CONTENTS

Country Director’s message 4
Our Vision, Mission and Goal 5
Our Theory of Change 7
Strategic Focus 8
Advisory Board Members 9
Strategic Conservation objectives 10
Forestry and Wildlife 12
Fresh Water 19
Climate, Energy and Extractives 31
Earth Hour 2019 32
Our Sponsor 36
WWF and the Government of Uganda, Partnering to conserve
the Country’s Biological diversity 37
Our Donors and Supporters 40
Financial Report 41
Strategic Plan at a Glance 42
OUR COUNTRY DIRECTOR

David Duli
Dear Partner;

Our environment and all its biological diversity including Forests, fresh water sources and Wildlife species need our help more than ever. We continue to destroy it at an alarming rate. Studies conducted by Africa Natural Resources Intitute indicate that forest cover loss has now increased to an estimated 200,000 hectares annually. The wetlands loss stands at 2.5% every year. These are being turned into buildings, roads, plantations and industries. This has translated into extreme weather patterns characterised by high temperatures and floodings from the heavy rains.

This past year has seen us conclude the midterm review of our 2015-2020 strategy, a process that has culminated into the 2019-2023 Strategic plan.

Through our flagship of an inclusive approach to conservation, we have continued to build strong working relationships with over 100 organizations, Local Governments, Government Ministries and the Private sector.

These partnerships have enabled us deliver innovations in conservation and improvement of people's livelihoods whilst achieving our vision of becoming an influential and respected conservation Organization.

In this report, you read about our wins in enabling sustainable forest management, supporting value chain development and build CSO capacity to manage natural resources and engage in policy dialogue.

Additionally, you will read about the successful partnerships with businesses in promoting the preservation of priority water catchments. We also continued to address issues of clean energy access and ensuring that international recognized environmental and social standards are adhered to as Uganda’s nascent petroleum industry develops.

Our work also resulted in great news for some truly remarkable species. New figures revealed mountain gorillas in the Virunga Massif in east-central Africa have increased to a minimum of 604 – bringing the total wild population to more than 1,000, making it the only great ape population in the world believed to be increasing. This is a great stride in our trans-boundary natural resource approach.

We acknowledge the support of all our network support offices, donor agencies, businesses and individuals that have not only invested funds towards conservation in Uganda but are also taking individual actions to reverse nature loss; Together possible!
WWF Uganda Country Office

World Wide Fund for Nature- Uganda Country Office is an international non-governmental conservation organization, operating in Uganda under a diplomatic status as per the 2014 hosting agreement with the Government of the Republic of Uganda.

The organization is a member of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) network - one of the world’s largest independent conservation organization with an active network in over 100 countries. For over 27 years, we have been striving to stop the degradation of the Country’s environment while demonstrating a sustainable relationship between Humans and Nature.

Our Mission

To stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment, and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

Vision:

To be an influential and respected conservation organization in Uganda and Africa thereby making Uganda a model in demonstrating a sustainable relationship between humans and nature.

Goal:

By 2030, Uganda is Transitioning to a low carbon development pathway and has resilient forest landscapes, wildlife populations and fresh water ecosystems that support biodiversity and social-economic transformation.
Our Theory of Change
Strategic Focus

WWF Uganda works towards its vision and goal through delivery of four mutually supportive strategic objectives, three of which cover our thematic programs; Forests, Wildlife & Freshwater and Energy, Climate and Extractives. Our fourth objective focuses on ensuring that we have the organizational capability to effectively and efficiently deliver conservation impact.

Strategic Objectives

1. By 2023, forests, wildlife areas and priority species in the Greater Virunga and Albert-Semuliki landscapes are effectively managed, resilient and are benefitting people, biodiversity and climate.

2. By 2023, promote the development and access to sustainable and inclusive energy solutions for a climate resilient future.

3. By 2023, freshwater ecosystems are resilient to climate change and sustain people and Nature.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

AMB. PHILIP IDRO
CHAIRPERSON

MR. AMOS WEKESA
Member

MR. BRIAN KAGGWA
Deputy Chairperson

PROF. CHRISTINE DRANZOA
Member
Strategic Conservation objectives

By 2023, forests, wildlife areas and priority species in Greater Virunga and Albertsemuliki landscapes are effectively managed, resilient and are benefiting people, biodiversity and climate

Focus Areas

- Local community dependency and market demands on protected forests and wildlife resources

- Innovative conservation financing and market mechanisms adopted (this includes our work on PES and tourism development in the RMNP).

- Forests and wildlife landscapes effectively protected, restored, and managed in the Albertine Rift.

- Strong civil society organizations with increased gender equity, access and rights based approaches for wildlife and forest conservation in the albertine rift.

- Wildlife poaching, trafficking, and trade reduced toward zero in the Greater Virunga Landscape.
By 2023, promote the development and access to sustainable and inclusive energy solutions for a climate resilient future.

Focus Areas

• Increased compliance to national and international legislation and standards that mitigate negative impacts of energy and extractives development and support a climate resilient future
• Increased support to the implementation of NAPs or equivalent to enhance resilience of ecosystems and communities to climate risks and impacts.
• Increased access to clean and renewable energy in Uganda
• Enhanced recognition of UCO as a credible institution and its research informs policy and practices on sustainable energy, climate change and extractives

By 2023, fresh water ecosystems are resilient to climate change and sustain people and nature.

Focus Areas

• Hydrological status and quality of important water sources and ecosystems restored
• Catchment planning and management best practices adopted
Our work on forests focuses towards enabling sustainable forest management, supporting value chain development and building CSO capacity to manage natural resources and engage in policy dialogue.

