

UGANDA BIODIVERSITY FUND

For now & the future

Stakeholder Engagement and Accountability Report

UBF DAY - 11th August 2023

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BFP	Biodiversity Funding Program
CBO	Community-Based Organisations
DLG	District Local Government
ECO	Ecological Christian Organization
EU	European Union
FIMMF	Fixed-Income Money Market Funds
FY	Financial Year
KBA	Key Biodiversity Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NU	Nature Uganda
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UBF	Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

Message from the **Executive Director**



UBF's role is to mobilize, manage and channel resources for biodiversity conservation. I lead the team that does this. I am a professional conservation scientist and I engage a lot in initiating and nurturing partnerships, in addition to implementing institutional protocols that keep UBF focused and credible in its biodiversity conservation funding mandate.

In the next five years, UBF shall be an organization that needs no introduction in the conservation space. We are already being recognized across the country for our role in supporting government agencies, civil society, corporations, and private actors in the natural resources management field. This should yield revitalised ecosystems, reduction in threats to faunal and floral species and a more harmonious relationship between humans and nature.

We are intensifying our resource mobilization efforts to reach private foundations and speaking to the business world to unlock private sector funding for biodiversity conservation. We are also firming up strategic partnerships with the private sector and mandated government agencies to leverage synergies and open up opportunities for registering greater conservation impact than what we would register working alone. The future is bright.

We appreciate all the stakeholders for the contributions they are making both individually and collectively to reverse the trends of nature degradation. Let me particularly mention the development partners such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU) who have trusted UBF with resources to be able to record the conservation achievements that we are proud of today.

Lastly, I want to thank the Board of Trustees and the staff of UBF for the commitment and hard work. Similarly, our implementing partners in the various regions of Uganda, we are proud of your hard work and resilience.

Ivan Amanigaruhanga

Executive Director

ABOUT UGANDA BIODIVERSITY TRUST FUND

1.1 Strategic Focus

Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund (UBF) was registered as an independent Trust in August 2016, under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1939. Establishment of a national Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) was rooted in the need to address the gap in conservation financing. UBF is governed by a Board of Trustees supported by a Management Team headed by an Executive Director. Its strategic direction is guided by its:

Mission

To mobilize financial resources for biodiversity conservation in Uganda.

Vision

Sustainably financed flourishing biodiversity for the benefit of the people of Uganda

1.1 Geographical Focus Areas

UBF is privileged to be open to working all over the nation. Much as this is a great privilege, it also comes with its own challenges. Working across the entire nation, to ensure the conservation of

critical resources, requires a lot in terms of resources. This calls for prioritising and laying specific strategies for achieving not only our Mission but to ensure that our Vision turns from being a picture of a far-distant future to becoming a reality.

Towards this, UBF developed a Biodiversity Funding Program (BFP) that not only guides issuance of grants but gives direction to fundraising efforts. The goal behind the BFP is to strengthen the linkage between biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods. This is because Uganda's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are heavily dependent on the goodwill of the communities who live within or around them. Most of these communities are heavily dependent on the resources that the KBA have to offer and are therefore well placed to ensure their sustainable utilisation. UBF understands that the KBA will not survive without the buy-in of the communities, and that community livelihoods would be greatly affected were the KBA to be totally degraded. There is a middle ground that brings balance, the sustainability point, and that is what UBF seeks to support.

Therefore, within the goal of strengthening linkages between biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods, UBF chose to focus on three major areas:



1. Conservation of habitats for flagship and endangered species.
2. Enhancing resilience of communities to climate change through Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Land Management (SLM), including Agroforestry, Woodlots, Agroecology, Climate Smart Agriculture; Ecosystem-based Adaptation; High-Value Indigenous Tree Species.
3. Reduction in Human-Wildlife Conflict through propagating already tested and successful approaches like Community Resilience Funds; coupled with Ecofriendly Business Development in the areas of Ecotourism, Apiary, woodlots, agroforestry, and others chosen according to relevancy in the target areas.

Although the UBF mandate is generally countrywide, in the short, to medium term, to concretize the gains already achieved, the focus is in four priority geographical areas:

1. The Mid-Albertine Rift
2. The Northern Uganda Region
3. The Karamoja Region
4. The Sango Bay-Lake Mburo Area

It is hoped that these approaches will move UBF a significant step forward in ensuring that Uganda's natural heritage will be sustained for our children and our children's children, many centuries down the road when we are no longer here.



2. OUR PARTNERS

UBF works with a multitude of partners consisting of government, non-governmental organisations (NGO), Community-Based Organisations (CBO), and the private sector, as well as donors, organisations that depend on natural resources as a source of raw materials, development partners, and the public who constantly interact with the environment. UBF in fulfilling its mandate of mobilizing, managing and channelling funds for biodiversity conservation requires all these partners to collaborate. Partnerships are the future of effective biodiversity conservation.

