



Information sharing workshop ITFC-UWA, 2011

“Emerging issues and challenges of natural
resource management in Albertine Rift
protected areas”



ITFC: post-graduate research institute (since 1991)

Mbarara University of Science and
Technology, Faculty of Science, Biology

- 8 scientific staff
- 4 administrative staff
- 18 field assistants
- 2 drivers, 5 camp keepers
- 4 security guards
- 4 volunteers
- 4 MPI-EVAN staff



Donors & Collaborators

- MacArthur Foundation
- UWA
- WCS
- TEAM
- BMCT
- IGCP
- CARE
- Nature Uganda
- UOBDO
- TCS
- MGVP
- CTPH
- MPI-EVAN
- DFDGI



Our Mission

- To support and undertake research, monitoring and capacity development; to bolster conservation understanding and practice in the region
- Bwindi, Mgahinga, Echuya. Also QENP, Rwenzori Mountains, Semuliki Valley, Murchison Falls, Mount Elgon



What is going on at ITFC?

- Capacity building
- Supporting UWA
- Hosting and facilitating research
- Monitoring activities
- Consultancy studies
- Publications
- Other expected activities this year



Capacity building-1

Six scholarship MSc students 2009-2010

- ★ Fredrick Ssali (MUST, Biology): *The impact of elephants on trees in Bwindi*
- ★ Ronald Twongyirwe (MUIENR): *Land use change and carbon stocks around Bwindi*
 - Lilian Twanza (MUIENR): *Birds as indicators for the conservation value of matrix habitats outside Bwindi*
 - Moses Oluka (MUIENR): *Emigration and land abandonment in and around Bwindi*
 - Geoffrey Malinga (MUIENR): *Altitudinal zonation of birds species in Bwindi*
- ★ David Kissa (MUIENR): *Inventory of Myrianthus holstii in Bwindi*

Capacity building-2

Six scholarship MSc students 2010-2011

- ★ Emily Kamusiime (FFNC): *Inventory of hemi-parasitic plants in Bwindi*
- ★ Brian Baguma (MUIENR): *Invasive plant species in Semuliki*
- ★ Robert Ssekisambu (MUIENR): *Inventory of amphibians in Bwindi*
- ★ Patrick Mawanda (MUIENR): *Rodents as potential carriers of parasites across Bwindi border*
- ★ Hillary Kumanya (WHARM): *Baboons as potential reservoirs of zoonotic pathogens*
 - Boaz Odoi (FFNC): *Resilience of trees to elephants in Rabongo forest*

Capacity building-3

Five PhD projects linked to ITFC

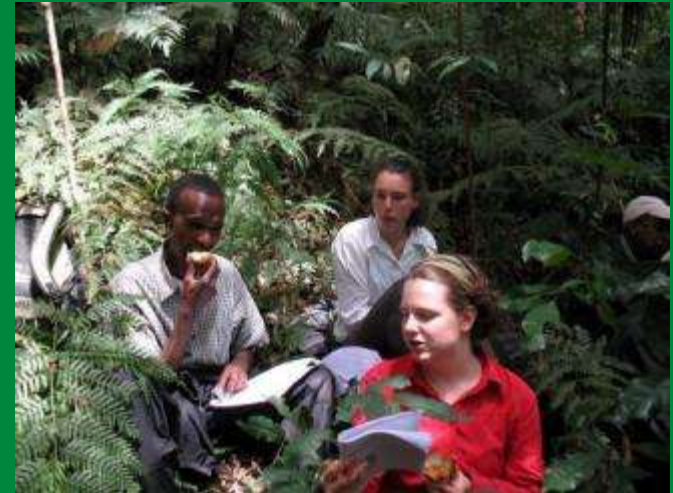
- ★ ★ Robert Bitariho (MUST): *Utilisation of forest resources in Bwindi : conservation and socio-economic impact*
- Dennis Babaasa (University of Massachusetts): *Mapping vegetation in Bwindi*
- Edward Wright (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology): *Feeding ecology of Mountain Gorillas*
- ★ Peter Alele (Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden): *Soil microbial composition in the Nile watershed*
- Marieke Sassen (Wageningen University): *Changes in forest cover, use and livelihoods on Mt Elgon, from 1973 to 2009*

Capacity building-4

Three foreign MSc students

★ Else Langbroek & Suzanne Stas (Utrecht University, NL):
Sustainability of resources harvested under Multiple Use agreements

- Jade Jacobson (University College London, UK):
The impact of the Amagara cooperative- Buhoma- on conservation and development



Supporting UWA

- Responding to research needs expressed by UWA

★ Bamboo harvesting impact study MGNP

★ Habituating gorilla groups for tourism

★ Improving poor uptake of human-wildlife conflict measures

★ Improving the implementation of resource use agreements

- Training: GPS refresher, weather data collection



Hosting and facilitating research-1

- Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology: Mountain Gorilla ecology and behaviour



- ★ TEAM Network: Tropical Ecology Assessment & Monitoring



Hosting and facilitating research-2

- Dr Phil Shaw: breeding ecology of the Stripe Breasted Tit
- Rare Finch Conservation Group: searching for Shelley's Crimsonwing