**Target**

**Local community dependency and market demands on protected forests and wildlife resources reduced by 50% in two landscapes**

**Achieved:**

- Five Community Tourism initiatives around Kalinzu, Bwindi, Bugoma and Rwenzori developed. These include two Community trails around Bwindi and the construction and commissioning of the Rwenzori coffee house to promote coffee tourism.
- Supported three value chains for nature based enterprises. The Katara Women Association has particularly been supported to process elephant dung into paper.
- Distributed 15 in-calf heifers to ensure food security and increased household incomes.
- Through co-financing with the beneficiaries, 5 biogas digesters were constructed and OWC in partnership with SNV will provide 5 additional heifers.
- Increased access to clean water through 80 water harvesting tanks to reduce interface between wildlife and humans in water stressed areas.
**Target**

**Innovative conservation financing and market mechanisms adopted (this includes our work on PES and tourism development in the RMNP).**

**Achieved:**

- Payment to Ecosystem services developed and piloted with 921 farmers adopting sustainable water and land management interventions on 396.8ha to improve the quality and quantity of water in the Rwenzori landscape.
- Established CSR partnerships with 10 private companies for conservation financing.
- Secured funds for protection of important water sources from private companies; rAhe responsibility, ABInBev, Hima Cement.
- Developed and field tested the community revolving fund as a sustainability financing mechanism for the conservation interventions in the community.
- Developed a bankable proposal for scaling up FLR in the GVL.
- Conducted 1 international stakeholders meeting on FLR. The meeting recommended establishment of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) as a means of signing off-take agreements with tree out growers.
- Attracted private companies (4) for potential investment in the Special Purpose Vehicle.

**Target:**

**Forests and wildlife landscapes effectively protected, restored and managed in the Albertine Rift.**

**Achieved:**

- Restored 230ha of degraded land around Kalinzu, Bwindi and Rwenzori landscapes.
- Undertook a METT assessment for the Rwenzori Mountains National Park and established a baseline for management effectiveness.
- Supported Kasese, Rubirizi and Rukungiri district local governments to develop District Forest Business plans.
- Hosted the WWF Africa Forest practice focal points meeting to share lessons and experiences on bankable FLR projects in Uganda.
Target

Strong civil society organizations with increased gender equity, access and rights based approaches for wildlife and forest conservation in the Albertine Rift

Achieved:

- Strengthened the institutional capacity of 6 CSOs around Bugoma forest reserve and increased their access rights to natural resources.
- Increased CSO capacity in climate change adaption and private sector engagement.
- Mainstreamed Sexual and Reproductive health rights into conservation in partnership with Reproductive Health Uganda (2500 people accessing reproductive health services).

Target

Wildlife poaching, trafficking, and trade reduced toward zero in the Greater Virunga Landscape

Achieved:

- Reformed and rehabilitated groups of 800 pourchers around Queen Elizabeth and Bwindi National parks.
- Improved Ranger welfare and monitoring capacity in Rwenzori and Queen Elizabeth National parks through provision of transport (vehicles and motorcycles).
- Developed the Lion conservation strategy and incorporated it in the Action plans of Queen Elizabeth Protected Area Lion Alliance.
In 2008, 45 perpetual Kalinzu forest reserve encroachers formed a group to bail themselves out whenever they are arrested by the National Forestry Authority-NFA for destroying the natural forest adjacent to them to earn a living.

Zinori Bikorwomuhangi, 38, a native of the area says that he begun encroaching on Karinzu forest reserve as young as 13 years to earn a living.

Bikorwomuhangi says that it was a matter of life and death given the conflicts that existed between NFA and the local residents who thought that they were entitled to do anything in the forest because it was given to them by God.

“We thought there was no crime committed by harvesting timber in Karinzu forest because it was a God given resource at our disposal to utilize,” says Bikorwomuhangi.

Because NFA was arresting residents left, right and center they decided to form a group of 45 people who would mobilize funds to ensure that the culprits are rescued whenever they would be arrested.

Bikorwomuhangi says that they kept forcefully gaining access into the forest and also decided to do illegal timber lumbering at night to evade the law enforcement arm of NFA.

“I had bought solar systems and pressure lanterns to enable me do illegal timber cutting in the forest but all these were very risky ventures,” says Bikorwomuhangi.

Innocent Byamukama, the coordinator of the group says they lost lives and other lost their body parts as they engaged NFA due to encroachment activities.

But a group that had been formed to bail out encroachers saw light when World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) visited them in 2012 and convinced them to register with government and form a Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) group so that they could cooperate with NFA and benefit from the forest which had turned to be a curse to them.

After the intervention of WWF, the 45 members from the two parishes of Ndangara and Nyakiyanja decided to register a CFM group in 2013 that has transformed their lives greatly.

Bikorwomuhangi says that by 2013 they had stealthily planted eucalyptus trees on over 112 hectares but NFA was uprooting them as they also continued to plant.

The turning point was on the August 6th 2013 when NFA officially went into a collaboration with the residents and their group has since grown to 415 member down from 45.

The new group was termed as Ndangara and Nyakiyanja Tutungukye Parishes Group (NNTG) with a sole objective of ‘empowering communities for conservation and development’.

OUR SUCCESS, ILLEGAL ENCROACHERS TURNED INTO INVESTORS.
ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

Tree planting

600 of the 615 hectares of land that were allocated to the group by NFA have been planted with both Eucalyptus and indigenous trees since the collaboration started in 2013. The plan is to plant the remaining 15 hectares before the year ends.

Among the community at least 100 hectares have been also planted with majorly indigenous trees by June 2018.

According to Byamukama over 458,600 tree seedlings had been planted by the end of June 2018. In addition, 100,000 tree seedlings have been planted since June 2018.

