

The Overlap between Conservation and Development Organisations in the Albertine Rift, Western Uganda



Photo: Terry Sunderland, Uganda, 2010



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Introduction

The extent to which biodiversity conservation does, or indeed should, contribute towards poverty alleviation is a much debated topic (Roe, 2008). Numerous studies examine how, and the degree to which, conservation activities alleviate poverty (e.g. Walpole and Wilder, 2008), but limited research exists on their relationships with existing development (poverty alleviation) organisations.

As the global agenda moves towards an integrated conservation and poverty alleviation approach, there is concern that conservation and development initiatives lack inter-communication and collaboration due to their previously separate domains. Until recently, there has been no overview of the conservation sector in sub-Saharan Africa, and analysis has been broad-brush, missing many smaller NGOs (Brockington and Scholfield, 2010). No assessments have been carried out within Uganda, and with no established baseline, it is difficult to determine national, or regional dispersal, where aid is lacking, and the possibilities for conservation and development actors to work in conjunction.

Using Western Uganda as an example, this study attempts to explore the geographical relationship between conservation and poverty alleviation (development) organisations.

The Albertine Rift

Currently, Uganda consists of four administrative regions (North, Central, East and West), which are further divided into 111 districts. The Albertine Rift Region, as defined by Plumptre et al., (2007a), is contained entirely within the Western region; therefore this study defines the Ugandan Albertine Rift region as the extent of the Western administrative region (Fig. 1). There are numerous protected areas within this region (Table 1).

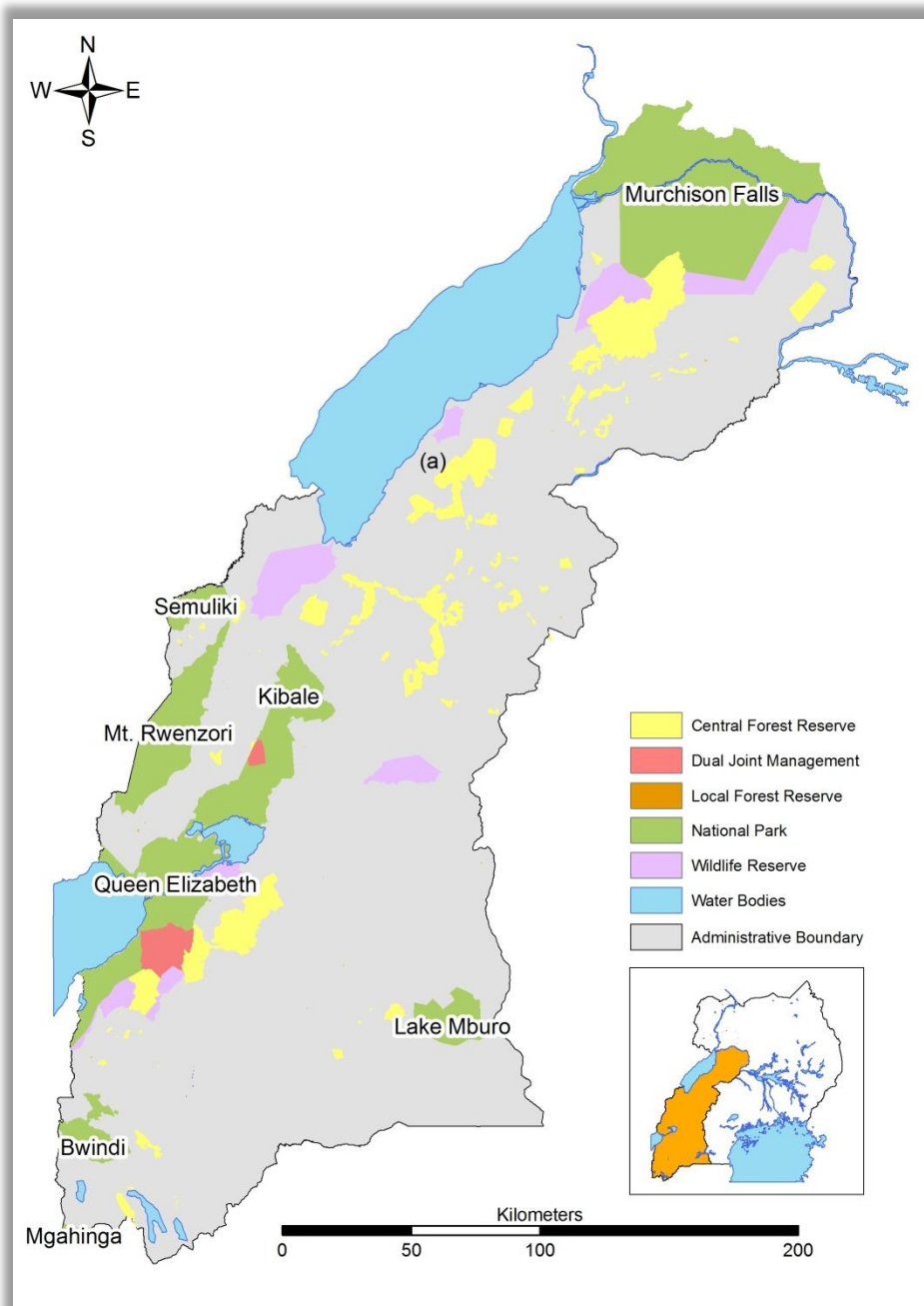


Figure 1: Protected areas of the Albertine rift in Uganda within the Western Administrative Region

