

were beamed to various side events at the conference. A campaign called 25zero meant to raise awareness of global warming on mountains along equator featured the Rwenzoris

- International recognition brings tourism to the site, with its accompanying economic benefits for private sector players involved.
- Supporting in the Rwenzoris enables private sector to identify with WWF; a brand that has built strong international reputation for the last over 50 years. This WWF brand is already working with many private sector companies all over the world. Companies would continue gaining international platforms across all WWF networks, expertise and publications.
- Collaboration on the Rwenzoris enhances

reputation associated with conserving the environment (sustainable development) and provides opportunities to enhance image, visibility and strategic business advantage

- Businesses depend on water and impacts on it. Investing in watershed protection helps manage risk (i.e.: sedimentation, etc.) and develop new business opportunities.
- Involvement of companies e.g. hydropower and utility companies, etc. Would ensure mitigation of land degradation upstream which contributes to water siltation that increases operation costs of downstream users
- Rwenzori is a national treasure and participation in its conservation would be a great give back on one hand and good practice on the other.

Call for Action!

Given the threats faced by the Rwenzori landscape, scaling up efforts to protect it requires participation of the private sector. WWF Uganda seeks partnerships with private sector on;

- **Supporting a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) pilot water scheme** for companies within the landscape that directly benefit from catchments of Nyamwamba and Mubuku. The more companies are engaged, the greater the likelihood that siltation and associated costs and disruption to business operations will be reduced. Companies will be

able to contribute to investment for mitigation and/or minimize impacts of floods and land degradation within the landscape through on-farm and off-farms activities.

- **Bilateral action on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy** by supporting communities efforts for conservation around the park, strengthening institutional and technical capacity of RMNP (collaborative boundary management, community based tourism, infrastructure development, communication facilities, etc.). This will improve biodiversity conservation and benefits to the communities with a long term perspective.

For more information:

WWF Uganda Country Office,
Plot No. 2, Sturrock Road, Kololo
P.O. Box 8758, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 414 540064/5, **Fax:** +256 414 531166
Email: kampala@wwfuganda.org



WWF-Uganda



@WWFUGANDA

WWF

• A BUSINESS CASE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT TO CONSERVE RWENZORI MOUNTAINS ECOSYSTEM •



BRIEF

UG

2016

A BUSINESS CASE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT TO CONSERVE RWENZORI MOUNTAINS ECOSYSTEM



© SUSAN TUMUHARWE/WWFUGANDA

Supporting farmers to adopt good land management practices can improve land productivity as well as the quality and quantity of water resources

Background of Mt Rwenzori

The Rwenzori Mountains National Park (RMNP) is unique tourist attraction that serves as a global biodiversity hotspot and regional economic hub. It was gazetted as a National Park in 1991. In 1994 it was declared a World Heritage Site because of its cultural and scenic beauty and therefore raising its conservation status to an International level. Margherita Peak, one of

Mount Stanley's twin summits, is Africa's third highest peak with a height of 5,109 m (16,762 ft). Africa's fourth and fifth highest peaks Mts Speke and Baker are also located in the park. The park has glaciers, snow-fields, waterfalls, and lakes and is one of Africa's most beautiful mountain areas. The park is under the management of Uganda Wildlife Authority.



Why we are here

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

www.panda.org/uganda



© WWF-CANON SIMON RAWLES

Rewarding communities who adopt better land management practices upstream ensures shared responsibility with the private sector in sustaining water quality and quantity downstream

Importance of the RMNP Landscape

Mountain landscapes and water catchments have enormous economic, socioeconomic and conservation importance in Uganda. This Landscape supports about two million people most of whom are engaged in agricultural livelihoods. RMNP is important in the following ways;

- **A Water Tower:** The RMNP landscape is a water catchment that supplies water for domestic and public use; industry, institutions and community livelihoods. The importance of this resource is demonstrated by the presence of;
 - Agricultural/irrigation schemes
 - Power generation by four mini-hydropower stations
 - Development of an additional hydropower power station underway
 - Potential hydropower output from the catchments approximates 50 Megawatts (ERA 2015).
 - Domestic support to one of the leading urban industrial bases in the country (NWSC 2015).

This water also feeds into Lakes George and Edward, forms part of Lake Victoria and Albert Nile and Wet-

lands that are significant for water purification in lower catchment areas.

- **Tourism Destination:** The Park is a host to 70 mammals, 217 bird species including 19 Albertine Rift endemic species as well as snowfields and glaciers on the steeply rugged peaks.
- **Mineral Extraction:** The landscape is home to mining interests including Kilembe Mines, Kasese Cobalt Company Limited (KCCL) and Hima Cement plant, among others. Employ in excess of 100,000 people from the District and beyond (Kasese DLG 2015).
- **Climate regulation:** The Mountains are also strong regulators of climate. This is because the Park is a host to a tropical forest that is good for carbon storage
- **Research:** The RMNP has aided medical research, studies in anthropology and in climatic patterns. This is attributed to the presence of some of the world's rarest and virgin vegetation the landscape.
- **Ecosystem services values:** A recent economic study commissioned by WWF Uganda on the value of RMNP showed an annual economic value of UGX 790 billion/ year in watershed ecosystem services for a narrow area of 233,340 ha; i.e. an economic return per year of UGX 3.4 million/ha. Watershed ecosystem services values comprise of domestic use and supply, regulated water abstracted for electricity, wetland annual values, forested land and stumpage value and carbon sequestration values.

Status of the catchment

The landscape and its ecosystem are under threat of degradation. A combination of climate change related factors (including heavy rains, extreme dry seasons) and human actions like unsustainable land management practices (including historical and on-going diversion of rivers, construction of power plants, farming on steep slopes etc.) have increased susceptibility of landscape and are threatening the sustainability of the catchment. These climate related factors have brought about high levels of water siltation and irregularity flow which increasingly pose operational, regulatory and reputational risks to businesses downstream. Increasing population and poverty levels of communities adjacent to the park remain a big threat. Eventually, if unattended to, the communities will encroach on the park. Besides, the park is inadequately funded.

Efforts being undertaken to address the issues

An appraisal conducted by WWF Uganda recently showed that very few conservation options and little or no sustainable financing mechanisms exist for conservation of the RMNP landscape.



© SUSAN TUMUHAIRWE/WWFUGANDA

Improving water resources management can enhance industrial growth in the landscape and beyond

The Private sector companies like Bugoye Hydro Power Plant and Hima Cement Limited have been very active in financing catchment management activities in the sub catchments. Their efforts have seen over 10km of river banks and once deforested areas restored. Tibet Hima Industry Company Ltd, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and Barclays Bank Kasese branch have equally been undertaking conservation activities in the landscape.

The Kasese District local government introduced by-laws to protect the ecosystem and supported community sensitization on human activities that would conserve the environment.

Reasons for Private Sector Involvement

- The private sector gains much from credit associated with supporting and protecting the RMNP that is both a Ramsar and World Heritage Site.
- In partnering with RMNP, the private sector would gain good visibility on international scene. RMNP is already enjoying International media visibility. During the COP21 meeting in Paris, France for example, images of the Rwenzori Mountain peaks