70% of all the funds gotten from WWF have been invested in tree planting.

The community has managed to protect the natural forest of Karinzu which they were encroaching on for a livelihood by conducting patrols in the forest.

The management of the forest has shifted from NFA to the community after realizing the importance the natural forest has to their wellbeing.

“We arrest encroachers and hand them over to NFA and police and now there is no even a single illegal activity taking place in the forest,” says Byamukama.

The group has established several committees that are responsible with the operations of the group and these include the disciplinary committee which is charged with instilling discipline among members who might decide to encroach on the forest or go against the group rules and norms.

380 group members are benefiting from carbon trade and sh270m has been earned from this venture alone.

Bee keeping

The group has 483 bee hives colonized already both in the forest and in the community. They extract 2000kgs of honey per season and they have 3 seasons in a year translating into 6000kgs of honey every year.

The bee hives are given to the group members who take care of them and upon harvest the member takes 50% of the proceeds and the other returns to the group. There is a women’s group which manages the bee hives together.

Coffee growing

The farmers are organised into groups and supply coffee seedlings to them.

The group members also grow coffee to supplement on their incomes and so far they have purchased 10 wet coffee pulping machines to process coffee for of value addition.
Livelihood improvement
In 2012 before the start of the intervention, 70% of the community in these two parishes had grass-thatched houses but after 5 years, there is no single grass-thatched house in the community because of the economic empowerment and livelihood programs.

Savings and credit services
The group begun with only sh4m in 2014 but the savings have since grown to sh162m with sh120m loan portfolio.

Members save on a monthly basis and a member is entitled to 3 times the savings as a loan and the savings act as collateral.

Defaulting is not easy in the group because the member has to continue saving on top of the loan repayment. In case of failure the savings are converted to repay the loan.

The group also networks with both local and national groups and networks such as Uganda Network of Collaborative Forest Associations (UNETCOFA) to ensure they are exposed on how to sustain their activities and create synergies.

Renewable energy
Constructed 380 energy saving stoves to save fuel wood and also reduce on the health hazards in the community.

The group members have also acquired solar for lighting and charging of their phones to reduce on costs of buying paraffin and constant charges of the private phone chargers.

Achievements/benefits
The NNTG has brought in harmony between NFA and the local communities which has led to increased livelihoods and peace in the community.

Exposure to the members
In 2012 and before, roads in their area were impassable but with the introduction of the project the local government started rehabilitating the roads in the area.

Most children were not going to school because they were getting involved in illegal timber cutting but since the start of the project all the children have enrolled into school and even the parents have the capacity to pay school fees for them even in faraway better schools using the proceeds from the various enterprises.

In 2012, only one child had completed senior 4 and 4 were Primary 7 graduates but the trend has since changed.
Food security

The members use the land allocated to them by NFA to grow food crops through mixed cropping and previously these people had a serious scarcity of land.

There has been tremendous improvement in land use management due to the knowledge gained from the group and the exposure they have acquired.

The area which started experiencing some change in weather due to the cutting down of trees but since they entered into a collaboration the condition has since improved with rains all year round.

Fog can even been seen up the hills that have been planted with trees which is a clear indication of returning to normal weather.
Fresh water work focuses on restoration of the important sources of water for domestic, Municipal and Industrial use and supporting catchment management in the Albertine rift.

**Target**  
**Hydrological status and quality of important water sources and ecosystems restored**

**Achieved:**
- Restored 84ha of River Rwizi buffer.
- Rehabilitated 3km of degraded river Semuliki banks.
- Restored 256ha in Mobuku catchment (River Mobuku) through sustainable land and water management interventions.

**Target**  
**Catchment planning and management best practices adopted**

**Achieved:**
- Revised and developed three catchment management plans in the upper Nile water management zone.
- Developed one micro catchment plan for the lower Semuliki.
- Developed a micro catchment and buffer management plan in the Rwizi catchment.
- Conducted one policy dissemination meeting for the Albertine water management zone.
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WWF AND RESPONS-ABILITY AROUND RIVER NYAMWAMBA

WWF in Uganda together with responsAbility Renewable Energy Holding (rAREH) and partners are implementing the River Nyamwamba Payment for Watershed Services (PWS) Scheme project to restore the river.

The restoration project focuses on protecting important water catchments for socio-economic development and improving the livelihoods of 900 households in the region for 5 years. The project will also benefit a 7.8 MW hydropower plant that is being developed by a responsAbility renewable energy holding on the Nyamwamba River.

While addressing the community members at Kyambogho village, the District Forestry Officer Wilberforce Bwambale asked the communities to embrace the intervention that will improve their livelihoods but also conserve the environment.

According to the Payment for Ecosystem (PES) officer, Beria Namanya, communities need patience and commitment if they are to reap from the environmental interventions.

ResponsAbility has also asked WWF to submit another proposal for more funding to roll out a similar project in another catchment. According to WWF Uganda’s Manager for Fundraising, Partnerships and Communications, this is a boost to the private partnerships work.

“We are currently finalizing the additional concept to ResponsAbility. As we role out our recently revised strategy, we are aiming at delivering well on all our contractual obligations with our private partners but more importantly documenting in detail the impact of the work they fund and this will be used as marketing pitches to prospective partners”, she said.

The Payment for Watershed Services scheme is a conservation financing mechanism that has been piloted in the region where the private sector that benefits from effective conservation of water sources rewards farmers who ensure this resource is well preserved.