Development Partners

UBF received financial support from USAID, EU, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Bridge, and technical support from other organisations including National Environment Management Authority, WCS, National Forestry Authority, and Uganda Wildlife Authority who provide the back stopping in technical areas that enable the organisation to make significant progress.

Implementing Partners

The EU-funded project titled, "Restoring and Conserving the Degraded Fragile Ecosystems in the West Nile and Mid-Albertine Rift Regions", is run by a consortium comprised of UBF, WCS, Nature Uganda (NU), and Ecological Christian Organization (ECO). The purpose of the Project is to improve livelihoods and ecosystems' resilience to the impacts of refugees and climate change in the refugee-hosting landscapes.

Grantees

Under the Grants Program, UBF works with three (3) organisations: Forum for Kalongo Parish Women Association (FOKAPAWA), Advocates for Natural Resources Development (ANARDE) and Children of the World Foundation (COWF). They are implementing biodiversity conservation projects in and around Karenga Community Wildlife Area (KCWA).

Collaborating Institutions

UBF maintains active collaborative linkages with several Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and Institutions, District Local Governments (DLGs), Civil Society Organisations, and academic institutions. Memoranda of Understanding have been executed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Uganda Wildlife Authority, the Kingdom of Buganda, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Environmental Alert, and the DLGs of Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kyegegwa, Terego and Yumbe. Other Memoranda of Understanding are in the pipeline with the Ministry of Water and Environment, National Forestry Authority, and National Environment Management Authority.



3. VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Restoring Tree Cover and Improving Livelihoods in Refugee and Host Communities



Bandwa Isaac's Woodlot planted on 25ha on Awa Hill in Imvepi Refugee Settlement, Terogo District

Met Mr. Bandwa Isaac, a resident of Onai village, Odupi Sub-county in Terogo District. He owns a 25-hectare piece of land on Awa Hill within the gazetted area of the Imvepi refugee settlement. Bandwa inherited this land from his family 40 years ago. At that time, it was uncultivated, with various indigenous tree species. It supplied Bandwa's family and the neighbouring community with a place to graze goats, harvest wild fruits and herbs for medicine, timber to build their houses, firewood for fuel and ensured fertile soils for farming. However, with the influx of refugees from South Sudan, the trees were cut down to provide building materials, wood fuel for use and charcoal for sale in the neighbouring Arua District. The tall grass was harvested for roofing material. And quickly, the once bushy and fertile land was laid bare. This changed the community's landscape and resulted in a difficult life for Bandwa's family. 'In a space of five years we had no trees, the rain was scanty, the once cool place became extremely hot making living conditions for people and animals extremely unbearable,' Bandwa said while describing the climatic conditions of his village.



Mr Bandwa Isaac, 70, a landlord working with OPM on forest cover restoration in Imvepi refugee settlement.

UBF, with support from the EU, is working in five refugee settlements in West Nile



(Imvepi, Bidibidi and Rhino Camp Refugee Settlements) and the Mid-Albertine (Kyangwali and Kyaka Refugee Settlements) Region. The project trained 548 farmers from West Nile Region in woodlot establishment and management. To date, 409.5 hectares of woodlots have been established within the host communities and refugee settlements in the West Nile region.

In September 2022, Bandwa and other community members were trained and supported to plant trees. He planted over 2,000 trees on his 25 hectares of land. He mainly planted the Teak Tree. His hope is to provide wood fuel and modify the microclimate of the area. Bandwa is very optimistic that this is the sustainable solution for the climatic conditions of his area. 'I know that these trees will bring back the green cover that my village once enjoyed, and that the future generation will have enough firewood and building materials', he said.

He is also hopeful that from the sale of those trees, his family will not wallow in poverty anymore as they will have enough to better their living conditions, improve their health, and meet their school needs. Bandwa employs refugees, men and women from Imvepi Refugee Settlement, to give support in planting, spot weeding, and taking care of the trees. In turn, this boosts their livelihoods as they can get wages and grow their own crops.



Some of the Refugee Women hired to weed in Bandwa's Land

With support from the EU, UBF partnered with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to plant trees in heavily degraded sites in and around refugee settlements. This was in a bid to restore tree cover and improve livelihoods through provision of employment opportunities and a sustainable supply of wood fuel and timber for the affected refugee and host communities.

Through the OPM and selected landlords like Bandwa, UBF planted various tree species including Teak, Grevillea, Shea Nut, and fruit trees. UBF also trained farmers in proper tree planting techniques, including sustainable land management practises which allow them to till their land but also grow trees.