Site Name	IUCN Designation ^a	Date established
Budongo Forest Reserve	-	1932
Bugungu Wildlife Reserve	III	-
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	II	1992
Kabwoya Wildlife Reserve	III	
Kashyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve	-	1932
Kaiso Tonya Community Wildlife Management Area	VI	
Kalinzu-Muramagambo Forest Reserve		1932
Karuma Wildlife Reserve	III	

Karuma Falls Controlled Hunting Area	-	
Katonga Wildlife Reserve	III	
Katonga Controlled Hunting Area	-	
Kazinga Wildlife Sanctuary	VI	
Kibale National Park	II	1993
Kigezi Wildlife Reserve	III	
Kyambura Wildlife Reserve	III	
Lake Mburo National Park	II	
Mgahinga Gorilla National Park	II	1992
Murchison Falls National Park	II	1954
Ntoroko-Kanara Wildlife Sanctuary	VI	
Nyaburogo Wildlife Sanctuary	VI	
Queen Elizabeth National Park	II	1952
Rwengara Community Wildlife Management Area	VI	
Rwenzori Mountains National Park	II	1992
Semliki Controlled Hunting Area	-	
Semuliki National Park	II	1993
Toro-Semuliki or Toro-Semliki Wildlife Reserve	III	

Table 1: Protected areas and IUCN designations within the Albertine rift in Uganda (IUCN and UNEP, 2009; Plumptre et al., 2007a; UWA 2012 b; c; Buyinza and Nyakaama, 2011).

Poverty in the Albertine Rift

Evidence of poverty alleviation in Uganda is contradictory (Bird et al., 2010). During the 1990s, poverty headcount statistics declined from 55.7% in 1992 to 35% in 2000 (Appleton et al., 1999; Deninger and Okidi, 2002). Subsequently, during the early 2000s, poverty levels increased - attributed to a decline in agricultural growth and a worsening of the income distribution (Kappel et al., 2005). The most recent national household surveys carried out in 2005/2006 show poverty levels declining again (UBOS, 2006) (Table 2).

	1992/93	1997/98	1999/00	2002/03	2005/06
National	55.7	44	35.1	38.8	31.1 (8.4 million)
Rural	59.7	48.2	39	42.7 (9.3 million)	34.2 (7.9 million)
Urban	28.2	16.3	10.1	14.4 (0.5 million)	13.7 (0.6 million)
Total Western region	-	-	-	32.9 (2.1 million)	20.5 (1.4 million)
Western rural	53.8	43.2	29.4	34.3	21.4
Western urban	29.7	19.9	5.6	18.6	9.3

Table 2: Poverty headcount (%) and absolute poverty numbers (given in parentheses) in Uganda, 1992-2006 (UBOS, 2006; Bird et al., 2010).

Population and poverty data for the Albertine Rift region show higher population densities towards the South-Eastern and Northern flanks of the region and corresponding higher poverty densities (number of people living in poverty per km²) towards the Eastern and Northern sub counties of the region. Population and poverty data relating to the Albertine Rift region showed that in terms of poverty density, the most distinct high poverty density

area is within and surrounding Murchison Falls National Park. The percentage of the population in poverty data shows four clusters of high (>30%) poverty in sub counties surrounding Bwindi Inpenetrable National Park, the southern tip of Moutn Rwenzois National park, the southern tip of Lake Albert and the Lake Albert-side area of Murchison Falls National Park. Data demonstrates that in general, the Eastern flanks of the administrative region have both higher population densities and higher poverty densities (Fig. 2).