For the last four years, the scheme had been implemented under the Sustainable Financing of the Rwenzori Mountains National Parks (SFRMNP), a project funded by the European Union (EU) and the French Global facility for Environment (FFEM) whose ultimate goal is to preserve the biodiversity of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park (RMNP), so that the ecosystem services it provides continue making a significant and recognized contribution to the local and national economy.

WWF has strengthened private sector partnerships for the successful implementation of the Payment for watershed services scheme (PWS) in Rwenzori landscape.

The project among others explored different ways in which the private sector could contribute to conservation of the Rwenzori,
through PES schemes, CSR, and carbon credits. The aim was to inform businesses downstream of the Rwenzori about their dependence on the services provided by the RMNP and to get them to commit financially to its preservation.

During the implementation period, the project secured cash - 175 Million Ugandan shillings (approximately 43750 Euros) from the private sector to finance the conservation of the Rwenzori landscape through PES and CSR. The project also secured an in kind contribution of 50,000 seedlings valued at 50 Million Ugandan shillings (Appx. 12500 Euros) to contribute to catchment management for the Rwenzori landscape.

Both the cash and in-kind contributions were directly channeled to upstream communities to adopt interventions that limit soil erosion, river sedimentation and flooding risks, hence ensuring quality and quantity flow of water at the same time improving their livelihoods.
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND EXTRACTIVES

This programme focuses on clean energy access and ensuring that internationally recognised environmental and social standards are adhered to as Uganda’s nascent Petroleum industry develop.

Target

Increased compliance to national and international legislation and standards that mitigate negative impacts of energy and extractives development and support a climate resilient future

Achieved:

- In collaboration with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), WWF through Uganda National Alliance on Clean Cooking (UNACC) supported the development of the household biomass stoves standard. The US 761:2019, Household Biomass Stoves Standard is now part of the Uganda Standards Catalogue, and provides a framework to ensure that improved cook stoves on the market meet performance standards of thermal efficiency, emissions, safety and durability. This achievement is a culmination of previous advocacy efforts by WWF and UNACC in holding joint workshops with UNBS and sharing recommendations on the Household Biomass Stoves Standard.

- WWF supported two district local governments (Arua and Masindi) to finalize their District Renewable Energy Strategies to facilitate district level energy planning & guide renewable energy development. The technical and political leaders in the two districts were also trained to enhance their understanding of renewable energy issues.
Additionally, seven more districts in process of developing the strategies.

- WWF in partnership with the Office of the President, MEMD, Ministry of Water and Environment, United Nations development Programme and GIZ successfully held the national charcoal dialogue on unsustainable charcoal production and utilization. This provided a platform to initiate multi-sectoral discussion on the prevailing challenges in the charcoal sub-sector as well as find solutions to these challenges.

- WWF and partners facilitated improved monitoring of petroleum related grievances in the Albertine Graben through capacity building of community groups, media engagement and CSO trainings in environmental and social monitoring and management

- WWF and partners influenced government decisions by reviewing and providing comments to Environmental and Social Impact Assessment reports of two major oil developments. These included Kingfisher and Tilenga development projects in the Albertine Graben.

- WWF and partners provided input into four policy processes. These included: a) review of the Petroleum Waste Management Regulations, b) review of the National Environment Bill later passed into law, c) review of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on Oil and Gas and d) drafting of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

- WWF and partners strengthened the capacity local government officials in the Albertine Graben in environmental and social performance and oil revenue management in a bid to improve governance of the petroleum sector

**Target**

*Increased support to the implementation of NAPs or equivalent to enhance resilience of ecosystems and communities to climate risks and impacts.*

**Achieved:**

- An engagement platform with the Uganda Parliament on climate change was initiated through dialogue meetings with the Parliamentary Forum on Climate change on advancing climate and sustainable development goals. This meeting comprised of 35 (12 women and 23 men) Members of Parliament, representatives from the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment, National Planning Authority, CSOs and media.

- WWF-UCO and project CSOs participated in the National Dialogue on Climate Resilience and CSO Preparatory to COP 24. The dialogue aimed at sharing, deliberating and developing key demands for enhancing climate action at national and global level. Additionally, a CSO position statement was developed led by project CSOs and presented during the National Climate Change Forum to COP 24.

- With support from WWF, Environmental Management and Livelihood Improvement
(EMLI) together with participating CSOs were able to table the following advocacy asks on climate change. These include:

- Advocating for inclusion of the Climate Change Fund in the Climate Change Bill 2017,
- Dialogue on Climate Resilience and CSO Preparatory to COP 24
- Advocating for Domestic adaptation financing in Uganda
- Convening the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change on advancing climate and sustainable development goals in their legislative, representation and monitoring roles on Government development programmes

- WWF and partners at national level are supporting the implementation of the NDC-Partnership Plan. As a result of civil society advocacy, the Climate Change Department (CCD) of the Ministry of Water and Environment is planning to undertake one NDC implementation assessment.

**Target:**

**Increased access to clean and renewable energy in Uganda.**

**Achieved:**

- WWF facilitated dissemination of 2,666 improved cook stoves to households benefiting about 13,000 people in the Albertine Graben. Additionally, a total of 1,059 solar home systems were distributed to households benefiting about 5,200 people in the Albertine Graben.

- WWF installed solar PV systems of a capacity of up to 1000W each in 51 social institutions in the districts of Kasese, Rubirizi, Masindi, Kagadi, Maracha and Arua. These institutions include 31 schools (8 in Kasese, 3 in Rubirizi, 5 in Arua, 4 in Maracha, 3 in Kagadi and 8 in Masindi) and 20 health centers (11 in Kasese and 9 in Arua). During this reporting period, WWF conducted monitoring visits to these institutions and it is evident that the electricity at the health centers has enhanced service delivery, including: improved maternity services and handling of emergencies, accurate diagnosis of diseases through the solar powered microscopes and safe storage of vaccines. It has also increased learning hours for students in the schools.