- ★ Full Bright scholar Elaine Hsiao: Peace Parks in mountain forests. The law and policy of transforming conflict to stewardship

Monitoring activities

- Evaluation of ITFC's ecological monitoring activities (summary report)

★ Impact of resource harvesting on selected plants under Multiple Use program

- Weather data
- Water quality
- Impact of gravity water scheme on Kabiranyuma swamp

★ Phenology



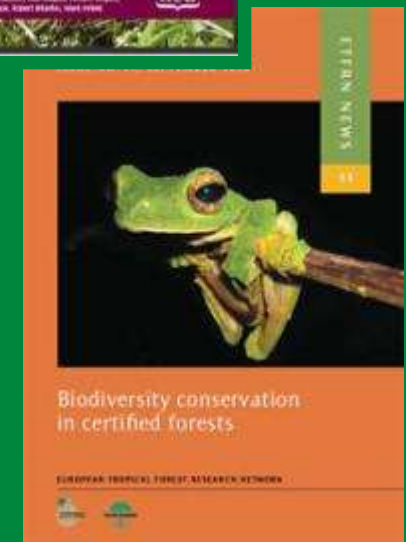
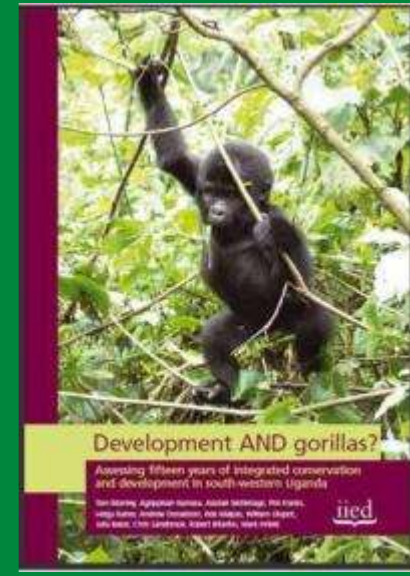
Consultancy studies

- For CARE-EEGL: resource assessment in beekeeping zones (completed) & participatory monitoring of resource use (postponed)
- ★ For UOBDU: supporting the planned 3Dmapping with Batwa communities (planned)
- Paper on REDD opportunities in SW Uganda (draft)



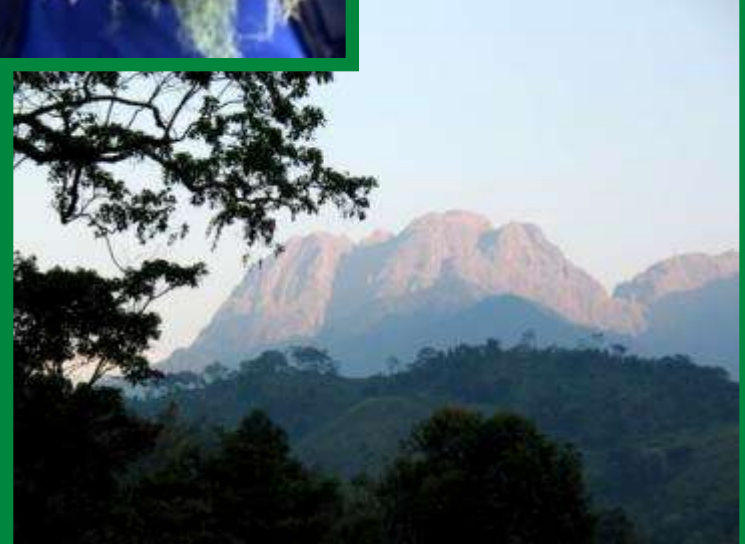
Publications

- IIED publication on 15 yrs of Conservation & Development efforts around Bwindi
- Several students are drafting publications from theses (Twongyirwe, Kissa, Ssali)
- Sheil guest-edited the ETFRN publication on 'Biodiversity conservation in certified forests'
- Book on 'Changes in the Protected Areas of the Albertine Rift (in prep. Edited by Plumptre)



Expected other activities this year

- Baseline study Lichen taxa in Bwindi (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)
- High altitude plots on Mt Rwenzori and Mt Elgon (WCS Climate Change project)



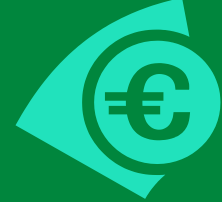
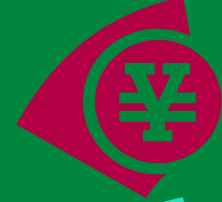
Expected other activities this year

- Seed dispersal of *Carapa grandiflora* by elephants, Nyiramana Aisha (NUR & Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Brunoy, France)



- ★ Gorilla census Sept-Oct 2011 (MPI-EVAN, UWA, IGCP, ITFC)

and... raising funds!



For more see www.itfc.org



Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation

Mbarara University of Science and
Technology

We are located in Ruhija, on the edge of Bwindi
Impenetrable National Park

Research, education, monitoring and training. Helping
ensure Uganda's natural heritage for future generations

P.O. box 44, Kabale, SW Uganda

If you have Google Earth, click [here](#)



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