Mr. Ajusi Pascal the Settlement Commandant, Imvepi Refugee Settlement, noted that "human activity caused great impact on the Terego landscape. Government of Uganda appreciates EU support which is improving the landscape of the refugees and host communities".



Mr. Pascal Ajusi (second from Right) after meeting with UBF and Partners during the EU ROM Mission

Another significant result of EU support to OPM through UBF was that more people and organizations like UNHCR and local leaders came on board to promote tree planting and provide seedlings for Imvepi Refugee Settlement. Mr Ajusi also made assurances that the government was ready to work with landlords to ensure that there was equal benefit sharing from the trees for all parties involved. 'We are working out a 50 by 50 per cent benefit sharing where 50 per cent goes to the landlord and the rest is shared among refugees and the host community at 30 and 20 per cent respectively' he said. The Settlement Commandant also indicated that OPM was now working on changing the culture of ownership through empowering refugees to form Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) to save money and do other business.

These interventions, it is hoped, will be sustained to ensure that the green cover of West Nile and the Mid-Albertine Rift is not only sustained, but there is a strong linkage with improvement of both host and refugee community livelihoods.



BALIKURUNGI'S RESILIENCE FOUND IN HIS "GOLDEN TREES"

Four years ago, when Augustin Balikurungi received thirty-one tree seedlings, he was a man with a plan, hopeful that he would have a woodlot worth the work he was ready to put into it. He planted the seedlings and had a hundred percent survival rate. He subsequently welcomed the idea of installing six traditional beehives donated to him by UBF through Mid-western Region Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (MICOD), one of the subgrantees that received funding from USAID. Following this, he had four consecutive harvests and was able to sell his honey earn some good income.

However, disaster struck in 2022 when his beehives were burnt down, suspectedly by a neighbor. When UBF visited him early in 2023, Augustin told his story but was very upbeat – he still managed to circumvent the disastrous situation of 2022 and invested in piggery with the money from the honey he had sold. His thoughts were, "these pigs, just as the bees, will not harm the environment". Augustin did not stop at buying pigs but bought ninety seedlings with his profit from pig farming and expanded his woodlot.



"With these trees, I can't go wrong. They will not only improve the environment and provide shade but will provide income through fuelwood and timber".

Augustin Balikurungi, May 2023.

He hopes to expand it even further for he dreams of producing enough wood to meet the community need for wood products while earning himself more money. Thus, Augustin is happily making his mark in sustainably and inclusively conserving biodiversity for his benefit and that of his community.



4. FUNDRAISING AND INCOME

As a Conservation Trust Fund, UBF depends on her ability to mobilise funds for biodiversity conservation. UBF provides a platform through which different entities, including the Government of Uganda, Development Partners, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, and many other agencies can contribute funds for wise investment in biodiversity conservation. The approach is all-inclusive and includes both traditional and innovative approaches to fundraising.

To achieve set targets for Sinking Funds, UBF mainly relies on responding to calls for proposals. On the other hand, to build up her Endowment Fund, UBF relies on contributions from Foundations, Private Sector Entities, Development Partners, and the Public through crowdfunding and other avenues of giving.

Planned approaches and strategies to grow the fund to realise the planned target have been through:

1. Investments – UBF continued to invest and reinvest funds collected / interest earned in bonds, treasury bills, unit trusts and Fixed-Income Money Market Funds (FIMMF) to ensure growth over the years. FIMMF is a fixed-term investment that is ideal for investors seeking investment in fixed income, as well as those seeking fixed income securities e.g., treasury bills and fixed bank deposits. FIMMF has competitive returns that are higher than bank deposits and treasury bills.
2. Crowdfunding – The required infrastructure was developed and accessible through UBF's website. Anyone who has a heart for conservation can now donate towards their favourite cause like the "Save the Chimpanzee" and "E Kibira Kya Kabaka Initiative" (Buganda Kingdom Royal Forest).
3. Carbon Trade – UBF cultivated new partnerships and continued to look out for new opportunities in this rewarding area.
4. Private sector Engagement – The private sector is pivotal and significant in complementing public sector investment into biodiversity conservation. This is through unlocking their potential by creating sustainable conservation-led economies around them. UBF, in partnership with Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), initiated development of a program to mitigate effects of environmental degradation that is due to different businesses. The private sector actors will thus be afforded an opportunity to contribute significantly towards environmental restoration.