- WWF and CSO partners contributed to setting up of an energy access fund as one of the financing schemes to increase renewable energy access in rural areas. By end of FY 19, UGX-150,000,000 had been collected in the energy access fund from the distribution of improved cook stoves and solar home systems.

- WWF and partners were able to reach 69 VSLAs, SACCOs and organized groups in the Albertine Graben who are now providing loans to their members to acquire solar home systems and improved cook stoves.
• WWF and partners have strengthened the capacity of 443 people (296 women and 147 men) in the Albertine Graben in the construction and maintenance of household improved cook stoves. Additionally, WWF strengthened the technical capacity of 55 CBOs to install, operate and maintain solar PV systems in 20 districts of the Albertine Graben.

• Six solar mini-grids installed in two district (Kasese and Rubirizi)

**Target:**

*Enhanced recognition of UCO as a credible institution and its research informs policy and practices on sustainable energy, climate change and extractives.*

**Achieved:**

Four documents were published.

a) A study report on Financing & Investment in Renewable Energy highlighting key policy issues and recommendations to advance reforms towards increasing financing and investment for clean and renewable energy (off-grid and on-grid) in Uganda

b) Articles on ‘Advancing Civil Society Organizations and Networks coordination for contribution to effective Renewable Energy Policy formulation and implementation in Uganda’ which was presented during the Uganda water and Environment week.

• WWF and partners developed a policy brief which highlights the key policy issues and recommendations to advance reforms towards increasing financing and investment for clean and renewable energy (off-grid and on-grid) in Uganda
Communities living in the Albertine Graben have adopted sustainable and renewable energy alternatives to reduce dependency on biomass for their energy needs.

The use of firewood combined with rudimentary technologies for cooking and lighting such as the three stone stove and kerosene lanterns expose family members especially women and children to numerous pollutants that cause health problems such as acute respiratory infections.

According to the Sustainable Energy for All Action Agenda for Uganda, 2015, currently, 90% of Ugandans rely on biomass to meet cooking needs while only about 26.1% of the households in Uganda have access to electricity. The limited access to modern energy coupled with high levels of poverty has resulted in over-reliance on unsustainably produced biomass and use of rudimentary lighting and cooking technologies with serious implications on the environment and health of the people.

WWF through the Energy, Climate and Extractives Programme works with partners to implement projects that develop and promote access to cost effective and environmentally friendly energy solutions to meet domestic, institutional, and productive energy needs of the country.

Under the EU solar and the Clean Energy projects, WWF has registered commendable strides in nature conservation and improving livelihoods of the communities in the Albertine Graben.

According to the Clean Energy Manager, Ibrahim Mutebi, Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) utilize energy sources in ways that do not depleted the Earth's natural resources and are as environmentally benign as possible. He added that these sources are sustainable in that they can be managed to ensure they can be used indefinitely without degrading the environment.

"By exploiting these energy sources, RETs have great potential to meet the energy needs of rural societies in a sustainable way, albeit most likely in tandem with conventional systems,” He said.

Communities living in the Albertine Graben have adopted sustainable and renewable energy alternatives to reduce dependency on biomass for their energy needs.

More so, the reductions of dependency on biomass has improved the living standards of communities through savings, improved health by reducing indoor pollution and bolster Uganda's economy at large.

Communities Testify

Hellen Ayesiga’s, a mother of three is among the households of Masindi district that have benefited from the use of Renewable Energy Technologies promoted in the Mid-Albertine Graben. The family appreciates the transition from use of the kerosene lamps for light and three stone cook stoves to solar home systems and improved cook stoves respectively.

Ayesiga says "My son Mathias had always struggled with eye defects for a long time. A lot of money was used for his medication and doctors always advised him not to read from deem light by the Kerosene lamp.”

Another beneficiary, Immaculate Tumwebaze is one of the 18 members of Katara Women Poverty Eradication Group (KWPEG) that benefited from the EU funded WWF project: Scaling-up rural electrification using innovative solar PV distribution models.

The mother of six says she does not regret her decision to acquire the solar system since it has served her needs.

“I had for the last nine years used the Kerosene lamps to provide light both at home and at the shop. The cost of acquiring kerosene was high and yet the light was not bright enough to allow night operations for my retail business.”

Today, she is enjoying more security for her business, more assurance that fire won’t burn down her business, and extended business hours that are bringing in more returns. Additionally, she is no longer incurring costs to charge her mobile phone from her neighbors. She is able to charge it using the solar system.
Tumwebaze’s son, Monday Joseph who sat for his Primary Leaving Exams (UPE) last year also passed with flying colors since he utilized the light for his evening and morning revisions.

**New Life at the Health Centre**

In the remote Sub County of Maliba in Kasese District sits two Health Centre IIIs: Mukathi and Isule. The two facilities have a capacity of handling over 50 patients daily, have basic outpatient, maternity, and paediatric services and carry out immunisation programs. The two health centres have also battled with the challenge of getting reliable electricity to power refrigerators and laboratory equipment.

Charles Kabagambe Bwambale, a volunteer at Mukathi Health Centre, explains that they also faced a challenge of handling expectant mothers who would go to deliver from the health centre at night because they didn’t have any reliable source of light. He says that they would use kerosene lamps and candles for such cases. However, both options did not offer sufficient light to handle the delicate delivery process.

The immunization programs were not spared by these challenges. The vaccines often went bad due to lack of reliable power supply to keep them refrigerated.