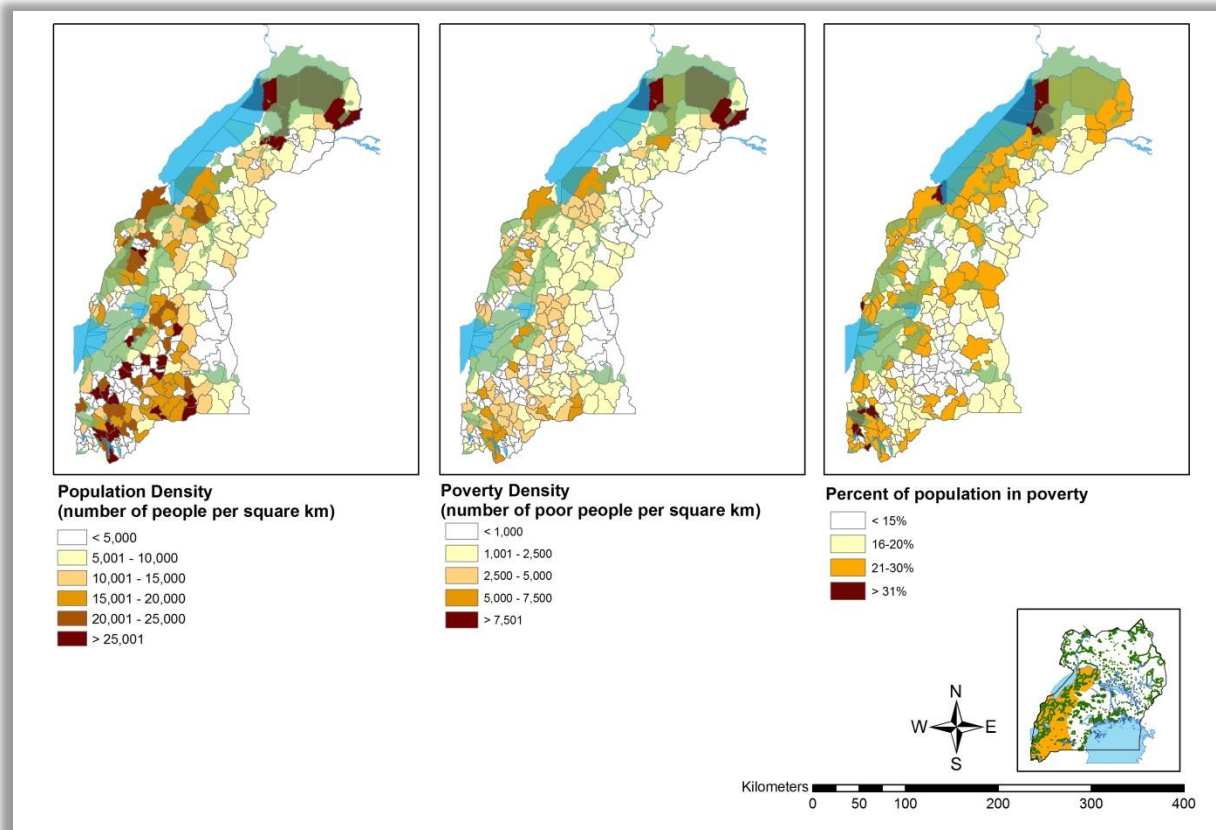


Figure 2: a) Population density, b) Poverty density c) Percentage of the population in poverty, in the western administrative region (2005)

Conservation in the Albertine Rift

National-level conservation in Uganda began in the 1930s, and has since progressed to cover much of the region (Table 1) (Plumptre et al., 2007a). Initially designated to protect mountain gorillas, the protected areas have developed to incorporate larger savannah mammals, protect watersheds and provide resources such as timber, fuel wood and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for surrounding communities (Plumptre et al., 2007a).

Until the 1970s, wildlife-based tourism provided Uganda's economy with the third largest foreign exchange source (Marquardt, 1994). However during Idi Amin's reign, national biodiversity suffered considerable losses due to habitat reduction and poaching from starving local people and soldiers (Marquardt, 1994). It was not until the late 1980s and early 1990s, under President Yoweri Museveni, that park management was successfully

rebuilt (Lepp, 2008).

There are three government departments directly responsible for the management of forests and natural resources in Uganda. Established in May 1995, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is the principal government agency in Uganda and is responsible for “coordinating, monitoring, regulating and supervising environmental management” (NEMA, 2011). As the leading natural resource authority in the country, NEMA’s activities focus on government support to ensure sustainable development in Uganda (NEMA, 2011).

The National Forestry Authority’s (NFA) was established in 2003 with the mission to “manage central forest reserves on a sustainable basis and to supply high quality forestry-related products and services to government, local communities and the private sector” (http://www.nfa.org.ug/content.php?submenu_id=9). The NFA is charged with the responsibility to improve the management of the central forest reserves, in order to increase the area of forest cover, reduce illegal activities, attract plantation investment and improve harvesting procedures (http://www.nfa.org.ug/content.php?submenu_id=4).

Conservation and park management in The Albertine Rift, and Uganda in general, is mandated by the Ugandan Wild Life Authority (UWA). Established in 1996, from a merger of the Uganda National Parks and Game Department, UWA is a semi-autonomous institution, governed by a board of trustees. UWA manages a total of ten national parks, twelve wildlife reserves, fourteen wildlife sanctuaries and provides guidance for community wildlife areas (Uganda High Commission, 2009). Its principle mission is to “conserve, economically develop and sustainably manage the wildlife and protected areas of Uganda” (UWA, 2012d). As the leading management authority, UWA fulfils four principal roles:

- Law enforcement and the control of illegal activities;
- ‘Community conservation’ activities designed to reduce conflict between the park and local communities and build local support for conservation;
- Research and monitoring;
- Supporting tourism development (Blomley et al., 2010).