5. Networking – UBF is a member of the Consortium of African Funds for the Environment (CAFÉ), the National Renewable Energy Platform, serving on the Finances Working Group, and is poised to join the Global for Ever Green Alliance (GEA) and to obtain accreditation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
6. Cultivation, which entails continuous donor and prospects engagement to deepen understanding, share resources, articles, and stories about issues that matter most to them, inviting them to activities and events, and asking them to share their thoughts and opinions via social networks.
7. Qualification: UBF examines the donor landscape and uses that information to guide the asks. Information that was particularly helpful included: donation history, financial resources, areas of involvement, and interests, and giving methods.
8. Solicitation: Donations are solicited based on what is known and is tailored to the donor or prospect based on information gathered during the first stages of the fundraising cycle.
9. Recognition: UBF recognises the importance of acknowledging donors' contributions and letting them know how their donation made a difference and helped the organisation in reaching its goals.



5 THE UBF TEAM

5.1 The Board of Trustees

UBF is governed by a ten-member Board of Trustees with professional expertise in biodiversity conservation, environmental and natural resource management, ecology, law, communications, finance & investment, and program development.



Brendah Mpanga
Vice Chairperson



Dr. Helga Rainer
Board Chairperson



Mr. Elly Mugumya
Board Secretary



Ms. Edith Kabesime
Member



Mr. Stephen Mwine
Member



Mr. Bob Mugerwa
Member



Dr. Arthur Mugisha
Member



Dr. Mark Infield
Member



Mr. Francis Ogwal
Member



Mr. David Semakula
Member



5.2 The Management Team

The Board of Trustees is supported by a Management Team.



Ivan Amanigaruhanga
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Apophia Atukunda
HEAD OF PROGRAMS



Stephen Mukanga
FINANCE & OPERATIONS MAN-
AGER



Levand Turyomurugyendo
PROJECTS MANAGER



Winnie Nabatanzi
FINANCE OFFICER



Herbert Mwambu
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER



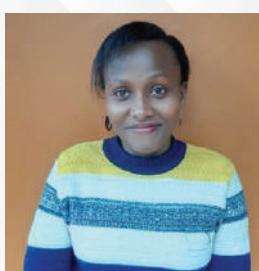
Posiano Musiime
PROGRAM OFFICER



Okullu David
MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER



Gloria Birungi
COMMUNICATIONS &
PARTNERSHIP OFFICER



Irene Musekuru
HR AND ADMINISTRATION
OFFICER



Silvesta Cedo
LOGISTICS ASSISTANT



Otieno Thomas
OFFICE ASSISTANT



6. MESSAGES FROM STAFF

A chat with the UBF Management revealed their dreams and perspective about biodiversity conservation and how it is and can be financed.



*Dr Apophia Atukunda
Head of Programs*

Who are you within UBF?

I am a student of Transformational Leadership doing my best to bring transformation in the biodiversity conservation space. This is an area I have been working in for several decades. A lot of ground has been covered but there is still so much more that calls for an all-hands-on-deck kind of management situation.

The UBF Team is a highly interactive and “cross-pollinating” one, so to speak. However, each department has specific roles it leads on. I head UBF’s technical department that handles program development, planning, and implementation. We help in positioning UBF’s impact and ensuring

program alignment with the organisational mission and key strategic objective. The department provides inspirational and strategic leadership and guidance in the conceptualisation, development, and management of programs within the organisation’s strategic framework and policies. This includes quality assurance through monitoring, evaluation, learning and adaptation. We also support the building and maintaining of strategic stakeholder alliances and networks required to deliver high-impact programs. The department plays a key role in fundraising and maintains oversight of donor-funded projects.

Are there any special projects being funded by UBF?

USAID practically supported our birth and growth. UBF came into being in August 2016, with funding from the American People, channelled through WCS. We subsequently got direct funding for the period 2020 to 2025, with the main goal of further developing UBF into a strong sustainable entity that could generate and manage financing for biodiversity conservation nationwide. The capacity built with this support led to UBF attracting further funding from the EU for ecosystem restoration work in the Albertine Rift and West Nile as elaborated by the UBF Projects Manager. We also got funding from WCS to develop our Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework, and from RedLac (this is the network of the Latin America Environmental Conservation Trust Funds). The latter is supporting UBF in strengthening partnerships with the private



sector, most specifically working with them to develop cleaner production systems that are friendly to the environment. We expect two more projects that are supported by the private sector to come on board before this year ends.

There must be many opportunities and challenges encountered in mobilising and channelling funds for Biodiversity Conservation?

