundary collaboration easier.

- c. If contiguous sites became World Heritage sites so that the whole landscape was covered by this status then it may be possible to lobby for better coordination and communication between sites.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In any workshop the results achieved will be preliminary and require further work and thinking to refine the ideas. This workshop is no different. However, the participants present felt that useful ideas had come from the deliberations and they were enthusiastic to implement some of these soon.

The threats analysis highlights the plight of these parks and particularly the imperiled nature of the central, eastern and northern sectors of the Virunga Park which are receiving very little financial support at present. UWA is in a position to help ICCN much more at present in the management of the Virunga park because of this situation, however there were areas identified where ICCN could also help UWA tackle the threats to their parks, in particular with the wildlife trade and poaching/illegal fishing activities.

Specific actions

Specific transboundary actions that were identified for many of the threats and which came up repeatedly included:

1. Better communication between ICCN and UWA – through telephone/radios – however it was pointed out that radios in DRC cannot use frequencies from Uganda legally and vice versa. – agreements between governments are needed to allow this
2. Better coordination of law enforcement – even if rangers cannot cross borders a coordinated patrolling can help stop poachers who habitually flee across the border
3. Joint training of staff would be beneficial and could save costs
4. Training in a common language is needed so that communication is made easier – either English/French or Swahili
5. There is a need for meetings to be arranged between Senior district officials and ICCN, UWA to help solve problems that arise – a case in point is the herdsmen and their cattle in Virunga North.
6. There is a need to develop formal agreements between Governments in each country to move towards a transboundary park status for the Greater Virunga Landscape.
7. Education and awareness raising are essential if this region is to survive the pressures it faces.

Next steps identified

Three main follow up actions were identified at the meeting to build upon the results and to move ahead with the process:

1. Bring together the wardens of PNV center, east, south, north, RMNP, QENP and SNP to discuss the ideas from this workshop and to develop a plan of action with specific activities that are agreed to – 9th July 2003 was proposed as the first meeting date
2. Work on developing a coordination structure for transboundary collaboration through e-mail discussion initially and then through more formal agreements and meetings – WCS to develop this discussion based on IGCPs framework
3. Pull together information that will help promote the ‘Greater Virunga Landscape’ and raise funds for the region from the major donors – WCS to develop this with input from all present.

APPENDIX 1. PRESENTATIONS

Opening remarks by the Executive Director, UWA

The workshop was officially opened by the Executive Director of UWA Dr. Arthur Mugisha. The ED appreciated the effort by the WCS in organizing the workshop and the need for transboundary collaboration. He however cautioned the participants to be focused in their discussion so as to help UWA achieve its mission.

- He urged participants to focus on long term plans to ensure sustainability of conservation and development.
- To develop policies that will help develop a vision and champion or spearhead the way forward.
- To integrate information technology in the process of conservation and see how it can help in achieving conservation objectives.
- Lastly, he emphasized the need for monitoring and evaluation where he pointed out that conservation organizations are normally “obsessed” with the means and put little attention on following up their progress.

Conservation History of Virunga National Park - Deo Mbula

The Park is the oldest in Africa having been gazetted in 1925. It initially covered Eastern Zaire (DRC) but later was extended to include Rwanda. Virunga National Park was formed to protect the mountain gorillas and then extended northwards to its current extent. The Hunting reserve to the east has been partially lost to people settling within it. He cited political strife as having been the main cause of the threats from the time it was gazetted to date.

Threats

- Separation of eastern part of Congo from Kinshasa has caused serious management problems.
- Political instability has caused loss of equipment this has incapacitated patrol activities in the park.
- Military deployment has crippled conservation efforts for it has increased encroachment on the park.

Current activities

- Areas to be protected have been demarcated
- Communication system in PNV south, centre and east has been re-established

Recommendations for collaborative management

Enhance partnership between ICCN and UWA

Provide material support to ICCN staff and devise means of curbing encroachment.

Lessons learned from their work in Virunga Volcanoes and BINP and the government process to develop transboundary collaboration for virunga park and contiguous Protected areas - Anecto Kayitare

- TransBoundary Natural Resource Management is a recent concept – not just conservation but also development
- Allows an ecosystem approach to conservation
- Number of areas increasing since 1988
- Different definitions of TBNRM –does one protected area affect another only or do each affect each other.
- Different levels of cooperation:
 - No cooperation
 - Communication
 - Notification of actions in emergencies
 - Collaboration – communication and meetings
 - Coordination of planning
 - Full cooperation
- Good practice in TBNRM
- Identifying common values
- Involving and benefiting local people
- Obtaining and maintaining support of decision-makers
- Promoting coordinated and cooperative activities
- Achieving coordinated planning and protected area development
- Developing cooperative agreements
- Working towards funding sustainability
- Monitoring and assessing programmes
- Dealing with tension or armed conflict

IGCP approach in Virunga Volcanoes and Bwindi – bottom up with field based collaboration. Now moving to formalising regional collaboration - MOU developed between three park authorities in Nairobi.