National park management in Uganda is exclusively under UWA administration, however local governments are additionally required to provide support for the control of ‘vermin’ (non-threatened species which cause property damage).

In addition to park management and biodiversity conservation, UWA has developed a series of community conservation programmes, namely Revenue Sharing; Collaborative Management; Problem Animal Management; Wildlife Use Rights (sport hunting, wildlife trade, farming and ranching, general extraction) and Conservation Education and Awareness (UWA, 2012a).

Under the revenue and sharing programme, mandated by the Wildlife Act 2000: Section 69 (4), 20% of park entry fees are directed to local district governments to fund community projects “that contribute to improvement of community welfare and poverty alleviation” (UWA, 2012a). Official records state that since inception, UGX 4,427,220,683 / US \$1,770,885.53 (International Monetary Fund. Exchange Rate: March 2012) has been paid

(UWA, 2012a). Whilst official records suggest numerous benefits, the revenue sharing programme has been heavily criticised. Sandbrook (2010) found that in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, over three-quarters of tourism revenue was lost due to leakage. Factors such as corruption within the revenue collection chain, differing stakeholder priorities, inadequate funds and lack of transparency limit the effectiveness of the revenue sharing programme (Adams and Infield, 2003; Archabald and Naughton-treves, 2001)). As a result, the majority of communities surrounding protected areas perceive few benefits from the parks (Adams and Infield, 2003).

In addition to UWA, national and international NGOs and bilateral aid support conservation activities in the region. Frequently in collaboration amongst themselves, UWA, local communities, and NGOs work to improve biodiversity conservation, undertake research, and attempt to improve local livelihoods for conservation (Blomley et al., 2010).

The Albertine Rift landscape is diverse. It contains both the highest (Margherita Peak in the Rwenzori Mountain range: 5,029m above sea level) and lowest (Lake Albert = 620m above sea level) elevations in the country, with topological ranges including lowlands (e.g. Lake Edward and Albert flats), highlands (e.g. Northern Bushenyi hills, Kigezi highlands and Isingiro hills) and mountains (e.g. Rwenzori and Mufumbiro ranges) (Bamutaze, 2011). The varying elevation contributes to the range of climatic regions in the Rift. Below 1200m above sea level, the climate is predominantly tropical savannah. Between 1200m and 2000m above sea level, it is primarily equatorial, above 2000m above sea level it is temperate, and at 4500m above sea level, the snow line appears (Matete and Bakamanume, 2011).

The range of climatic and topographic regions in the Rift have enabled a diverse array of ecosystem systems to develop. As a result, the Albertine Rift is the most vertebrate species-rich region and contains the highest number of recorded endemic vertebrates on the African continent (Burgess et al., 2004; Plumptre et al., 2007b) (*Table 3*).

	Total recorded species	Number of endemic species	Number of globally threatened species
Mammal	402	35	36
Bird	1061	41	25
Reptile	175	16	2
Amphibian	119	36	16
Plant	5793 (821 trees)	551	40

Table 3: Recorded biodiversity in the Albertine Rift (Plumptre et al., 2007a).

In Sub-Saharan Africa, rural livelihoods are heavily dependent on land and natural resources (Abulu and Hassan, 1998). Increasing population growths, and a trend towards middle-income economies is placing ever-increasing pressures on land use and natural resources (Hartter and Ryan, 2010; NEMA, 2008). Uganda has one of the highest global population growth rates (UBOS, 2006; MFPED, 2008 as cited in NEMA 2008). Driven by high fertility

rates, and one of the lowest global urbanisation rates of 12% (MFPED, 2007 as cited in NEMA, 2008), pressures upon Uganda's natural resources are dramatically increasing (NEMA 2008). The National Environment Management Authority's (NEMA) latest state of environment report (2008) indicates that 9 million Ugandans live directly off natural resources, as a result of low income levels. Poverty in Uganda is therefore a social issue, with complex environmental challenges, the critical challenge being the mutual reinforcement between extreme poverty and environmental degradation (NEMA, 2008).

Methodology

This project was intended to map the physical locations of development initiatives and conservation initiatives in the Albertine Rift Region, western Uganda. There were two difficulties in selecting sample participants for this study. Firstly, there was no completed, central directory for organisations working in Uganda, and secondly there were uncertainties over the scope and boundaries of what constituted a 'conservation' or 'development' organisation. Self-identified 'conservation' and 'development' actors were easier to select, however, there were a large number of organisations whose identity was more challenging to ascertain.

The time-scale focussed upon initiatives that were either currently in place, going to be implemented within the next year (starting 2012), or those which had been completed within the last year (2010). This was done to maintain a contemporary and forward-looking approach.