The challenges related to conservation financing are mainly related to the fluidity of focus from the donor agencies, leading to a misalignment between the donor and national priorities. This is further compounded by the increasing competition from the mushrooming non-profit organisations. There is a lot going on in this sector and the players are quite many. One must tread carefully to identify the serious players and separate them from those who are there for the games. Otherwise, the opportunities to make an impact are quite many and the sources of financing are many too. Before UBF establishes herself concretely through building a formidable Endowment Fund, these challenges will continue to impact organisational progress. The good thing is that they are not permanent. Once UBF has a significant Endowment Fund in place, the significance of fundraising in influencing corporate impact will diminish.

On the side of channelling funds, the opportunities to bring transformation on the ground are many. There are several community-based organisations with good standing that can be supported to work with communities to conserve critical biodiversity resources. However, too many opportunities can also be a challenge. The financing gap is wide, meaning there are many Key Biodiversity Areas that need support. The available funding is too limited to meet the need. In addition to this, the technical capacity of the CBOs that are actually on the ground is limited, meaning their ability to develop and execute a transformational project is inadequate. While this presents a challenge in project development and execution, it also presents an opportunity for capacity building. UBF purposes to build the capacity of indigenous organisations and has been doing so since its establishment, specifically in the Albertine, West Nile and Karamoja regions.

Is there anything to appreciate?

There is no way a Conservation Trust Fund, which UBF is, can succeed to bring about transformation while working solo. Partnerships and collaboration are critical. We appreciate those that have walked with us over these years, ranging from the government of Uganda that allowed us to operate legally in this space, the para-government organisations that welcomed us into their areas, the donors who entrusted us with their money, the local governments who accepted to work with us in their areas of jurisdiction, the civil society organisations through whom we brought impact to communities and ecosystems, and the private sector entities who have given us an ear and a chance to work together in building this nation. We thank you.

For Now, and the Future.



What is your role at UBF?

I am a Biodiversity Conservation Specialist, Environmentalist, and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. As a PM, I provide leadership and guidance in the implementation and management of UBF-financed and or collaboration Projects.



*Levand Turyomurugyendo
Projects Manager*

I am coordinating the consortium partners and other actors involved in the day-to-day implementation of the EU-financed Restoration and Conservation Project. The project is under implementation in within the landscapes of refugee settlements of the Mid Albertine region (Kikuube, Kamwenge, and Kikuube districts) and the West Nile region (in the districts of Terego and Yumbe). My purpose is to ensure delivery of the expected outcomes and outputs from the donor-funded projects and continuously work towards achieving impacts from those projects.

Please talk more about the EU Consortium.

Since February 2021, I have been coordinating consortium partners that include WCS, NU, and ECO to ensure that the €5.1 million EU-funded Action (project) titled Restoring and Conserving Degraded and fragile ecosystems for improved livelihoods among the refugees and host communities of the Mid-Albertine Rift and West Nile Regions is successfully implemented.

The project is addressing the increased Environmental and Ecosystem Degradation in the Refugee Hosting Districts of Uganda (RED) resulting from rapid population growth due to the influx of refugees. The overall goal of the Action is to increase environmental and natural resources protection by restoration and conservation of degraded natural resources (forests, wetlands, and woodlands), for improved livelihoods of the displaced populations and the host communities. Among others, the project is focusing on achieving the following outputs:

- 353 hectares (ha) of degraded protected forests, 400 ha of wetlands and riverbanks, and 17400 ha of savannah woodlands are restored and or conserved.
- Adoption of SLM, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Agroforestry practices is



increased in at least 5000 ha smallholder landholdings.

- At least 482 ha of woodlots are established to sustain the supply of fuelwood, building materials, and in future carbon credits.
- Capacity of CBOs/NGOs and DLGs to sustain the delivery of environmental and climate change mitigation and adaptation to farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises is built.
- Capacity of the private sector to add value to enterprises that support biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement is also built.

Do you feel appreciation for anyone?

On this auspicious day of celebrating the 7th anniversary of UBF, the Projects Manager profoundly and proudly associates with all partners and friends of UBF in the struggle of mobilizing financial resources that ensures sustainably financed flourishing biodiversity for the benefit of the people of Uganda. As a Projects Manager I thank all our international, national, and local partners in Biodiversity conservation and environment management, notably the USAID and EU that have provided a springboard for UBF to contribute to the sustainable and green development of Uganda. To the EU-funded Project consortium partners and all our partners (CSOs, districts, the steering committee, and the UBF staff) thank you for your support, collaboration, and cooperation in all the UBF undertakings. Happy anniversary celebrations.



Herbert Emmanuel Mwambu
Business Development Officer

Is crowdfunding worth the hype?

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising money from many people who each contribute a relatively small amount. It is becoming an increasingly popular source of support for biodiversity conservation. Raising funds is critical for conserving biodiversity and so is scrutinizing emerging financial mechanisms that may help achieve this goal. Anecdotal evidence indicates crowdfunding is being used to support activities needed for biodiversity conservation, yet its magnitude and allocation remain largely unknown.