WWF identified the challenges that the two health centres were facing and donated to them complete solar systems. The health facilities are now operating without any electricity challenges. Bwambale says that that their vaccine refrigerator has never gone off and all the drugs are stored safely.

"Solar electricity is always on; it never goes off. We now hold our immunization programmes without any hindrances, and we are saving money that we used to spend on buying kerosene and candles,” he says, with a smile.

He also adds that as a result of having a reliable free source of electricity, the number of expectant mothers to the health centre has increased.

“We are now receiving between 12 and 20 patients who seek for services at night, including expectant mothers. We are also able to admit those who require the night observation because we have enough power to light the entire health facility,” Bwambale says.

**Mini Grid Construction**

In partnership with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), WWF Uganda plans to construct 6 solar powered mini grids with capacity of more than 150kW will be installed in six villages of Kasese and Rubirizi Districts to supply power to 900 households and 205 small businesses.

The mini grids will produce energy for lighting, commercial and other productive uses to business and mainly lighting and phone charging to households.

This will create new opportunities for livelihood improvement through productive use of electricity, will serve to create at least 400 new jobs, and will contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth in these rural communities.
Delivery through Corporate Partnerships

WWF in Uganda has continued to seek and to work with corporate Companies in the delivery of its goal of transitioning Uganda to a low carbon development pathway with resilient forest landscapes, wildlife populations and fresh water eco-systems that support biodiversity and social economic transformation.

In the year 2018/2019, WWF in Uganda demonstrated that businesses can also be part of the solution in driving positive change.

Our work with corporations is based on a common understanding of issues, shared ambitions or activities, and a willingness to be leaders. In general, WWF in Uganda is currently running four types of engagement with companies.

- **Driving sustainable business practices**
  
  Under this engagement, we work to deliver direct conservation results in priority places by changing practices throughout a company's operations and value chain. These intend to reduce the major environmental impacts of some of the companies, achieve conservation results that would not otherwise be possible, and influence related sectors and markets. Some of the companies we are working with under this engagement include Nile Breweries Limited by rallying them to come up with technologies that reduce the amount of water used to produce a litre of beer. Others are the mining companies and hydro power companies that we encourage to put in place environmental safe guards to limit the social and environmental negative impacts that their developments will have to the protected areas and environment generally.
**Consumer engagement**

Under this arrangement, WWF partners with business through communications and campaigns to raise awareness of several environmental challenges, rallying the public or consumers to take action. This was successfully rolled out last year with Companies such as Coca-cola, where we rallied the public to take action against plastics by recycling and re-suing to reduce plastic pollution.

WWF also worked with media houses such as NTV, Capital Radio, The NewVision to run campaigns rallying the public to stop wastage of natural resources, plant trees and to change the way they live in favor of nature.

**Philanthropy**

This approach is reflected in specific engagements with companies to fund conservation projects and programs. Under this arrangement, companies raise money for the conservation of key places and programs. Currently, WWF funding from responsAbility Renewable Energy Holding (rAREH) to implement the River Nyamwamba Payment for Watershed Services (PWS) Scheme project to restore the river. The restoration project focuses on protecting important water catchments for socio-economic development and improving the livelihoods of 900 households in the region for 5 years. The project will also benefit a 7.8 MW hydropower plant that is being developed by a responsAbility renewable energy holding on the Nyamwamba River.
Additionally, WWF with funding from Nile Breweries, through its parent company ABInbev, is rolling out a project focusing on restoring River Rwizi in Mbarara district. The River Rwizi project dubbed “Multi-stakeholder partnerships for water stewardship and community livelihoods in the Rwizi catchment” aims at restoring the quality and quantity of water in the River.

WWF with funding from Hima cement is also rolling out the Payment for Eco system services (PES). This is a conservation financing mechanisms where farmers who have adopted sustainable land management practices that support eco system service provision are rewarded often using but not limited to financial incentives. The program is being rolled out around Rwenzori Mountains National Park in Kasese.

With funding from Hempel Foundation (Paint Company) in Denmark, WWF is implementing the Sustainable future for the Rwenzori World Heritage Site three year project. The project is working towards a well managed and protected Rwenzori Mountains National Park that benefits biodiversity, surrounding communities and sustains ecosystems in the Greater Virunga Landscape. It is implemented in the districts covered by the Rwenzori mountains; Kasese, Bunyangabu, Kabarole, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo.
**Corporate Involvement**

This approach is focused on raising awareness of key environmental issues and raising funds for WWF’s conservation priorities through corporate participation. This was rolled out fairly well during the 2019 earth hour campaign. The companies that gave funds and participated in the campaign are; Coca-cola, Barclays (Absa) bank, Site Travels, Kampala Serena Hotel, The New Forests Company, Environmental Alert, Fairventures Worldwide, National Forestry Authority and Capital FM.

(Above and Below) WWF, ResponsAbility and Kasese District officials at the launch of River Nyamwamba 3 year project funded by ResponsAbility
WWF Uganda Country Office through the Earth Hour Uganda campaign continued to mobilize various audiences to “Connect2Earth” and be a part of the effort to promote environmentally sustainable living. The year’s theme was; **Change The Way We Live** which aims to trigger positive change towards sustainable consumption and a reduction in our ecological footprint.

The 2019 Earth Hour campaign focussed mainly on youth engagement to increase their commitment and involvement in environment related issues in the country as a strategy to ensure sustainable solutions.

The activities included an inter-university competition which was a build up from the 2017 campaign, this time involving more Universities, a Children’s Futuristic news Bulletin competition, an Earth Hour woodlot at a local secondary school and a grand lights off event at Kampala Serena Hotel.