This method has a number of limitations which require some comment. Firstly the number of organisations included in the project, was severely restricted by time and response rates. Secondly, organisations selection was limited to those with an internet presence, and viable contact methods. Postal contact was disregarded as a contact methodology, based on the limited capacity of the national postal service and time restrictions. Thirdly, interviews were conducted in Kampala city, therefore organisations that were not based in Kampala were not interviewed. Questionnaires were sent to organisations instead and also in addition to the interviews. Organisations that did not have internet access from elsewhere in the country were not surveyed. The limitations exclude the abundance of local, smaller organisations that do not advertise on the internet, do not have a contact in Kampala city and do not have a viable contact telephone number or email address.

This survey is therefore an incomplete picture of all organisations in the region but nevertheless provides a baseline of the larger organisations, and a reliable starting point on which to improve and add to. Table 4 lists the organisations covered in the survey and the data collection methods used.

	Interview	Questionnaire	Receive	Email	Typed Interview
ACODE		✓			
ACORD				✓	
Action Aid			✓		
Advocates for Natural Resources, Governance and Development		✓			
Africa 2000 Network	✓	✓			
African Palliative Care	✓				
ARCOS		✓			
BMCT		✓			
Budongo Central Forest Reserve CFM groups/ sites (BCFS)		✓			
CARE International	✓	✓	✓		
Community development conservation Agency (CODECA)	✓		✓		
Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)	✓	✓	✓		
CRS			✓		
EADB	✓				
Eco-Trust	✓	✓			
Environmental Management for livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility (EMLI)		✓			
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)	✓	✓			
Heifer International		✓			
International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)		✓			
ITFC					✓
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)		✓			
Nature Harness Initiative (NAHI)	✓	✓			
Nature Uganda		✓			
PROBICOU	✓	✓			
Prolinnova Uganda		✓			
Red Cross Society			✓		
Rhino Fund	✓				
Send a cow		✓			
SNV Netherlands Development Organization		✓			
The Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT)		✓			
The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI)		✓	✓	✓	
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD)		✓			
Uganda Community Tourism Association (UCOTA)	✓				
Uganda Wildlife Society (UWS)		✓			

UNASO			✓		
USAID	✓				
USAID-STAR (Sustainable tourism in the Albertine Rift)	✓	✓			
Village Enterprise				✓	
Water Aid	✓		✓		
Wildlife Clubs of Uganda					
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	✓	✓			
World Vision Uganda		✓			
World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)	✓	✓			

Table 4: Data collection method used with each organisation

Results

The academic debate often oversimplifies the complexities of both conservation and poverty (what they do, what they are). Indeed many organisations undertake both conservation and development activities. For example, Table 5 summarises activities reported by 12 conservation organisations interviewed in this study.

Organisation	Conservation	Development
WCS	Surveys and research with UWA Staff training for UWA Monitoring Training (EIAs)	Promoting revenue income schemes/livelihoods (ecotourism) Skills training (bee keeping, crafts) Employment (lodge) Business capacity training Community enterprises Natural resource management (for pastoralists outside Pas)
Rhino Fund	Breeding stock of Rhinos for reintroduction to Murchison Education programmes/Sensitisation Law enforcement with anti-poaching units. Rehabilitation centre for orphaned animals Research and monitoring Infrastructure (fences)	Cattle feeding agreement, includes vaccinations for cattle (natural resources, food security, income generating) Employment opportunity Enterprise development, income generating activity (cultural village) Business training (cultural village) Loan programme for staff (financial)
NAHI	Research and monitoring EIAs	Training and skills development (for PES) Alternative (nature based) income generating activities (bee keeping, crafts, fruit growing, tourism) Market (economic) based initiatives for community participation
ITFC	Research and training	Research and training
Ecotrust	Reforestation/Afforestation	Water and sanitation

	Land trust programme (they bought land to protect it) Education	Energy (renewable) Access to markets (Carbon market and agriculture) Credit schemes Enterprise development (forest-based) Employment (lodge) Land ownership Agricultural development (training and research of technologies)
CTPH	Monitoring Animal vaccination	Family planning Sanitation, Hygiene (vaccinations against disease e.g. TB) Education on health/family planning Domestic animal vaccination Gender equality and women's empowerment through family planning
CODECA	Education/awareness	Business development (management plans) Savings and loans association Improve access to financial institutions Capacity building (communities) Community Empowerment for Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco
UWA	Research and monitoring Rangers Infrastructure Education and awareness	Revenue sharing Natural resource access Income generating (sport hunting)
WWF	Advocacy for conservation Research	civil society empowerment Advocacy for service delivery and access to markets (coffee growing) Alternative livelihoods (promoting coffee growing, ecotourism)
USAID-STAR	Reforestation/Afforestation Infrastructure (elephant trenches)	Capacity building of enterprise (tourism) communities Marketing (improving access to international tourism market) Skills and business (e.g. accounting) training Constituency building (forming CBOs) Promote participation Grants for infrastructure
UCOTA	Training	Marketing, Capacity building, Advocacy Training (marketing) Income generating activities

FFI	Training	Capacity building Recognise and appreciate peoples cultural values Access to natural resource for cows (income generating, food security) Sanitation (soap)
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Table 5: Activities of twelve conservation organisations surveyed