A good example of where this system has worked can be gained by studying Chuffed.org, a global social justice crowdfunding platform that has supported communities, movements, non-profits, charities, and activists to raise over \$70M for over 12,000 projects around the world. Most of the projects for which funds are being raised include health issues, education, orphans, recreational and many others. Some of these have been executed in Uganda.

UBF might want to align itself with this platform and raise funds for biodiversity conservation. Even though crowdfunds raised have been modest relative to other conservation-finance mechanisms, its contribution is significant. Embraced with due care, crowdfunding could become an important financial mechanism for biodiversity conservation.

Opportunities to advance conservation through crowdfunding arise from its capacity to mobilize funds spatially and increase steadily over time, the inclusion of overlooked species, adoption by multiple actors, and funding of activities beyond research. Crowdfunding allows for projects to be delivered in different countries where their proponents and supporters are based. In other words, using this method, one can easily reach the entire world and ask for contribution to their cause.

Biodiversity conservation is increasingly important to the public and, through the rise of new platforms, information about it is becoming more accessible to everybody. By unveiling patterns behind conservation crowdfunding, researchers, environmental advocates, and policymakers alike can better harness the potential of this financing model to save the chimpanzee, the crested crane and other vulnerable, threatened, or endangered species, forest landscapes and wetlands.

UBF has established a crowdfunding interface on its website. All Friends of Biodiversity in Uganda and the World at large are encouraged to go online and donate towards the "Save the Chimpanzee and E Kibira kya Kabaka (Buganda Kingdom Royal Forests) Initiative, and other campaigns as they come along.

<https://ugandabiodiversityfund.org/portfolio-grid/>



Otieno Thomas
Office Assistant

Climate change calls for action for sustainable biodiversity conservation.

Uganda's geographical location and altitudinal variances of about 600 m above sea level at Nimule, to more than 5,000 m at Mt. Rwenzori are the main attributes of its rich biodiversity. Inclusively, it enjoys a distributive variety of species across broad wetlands, savannah grasslands, and protected forests that are internationally recognized (USAID 2014).

However, Uganda's exceptional dependence on natural resources and current inconsistencies in natural processes make us susceptible to the effects of climate change. For instance, the increasing incidences of deforestation, mostly due to reliance on wood biomass energy, have led to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, hence the rise in the global temperature. Further to this, the high incidence of deforestation has contributed to the random cases of flooding and landslides in mountainous areas in Uganda.

The current climatic shocks and stresses have also raised alarms about Uganda's food and nutrition security. For instance, in Karamoja and Northern Uganda where there is one rainy season annually, trends of drought have been observed. There has been a significant reduction in the production of agricultural food crops and an increased prevalence of malnutrition among children less than 5 years and breastfeeding mothers (FAO).

The terrestrial vertebrates in the Albertine Rift are other victims of climate change which are considered to be globally endangered compared to any eco-region in Africa. The study conducted in the Albertine Rift by Carr et al. (2013) showed that the habitat of about 2,358 species of flora and fauna are most likely to be destroyed by climate change, posing a threat to extinction. The 2,358 floral and faunal species include 31 amphibians, 199 birds, 31 freshwater fish, 107 mammals, 79 plants, and 70 reptiles.

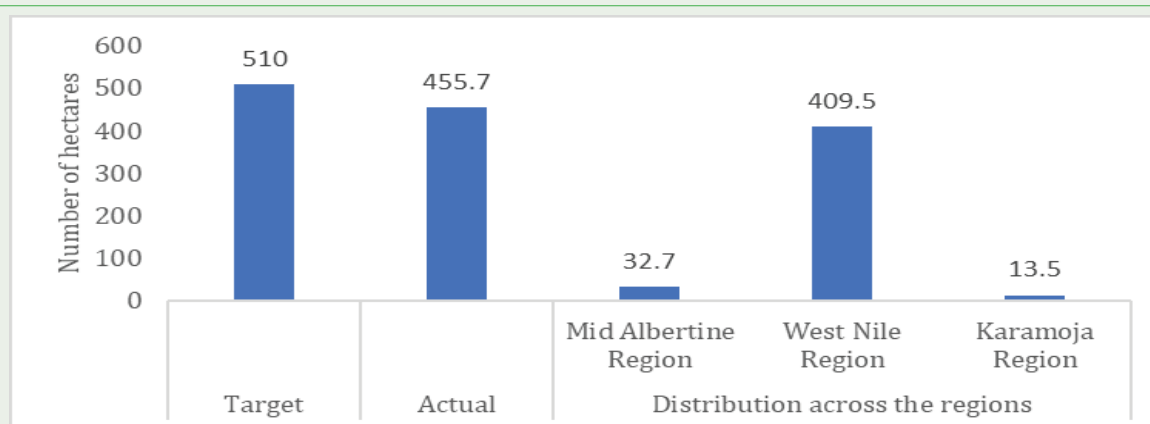
With these apparent observations, the effects of climate change have sparked a call for action for the Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund and other organizations engaged in conservation. Especially along the Albertine Rift and Karamoja region, which consist of twelve biodiverse locations that are more prone to the threat.