Perspective of transboundary cooperation, protected area experience - Pontious Ezuma

- Collaboration between countries has helped tackle certain threats, in particular poaching of infant gorillas.

- Language is still the main barrier on effective collaboration
- The exploration of oil poses a threat to conservation and tourism in the region.
- It was suggested that Swahili should be promoted since it is easier to cope with by either parties compared to French. This however did not cater for collaboration with donors who are more comfortable with French/English compared with Swahili.

Presentation about WCS landscape programme and activities in the Albertine Rift - Dr. Andrew Plumptre

WCS activities in this region are focused on conservation of the biodiversity of the Albertine Rift. This area is very rich in species and of global conservation concern, having the largest number of endemic vertebrates and total numbers of species on mainland Africa. The Greater Virunga Landscape is probably the richest contiguous set of protected areas in Africa and of great importance for conservation. Virunga Park is currently in dire straits and needs the support that transboundary conservation could give it. Similarly parks in Uganda would benefit from joint collaboration.

WCS is supporting conservation through

- applied research on the biodiversity of the Albertine Rift both between and within protected areas
- support to training national protected area institution staff – focusing on monitoring and research needs
- direct support to protection of sites in Rwanda and DRC..

WWF programme and plans in DRC and Uganda – D. Duli & Y. Bisidi

Activities in the region

WWF is a conservation organization that promotes forest conservation through involvement of local communities in revenue sharing, policy formulation. Has supported Rwenzori Mountains Park since the early 1990s but had to stop during the recent ADF take-over of the park. It is planning a new phase of support to this park and is helping with the new management planning process. WWF has also worked with communities around PNVi for many years.

WWF is working using 5 main policies as far as conservation is concerned

1.) To guarantee the integrity of Virunga National Park including all its habitats. It is involved in the following activities;

- Re gazettement the park
- Demarcation of boundaries
- Monitoring and evaluation of park activities

- 2.) Socio-economic programmes by involving local people in park management
- 3.) Capacity building of ICCN staff and community leaders
- 4.) Contribution to transboundary activities
- 5.) Enhancement of the image of the Institute
- 6.) Work with IGCP to improve on management activities

Elephants, crops and people (ECP) - Wilber Wejuli

Objectives

- Monitoring Ishasha elephants population, dynamics and distribution
- Monitoring transmigration of elephants in Ishasha
- Elephant Human interaction in Ishasha
- Capacity building

Activities

Monitor elephant movements in relation to their population dynamics and distribution. The project concentrates on checking elephant movements and the socio-economic aspects of their movements such as crop raiding. Been monitoring elephants since April 2001.

Recommendation for transboundary collaboration

The project has no legal mandate to monitor elephants across the border this would help in breaking the barriers if implemented. There is a need to monitor movements both ways to help with population estimates and monitoring for MIKE.

CARE - Edward Mukakanya

CARE has been working with communities around Lake George and Queen Elizabeth National Park. Addressing unsustainable utilization of Natural Resources from the park and lake. Achievements include: Support to development of 10 year management plan for QENP; tree planting, development of local community drama groups, tackling the crop-raiding problems around QENP with fences and ditches, worked with communities and UWA to develop resource use agreements and to develop revenue sharing mechanisms.

Recommended cross border collaboration to include Congo since care is not applying the socio-economic policies in QENP on the side of Congo.

DFGF Europe Programme in DRC - I. Chifundera

DFGF Europe are supporting the conservation of gorillas on Mt Tsiaberimu. Activities include support to ICCN for rangers, monitoring of the gorilla population and working with local communities around the Virunga Park to reduce their impacts on the forest.

Parcs pour la paix programme - C. Sikubwabo

Objectives

To promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in times of conflict by creating ‘peace parks’ and supporting the improvement of local community livelihoods.

This project focuses on Virunga, Virunga Volcanoes and Kibira forests.

Activities

- Creating an alert system for the parks
- Creating a code of conduct for park management in times of insecurity
- Informed park authorities about the biodiversity of the parks
- Provided support to local communities

Supported boundary demarcation.