

Uganda Conservation Foundation

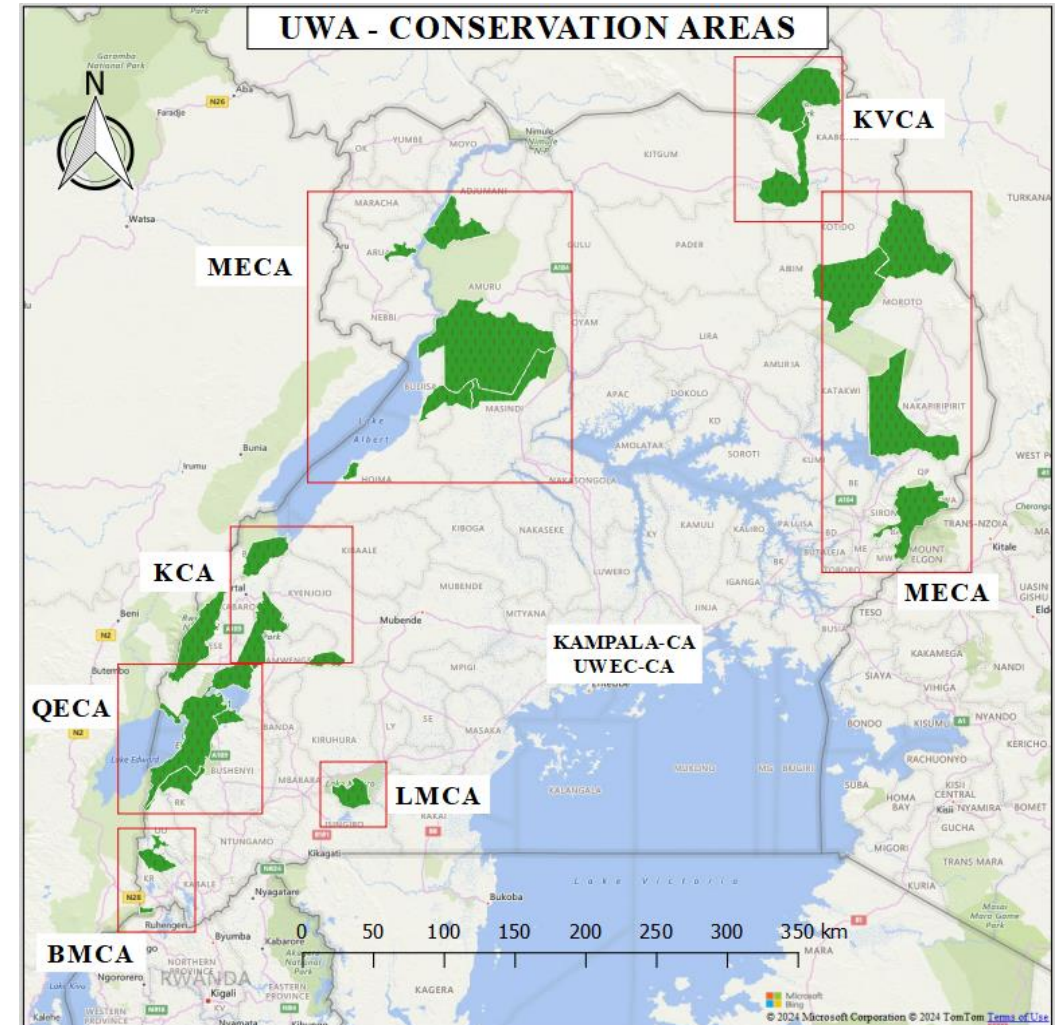
2025

*Kidepo, Murchison Falls & the
UWA Digital Strategy*



Uganda & Protected Areas

Bordering South Sudan, the DRC, Kenya and Rwanda





Kidepo Valley National Park

*Hidden away - many say it is their favourite
place in Africa*

Indigenous Peoples, the IK

Stewards of the Environment, Knowledge and Culture for Future Generations

The Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) and Morungole Community Conservancy are working to protect and preserve Ik heritage while promoting sustainable livelihoods.



The Ik (Teuso) are an indigenous and tiny tribe living in the Morungole Mountains of northeastern Uganda.

They speak the Ik language, one of the world's rarest, belonging to the Kuliak language family.