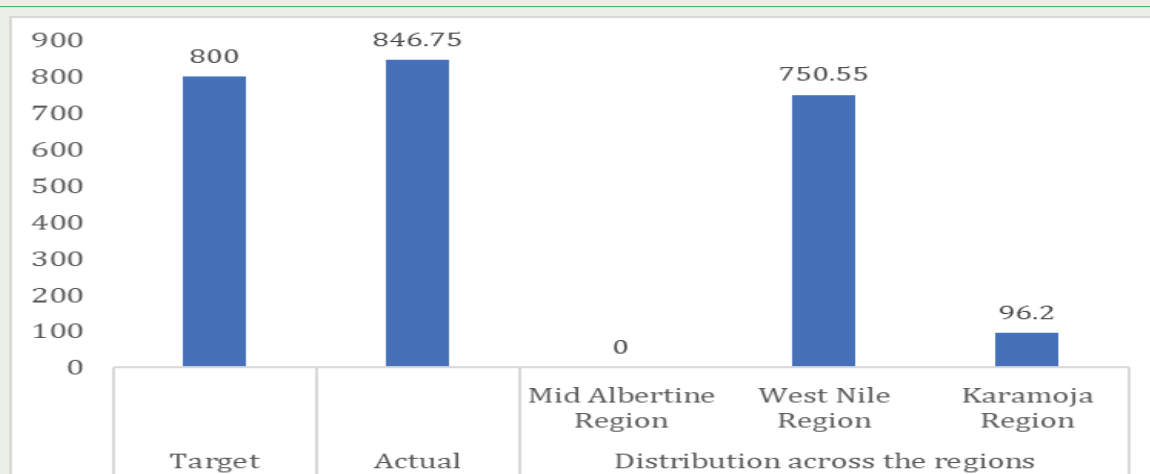
7. ECOSYSTEMS RESTORATION

UBF has over the years contributed significantly to biodiversity conservation through restoration of critical ecosystems and other interventions aimed at conserving Uganda's biodiversity. The graphs below show ecosystems established and or restored with support from UBF and its implementing partners (ECO, WCS, NU) and grantees (Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization, African Volunteers Association, Better World Uganda, Manna Development Agency) in 2022.