The campaign this year was launched publically on NBS television on 14th March 2019 to increase public buy-in and participation. The event was presided over by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment.
The Earth Hour University Innovations Challenge

Students from Makerere University, Uganda Christian University, Kampala International and Kyambogo University were challenged to demonstrate innovative, inclusive and scalable nature based solutions to tackling climate change and the success of these innovations required collaborative and multidisciplinary approach. To reach a wider audience, the students were encouraged to utilize social media platforms to publicize their work, inspire other youth and mobilise support for their innovations.

The winners’ (Kyambogo University) innovation was Bio-Char/Activated Carbon. Students used organic waste to come up with this product aimed at improving the soil capacity to hold moisture given the unpredictable and unreliable rainfall evidenced in Uganda currently. Bio-char/activated carbon is also meant to reduce waste which would otherwise end up in landfills. They received a cash prize of UGX2000000 from the sponsors, Cocacola.

The 1st runners up also from Kyambogo University presented the conversion of plastics to floor tiles aimed at reducing plastic pollution through recycling as their innovation. They took home a cash prize of UGX1000000 from Fair Ventures Worldwide, also sponsors of the event.

Earth Hour Futuristic News Bulletin Challenge

The futuristic bulletin targeted primary school going children and aimed at increasing awareness and their understanding of climate change issues. The schools developed an informative but speculative news bulletin, projecting disaster for the country if Action is not taken against the continued degradation. At the end of the bulletin, there was a call to action. The children urged the public to prevent the speculated disaster from becoming a reality by paying attention and taking action.
against degradation of nature. The competitions were won by Kampala Parents School, followed very closely by Kitante Primary school and Nakasero Primary school respectively. The winners took home school fees for the next school term sponsored by Barclays Bank.

**Establishment of the Earth Hour Woodlot**

During this year’s Earth Hour campaign, WWF mobilized young people and institutions to take action against climate change by planting trees. Working with the Kasese District local government, WWF launched this tree planting drive at Kasese secondary school. The school set aside 1 acre of land to develop a woodlot. According to the school authorities, the woodlot is set to save the environment in future from further
destruction by providing fuel for cooking. The school will also save on fuel costs.

**Earth Hour Light Out event**

Saturday 30th March marked the peak on the Earth Hour campaign. On that night, as is the tradition, non-essential lights were switched off from 8.30pm to 9.30pm local time.

Over 100 guests were invited to be part of this grand event hosted by Serena Hotel. The Minister of state for Tourism Hon Kiwanda presided over the function. The other guests included representatives from the relevant government bodies, the private sector, development partners, the media and students. Winners for the inter University challenge and the futuristic bulletin announced on the night wards given for the different categories.

**Sponsors of Earth Hour 2019**

NEMA, NFA, Barclays bank, Environmental Alert, FairVentures WorldWide, UWA, The New Forest Company, Site Travels, Cocacola, Ministry of Water and Environment, Makerere University, Kyambogo University, KIU, UCU.
During the last financial year, WWF worked in close partnership with government agencies such as National Forestry Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Environment Management Authority alongside Government Ministries of Water &Environment, Energy&Mineral Development and Tourism, Wildlife&Antiquities. The district local governments covering the Albertine Graben also played a pivotal role in stopping the degradation of the country's natural environment in collaboration with WWF.

**Funding conservation programs**

The Ministry of Water and Environment together with National Water and Sewerage Corporation funded WWF to develop water source point protection measures for National water and Sewerage corporation in Arua Municipality. Additionally, WWF received more funding from the Ministry of Water and Environment to develop Catchment Management Measures in the Kochi and Aswa (ii) sub-catchments. The National Forestry Authority also extended funds towards the Earth Hour campaign.

**JOINT PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION DAYS**

**International Wildlife Day**

WWF working with Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities jointly organized and participated in the International Wildlife day. The Activities included a Wildlife Marathon and the actual celebrations held in Arua district.

**Annual Water Week**

Together with the Ministry of water and Environment, WWF jointly organized and participated in the Uganda Annual Water week. The Uganda Water and Environment Week 2018 (UWEWK) is considered as the biggest water-related event in the country, organized annually by the Ministry of Water and Environment. It aims at promoting water awareness and foster innovative approaches to face the most pressing water-related challenges, keep updates on global movements to address water challenges and identify modern tools and techniques for managing water resources.
Tourism Sector Review

WWF was tasked with the role of coordinating all CSOs in the Tourism industry and report on progress and challenges underlying CSO’s contribution to the development of the industry during the Annual Tourism sector Review. The event, organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities is used to take stock and evaluate the sector performance in its contribution to the achievement of Uganda’s long term goal of social economic transformation.

In a related manner, WWF participated in the International Tourism Day commemoration which was held in Gulu. The organization used the opportunity to exhibit tourism products...
that have been developed in the Rwenzori Mountains National Park in view of providing economic alternatives to the communities around the park thereby reducing human pressure on the protected area.

**Annual Energy and Minerals Week**

WWF jointly organized and participated in the 15th edition of the Energy & Minerals Week.” This annual event organized by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is aimed at updating the general public on what the Ministry has achieved in the previous financial year but also provide platforms for scaling up access to renewable energy across the country. WWF participated in the biomas dialogue, the match and weeklong exhibition.

**Development of District Renewable Energy strategies**

WWF worked with the local governments of Rubirizi, Kibale and Koboko) to develop their District Renewable Energy Strategies to facilitate district level energy planning & guide renewable energy development. Additionally, about 100 district local government staff from both the political and technical wings have been trained on mainstreaming energy planning in their respective districts.