Traditionally hunters, gatherers, and subsistence farmers, the Ik live in close harmony with their rugged mountain environment.

Kidepo Valley Conservation Area

UWA Capacity & Development Support



Development progress:

- **Joint Operations Command Centre (JOCC):** Operations room (EarthRanger based), intelligence, investigation / prosecution, leadership and server room, meeting room, National Forestry Authority office, community conservancy operations room / office
- **JOCC:** IT, connectivity, furniture, server, computers
- **Communications:** Digital Radios / Phones / LoRaWAN
- **EarthRanger:** EarthRanger Mobile
- **Armory:**
 - Weapons security
 - Criminal evidence
 - Ivory store
- **Management Capacity & Training:**
 - Junior Leadership – 50% of the rangers
 - Wildlife Poison Management – 30 Rangers & Wardens
 - Quick Reaction Force - 14 Wardens & 20 Rangers
 - Human rights training – 14 Wardens & 20 Rangers
- **Equipment:**
 - Rucksacks, water bottles, 30 EarthRanger Phones
- **UCF Operational support:**
 - Permanent team deployed to support UWA for two years – Two Land Cruisers, drivers and project officers, and 20 community scouts.
- 3 waterholes dredged, park hydrology survey completed.



UWA Rangers & Community Scouts

A severe lack of numbers and capacity



Kidepo Rangers in Quick Reaction Force & Human Rights Ranger Training at the UWA Academy



Post training with NRT Kenya, and in Kidepo with UWA, MCC Scouts visited Murchison and the Pacer Community College tree nursery



Kidepo Rangers in Junior Leadership training delivered by the US & UK Military training teams at the UWA Academy



MCC Scouts took part in the 2024 Wildlife Ranger Challenge

Kidepo Wins Men's & Women's Wildlife Ranger Challenge

A strong and dedicated UWA ranger force – men's & women's



The Lions Crisis & Species Re-Introductions

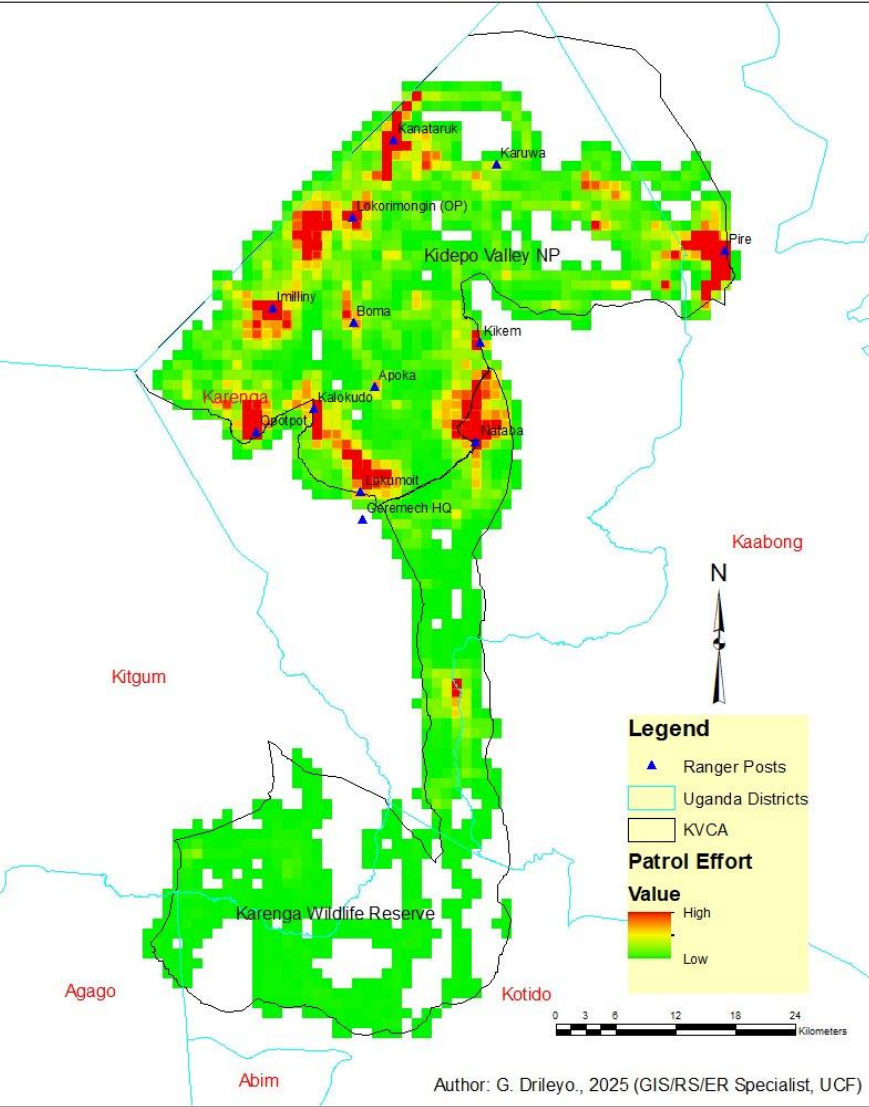
The causes of the population crash & our response