Woodlots Established

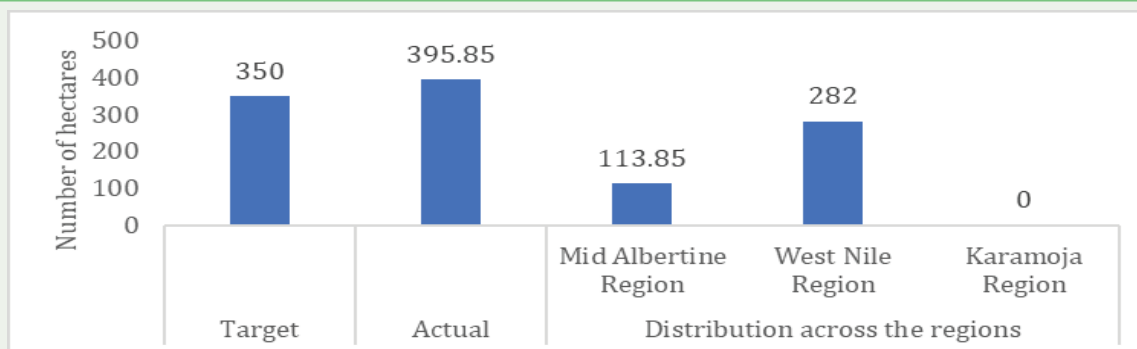


Woodlands Restored

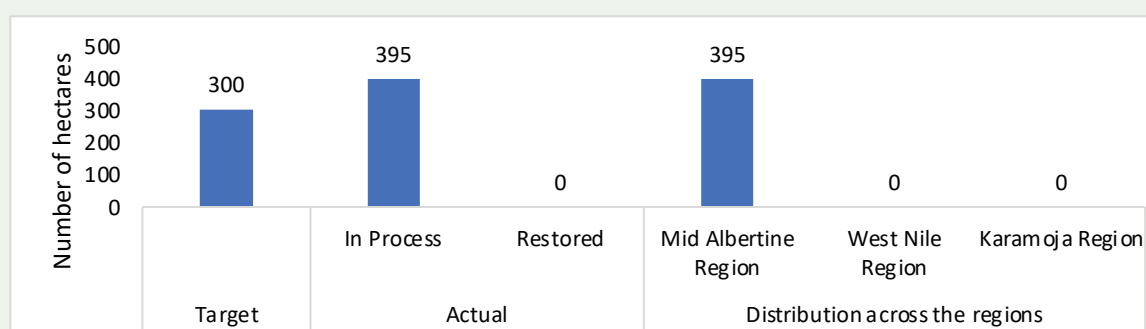




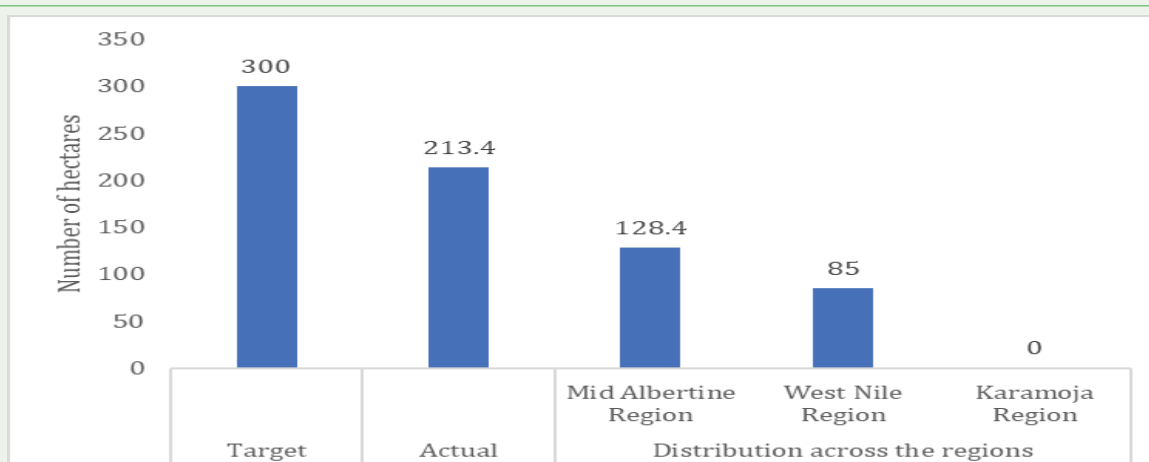
Forest Enriched and Assisted to Regenerate



Wetlands and Riverine Restored



Land under Agroforestry





8. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2022

UBF is within the second year of its strategic plan implementation. The current plan is for the period 2022 to 2026. Recovering from the COVID-19 stricken period, 2022 was the year for the Trust Fund to recover in several areas. The annual turnover from grants increased from UGX 4,198,272,748 in 2021 to UGX 6,126,258,234 in FY 2022, a representation of a 46% increment.

Non-grant income/unrestricted income grew by 45% from UGX 236,209,833 to UGX 341,449,104. This amount directly contributed to the Endowment Fund. The organizational total assets stood at UGX 2,550,830,911 and accumulated funds at UGX 643,728,302.

In 2022, UBF disbursed a total of UGX 2,667,553,282 to her implementing partners under the EU funded project. The full financial statements, including the statement of financial position, and statement of financial performance for FY 2022, are presented in the tables below.

Audited Statement of Financial Performance for the FY ended December 2022

	2022	2021
	UGX	UGX
INCOME		
Income from Grants	6,126,258,234	4,198,272,748
Other Income	341,449,104	236,209,833
Total Income	6,467,707,338	4,434,482,581
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and Wages	1,219,846,178	1,111,375,669
Project Activity Costs	4,343,714,826	2,462,067,994
Administration Costs	623,055,745	739,319,323
Total Expenditure	6,186,616,749	4,312,762,986
Surplus for the year	281,090,589	121,719,595

Audited Statement of Financial Position as of 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	UGX	UGX
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank	1,050,923,932	1,419,344,252
Financial Asset	520,097,221	-
Receivables	979,809,758	1,194,686,033
Total Assets	2,550,830,911	2,614,030,285
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Accumulated funds	643,728,302	362,637,713
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	135,468,411	14,576,018
Deferred Grant Income	1,771,634,198	2,236,816,554
	1,907,102,609	2,251,392,572
Total Funds and Liabilities	2,550,831,003	2,614,030,285



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