(R) WWF Country Director joins the Minister of Energy (C) and other officials at the launch of the Energy and Minerals week
Our Donors and Supporters

A scenic image of one of the glacier lakes on top of Mt. Rwenzori/WWF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Supporters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Norad</td>
<td>1. WWF Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. SIDA</td>
<td>2. WWF Denmark</td>
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<td>3. EU</td>
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<td>4. DANIDA</td>
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<td>5. Swedish Lottery</td>
<td>5. WWF Finland</td>
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<td>6. World Bank</td>
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<td>7. FFEM</td>
<td>7. WWF International</td>
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<td>8. Anheuser-Busch InBev / Nile Breweries Ltd</td>
<td>8. WWF German</td>
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<td>9. ResponsAbility</td>
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<td>10. WWF Finland</td>
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<td>11. WWF Norway</td>
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<td>12. WWF Regional Office for Africa</td>
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Financial Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amounts in UGX</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>18,750,935,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>969,373,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,720,309,225</strong></td>
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**Expenditure Performance**

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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amounts in UGX</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest, Wildlife &amp; Fresh Water</td>
<td>7,849,062,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Energy &amp; Extractives</td>
<td>7,924,912,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>517,192,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,291,167,646</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FY19 Expenditure Performance in UGX**

- **Forest & Wildlife**, 7,849,062,883, 48%
- **Climate Energy & Extractives**, 7,924,912,441, 49%
- **Other**, 517,192,322, 3%

**FY19 Income performance in UGX**

- **Restricted**, 18,750,935,413, 95%
- **Unrestricted**, 969,373,812, 5%
THE 2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN AT A GLANCE

In 2016, WWF-Uganda Country Office (UCO) launched its first strategic plan, the WWF Uganda 2020 Strategy. The 2020 strategy was based around four strategic objectives covering forests and biodiversity, energy and climate, freshwater and strengthening organizational and institutional capacity to deliver conservation impact.

In 2018, WWF-UCO undertook an extensive mid term review which gave birth to the current Strategic plan.

VISION
To be an influential and respected conservation organisation in Uganda and Africa thereby making Uganda a model in demonstrating a sustainable relationship between humans and nature.

GOAL
By 2030, Uganda is transitioning to a low carbon development pathway and has resilient forest landscapes, wildlife populations and freshwater ecosystems that support biodiversity and socioeconomic transformation.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
1. By 2023, Forests, wildlife areas and priority species in Greater Virunga and Albert-semuliki landscapes are effectively managed, resilient and are benefiting people, biodiversity and climate.
2. By 2023, promote the development and access to sustainable and inclusive energy solutions for a climate resilient future.
3. By 2023, fresh water ecosystems are resilient to climate Change and sustain people and nature.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE
Our geographical scope will continue to be the Albertine Rift Region (ARR) of Uganda. Our conservation targets within this region are: High Conservation Value (HCV) Forests, African Great Apes, Lions, African Elephants, Protected Areas, Freshwater Ecosystems, Low Carbon, Food Production and Human Wellbeing.
WWF Uganda Strategic Plan 2018-2023

WWF ANNUAL REPORT - 2019

WWF - UGANDA STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023
Highlighting the most critical conservation priorities for the period 2019 to 2023
This Strategic plan for the period 2018-2023 has been developed through a consultative process following the successful implementation and review of the previous plan. It highlights the conservation priority areas that WWF-UCO will be focusing on during the next five years. It identifies the most critical conservation issues, challenges and clarifies on specific interventions and measures to address them, with high impact targets.

UCO envisages delivering the new strategy through a programmatic approach under three priority programs; Forest and Biodiversity; Climate and Energy; and Freshwater. These are among the key WWF priority practices relevant to Uganda. A number of High Impact Initiatives (HII) are planned for delivery during the period. WWF-UCO will regularly identify Areas of Collective Action and Impact (ACAI) as an avenue for cross-programme/sector collaboration and external partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Cognizant of our mission, WWF Uganda strives to contribute towards stopping degradation of the planet’s natural resources and building a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. To achieve the mission, the strategy is aligned with Uganda’s Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan (NDP). Similarly, we shall also contribute towards achieving key SDGs relating to environment and natural resources management.

During the next strategic period, emphasis shall be placed on promoting conservation of trans-boundary natural resources through a landscape approach. To begin with, developing of a strategy for the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) has been prioritized. This fits well with efforts for having in-place the “New Deal for Nature”. The new plan integrates a clear goal accompanied with a comprehensive Theory of Change against which programme outcomes have been derived. For effectiveness, programme work has been aligned with both financial and human resources to drive delivery in a framework that integrates Results Based Management.

I acknowledge the support and contribution of all those who participated during the implementation of the previous plan and development of the new one. We believe delivery of the new plan shall envisage involvement of all stakeholders including; government agencies, development partners, the broader WWF Network Advisory Group, Practice Leadership teams, the private sector, CSOs and CBOs for which strategic partnerships shall be promoted. I appreciate the role played by WWF-UCO staff, our colleagues at WWF-Regional Office for Africa and WWF International.

Together possible!

David Duli
Country Director

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dear Partner,

1992
Legal status of WWF-UCO was first negotiated in 1992 and later renegotiated in 2014 under a new Hosting Agreement with Government of Uganda

80%
Over 80% of UCO’s work is concentrated in the Albertine Rift Region which is one of WWF’s global priority places.

241,551 km²
Uganda is a landlocked country with an area of 241,551 km² (roughly the size of the UK)

12 YEARS
The population of Uganda increased from 24.2 to 34.9 million, an increase of 10.7 million over a period of 12 years.

80%
The location of about 80% of Uganda’s oil and gas fields is in and around the protected areas in the Albertine Rift Region.