Overall, if development activities are categorised as empowerment, wellbeing, finance, knowledge and emergency (based on other international frameworks for assessing poverty) and conservation activities as protection and management, then there is a huge overlap between the two sorts of organisations (Table 6)

Category	Conservation Activities	Development Activities
Empowerment	Advocacy (for service delivery) Capacity building (tourism enterprise, community; business) Civil society empowerment Community participation Constituency building (forming CBOs) Gender equality and women's empowerment Land acquisition and ownership	Advocacy (women's land rights, improved education, resource allocation, school feeding programmes, water management facilities, national-level palliative care Support land rights cases for women Capacity building (school management, communities, businesses, for sustainable natural resource management) Rights (for children, women, people with HIV/AIDS, Strengthen civil society to advocate and hold public institutions accountable for education Participation (decision making processes, education) Encourage collaboration and networking Foster collaboration, networking, and strategic partnership among civil society organisations Community empowerment for business associated with natural resource based management Facilitate civil society participation in constructive dialogue
Well-being	Market access (agricultural markets;	Market access support

	<p>carbon markets; tourism markets)</p> <p>Access to natural resource for pastoralists</p> <p>Domestic animal vaccination</p> <p>Family planning</p> <p>Grants for infrastructure</p> <p>Hygiene (vaccinations against disease e.g. TB)</p> <p>Energy efficient stoves</p> <p>Increase agriculture production through reduced wildlife conflicts</p> <p>Land acquisition and ownership</p> <p>Infrastructure (social services e.g. schools, health units, educational centre, laboratories for schools)</p> <p>Natural resource management (for pastoralists outside Protected areas)</p> <p>Renewable energy</p> <p>Water and sanitation(drilling boreholes and spring protection),</p> <p>Woodlot establishment</p> <p>Problem animal management</p> <p>Improved nutrition by promoting backyard farming</p>	<p>Support school feeding programmes</p> <p>Water supply (rainwater harvesting, borehole, wells and springs construction)</p> <p>Promote forest-based livelihood strategies</p> <p>HIV/AIDS relief support</p> <p>Water hygiene and sanitation management, operation and maintenance (households and schools)</p> <p>Increase access to markets for farmers</p> <p>Problem animal management</p> <p>Finance the construction of infrastructure (e.g. factories, schools, hotels)</p> <p>Promote local innovations in agriculture and natural resources to improve food security</p> <p>Construct household latrines</p> <p>Renewable energy (focusing on biogas)</p> <p>Establish woodlots</p>
Finance	<p>Carbon finance</p> <p>Community benefit sharing</p> <p>Credit schemes</p> <p>Economic incentives for maintaining private forests</p> <p>Employment opportunities in eco-lodge</p> <p>Formation of village savings and loans associations for communities,</p> <p>Income generating activities (goat rearing, coffee growing, beekeeping, piggery, vegetable growing, fruit growing, craft making, cultural village, fish farming, community trails, ecotourism)</p> <p>Loan programme</p> <p>Market (economic) based initiatives for community participation</p>	<p>Provide seeds, planting materials (and funds for) for farmers</p> <p>Facilitate diversification of livelihood sources (e.g. fish farming, beekeeping, goat rearing, fruit trees)</p> <p>Linking farmers to financial institutions</p> <p>Access to financial services through rotational saving and loans schemes.</p> <p>Financial savings and internal lending program for communities</p> <p>Improve access to financial institutions</p> <p>Income generating activities (goat rearing, beekeeping, fish farming, timber products)</p> <p>Savings and loans association</p> <p>Marketing,</p> <p>Promote local innovations in agriculture and natural resources</p>

		<p>to improve household incomes</p> <p>Promote increased tourism associated income</p> <p>Formation of money lending institutions</p>
Knowledge	<p>Training and research of technologies for agricultural development</p> <p>Education on health/family planning</p> <p>Training on fruit trees propagative methods</p> <p>Skills and business training (accounting)</p> <p>Skills training (bee keeping, crafts)</p>	<p>Train women on land rights</p> <p>Information generation and dissemination for education</p> <p>Training for advocacy and policy engagement</p> <p>Training, and provide sanitation for girls in schools</p> <p>Awareness on counterfeit seeds and access to agro-inputs and government services</p> <p>Training on agro-inputs</p> <p>Provide information on the impacts of climate change (on agriculture)</p> <p>Research linking management of natural resources to sustainable development</p> <p>HIV/AIDS education</p> <p>Training in enterprise development,</p> <p>Train, mentor and support care providers in palliative care</p> <p>First Aid training</p> <p>Provide a platform for exchange and sharing of strategic information and experiences among civil society organisations engaged in HIV/AIDS response</p>
Emergency		<p>Technical support to disaster management activities</p>
Protection	<p>Advocacy for environmentally friendly development</p> <p>Control of illegal hunting for bush meat in forest reserves</p> <p>Community sensitisation and awareness raising on conservation issues,</p> <p>Improved land management,</p> <p>Watershed protection,</p> <p>Collaborative natural resource management,</p> <p>Capacity building of Protected Areas</p>	<p>Community sensitisation (to minimize conflicts between park management and frontline communities)</p> <p>Educating the impacts of human activities on the environment,</p> <p>Natural resources management with emphasis on soil fertility management and integrating agro forestry</p> <p>Energy conservation,</p> <p>Promote good governance of</p>

	<p>Authorities</p> <p>Provision of water to park edge communities to reduce communities entering parks.</p> <p>Human wildlife conflict reduction</p> <p>Conservation of water sources and harvesting,</p> <p>Advocacy for sustainable extraction of minerals in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. oil exploitation and limestone mining in Kamwenge)</p> <p>Payments for ecosystem services schemes.</p> <p>Support anti-poaching patrols</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessments</p> <p>Money from the community trail funds to improve protection of Gorillas and park resources</p> <p>Lobbying and awareness raising on chemical use in Uganda</p> <p>Law enforcement with anti-poaching units</p> <p>Conservation education</p> <p>Mobilizing resources for chimpanzee-focused environmental conservation</p> <p>Infrastructure (fences)</p> <p>Chimpanzee and habitat conservation through incentives for forest protection, alternative livelihoods activities,</p> <p>Forming private forest owners associations,</p> <p>Support private forest owners to acquire land titles</p> <p>Direct funding to conservation organisations through tourism</p> <p>Staff training for the Ugandan Wildlife Authority</p> <p>Promote incentives for alternative resource use strategies</p>	<p>protected areas and equitable sharing of conservation benefits and costs,</p> <p>Collaborative forest management</p> <p>Facilitated the formation of community based wetland management approaches.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Awareness</p> <p>Promote the use of biogas in rural communities (to reduce pressures fuelwood)</p> <p>Awareness rising for forest and wetland conservation,</p> <p>Watershed protection from encroachment in Gravity Flow Schemes</p>
Management	<p>Restoration of degraded ecosystems</p> <p>Research in natural forest conservation</p> <p>Reforestation/Afforestation ,</p> <p>Wild animal vaccination</p> <p>Ecosystem restoration (forests and water catchments areas).</p>	<p>Reforestation/Afforestation</p> <p>Water resources conservation (e.g. water management trenches)</p>

Indigenous tree nurseries for the restoration of degraded forested areas Wetland restoration on degraded areas Soil and water conservation Crane monitoring on identified sites Crane breeding documentation Breeding stock of Rhinos for reintroduction to Murchison Rehabilitation centre for orphaned animals Rescued chimpanzees sanctuary Capacity building of stake holder organizations in GIS and remote sensing Staff training for the Ugandan Wildlife Authority Surveys and research with Ugandan Wildlife Authority	
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Table 6: Activities carried out in the Western Administrative Region, by surveyed organisations.

As well as an overlap in activities there is also an overlap in the geographical locations of conservation and development organisations' work (Fig. 3). Conservationists predominantly focus to the west of the region, surrounding protected areas, in particular around three protected areas: Bwindi Impenetrable NP, northern Queen Elizabeth NP and Budongo CFR. Development project locations are more spread out over the entire region, although results show higher counts of organisations in sub counties surrounding and within Murchison Falls National Park, around Lake Albert and running down through Queen Elizabeth National Park. These areas have a relatively high proportion of the population living in poverty (>20%), however areas surrounding Lake Albert have relatively low poverty densities.

Interview responses confirm that development organisations have more of a general approach in terms of locality, and that they use performance indicators to determine where to work. For example Water Aid reported that in order to choose the location of a project, they carry out an initial country review. This involves evaluating previous country strategies from the government, their performances, challenges and best practices. On completion, a final criteria is drawn, using national indicator such as water and sanitation statistics at district level, poverty status, budget allocation, health, conflict to identify the worst 30 districts, of which they concentrate on a select few (e.g. two). Within the chosen districts, they map out the most desperate sub counties, and within them, the parishes and villages.

Conservation organisations however, tend to have a more restricted approach. Although there are some organisations – such as WCS – that have extended their focus to include areas outside protected areas, forming a landscape-scale approach to connect protected areas through private- and community-level forest management, the majority of

conservation organisations congregate around and within protected areas. Organisations reported that this is simply because that is where their niche is (Box 1).

Box 1: Choosing locations for conservation and development work

“Generally, the projects are usually initiated by a demand driven process whereby communities request for support in the various areas of interventions. Support is then extended depending on the available need which is usually assessed basing on coverage figures”, Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)

“We are mandated to conserve biodiversity. Where do we find biodiversity? In the protected areas, in natural forests. That is why you don’t find us working in the central region, because there are no forests there”, ECOTRUST

Mapping organisations activities

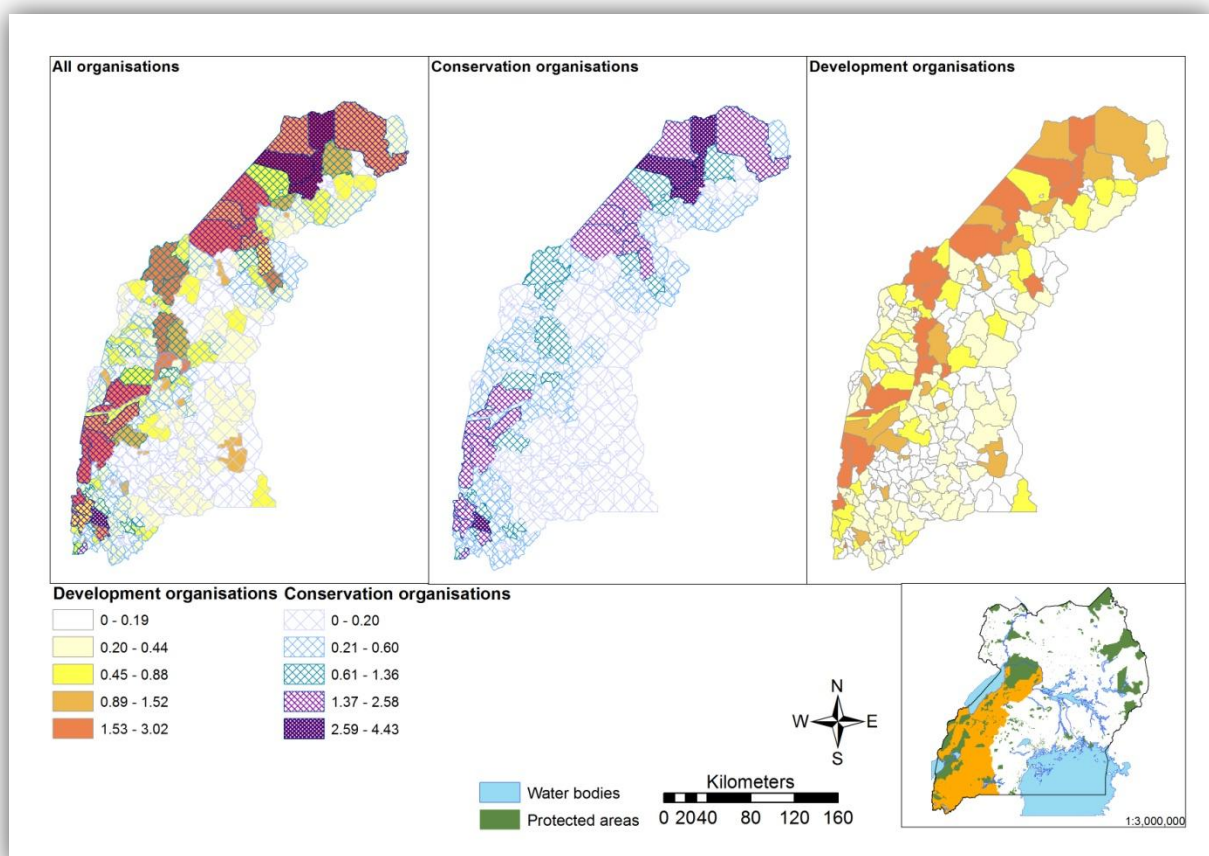


Figure 3: The distribution of organisations’ activities within the Western Administrative Region, Uganda.

Discussion

The physical overlap between conservation and development organisations may imply that the two sectors are already working together. It is surprising to learn however, that there are disparities amongst conservation organisations as to whether development programmes in the Albertine Rift (Box 2).

Box 2: Conservation views on development

In areas where we have worked, there are very few [development] players, the other players who are there are also in conservation, but we have tried some efforts [to work with development organisations], which haven't yielded. We [...] wanted to promote coffee. [...] We wanted to partner with [a national food marketing company] but they weren't very interested in the areas we work. Access, there are no roads, so the big companies think no, not worth it. The infrastructure doesn't exist in Albertine Rift is partly because that areas around nature reserves/parks are kind of ignored in most cases,

WWF

There are lots of development activities in the Albertine Rift, there are lots of economical activities, one, the oil extraction and production. So this is an area for conflicts from a result of bad economic development over land and things. We already see many people around who buy big chunks of land, so they can sell it. They have long term vision of establishing structures, Hoima will be an oil city, so big industries are trying to push out local communities; they buy them off and get big chunks of land

NAHI

The main value of this pilot study is that it serves to highlight both the diversity and similarities within and between the priorities and activity content of organisations. Reviewing the conservation and development focus of specific activities – rather than focussing on the mission of the organisation as a whole - may improve or generate new collaboration/coordination/networking opportunities.

The limited number of organisations surveyed only represents a fraction of the organisations working in the Albertine Rift. There are no other surveys similar to this one that exists; it therefore provides a starting point from which to continue. It includes the majority of the larger conservation organisations and most of the larger national organisations working in the Albertine Rift, and a mix of both larger international and smaller, national development organisations.

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