The lion crisis:

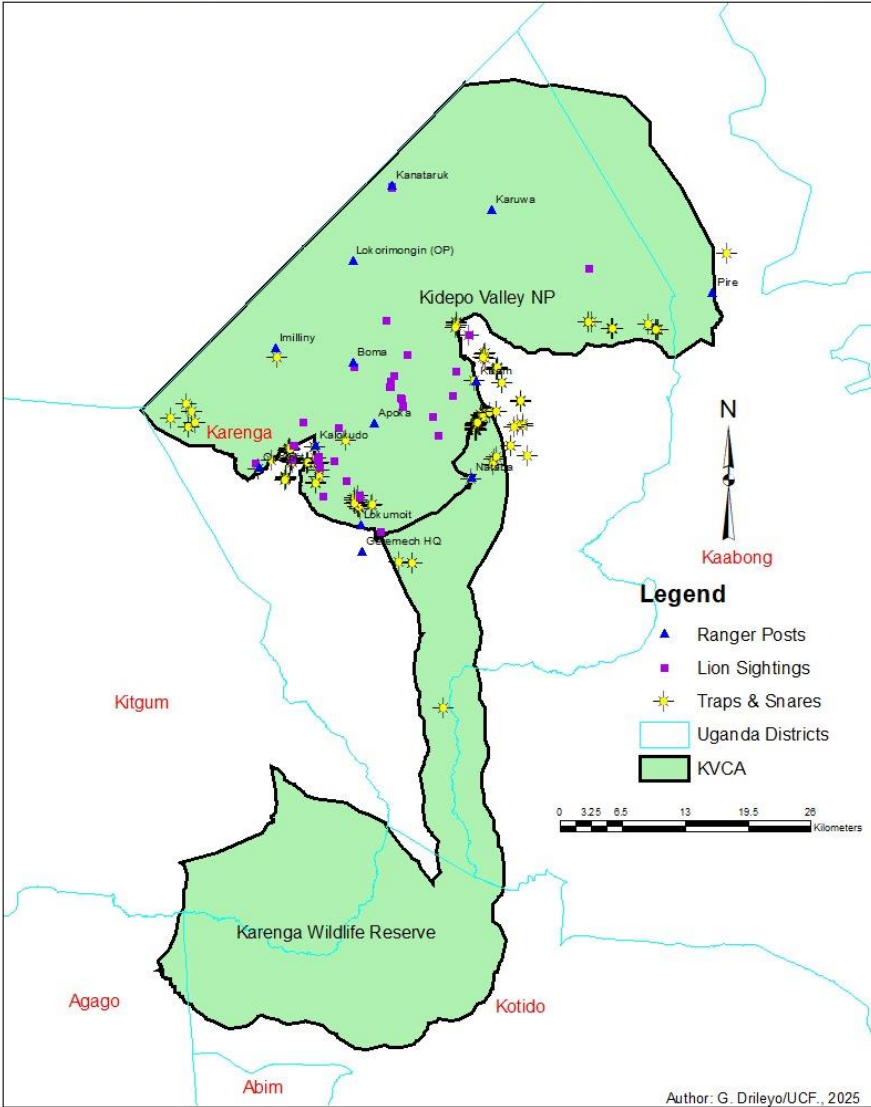
- 70% gone – initially it was not recognised
- UCF / UWA teams & Wildlife Crime Unit – deployed
- No loss for 18 months
- Review for re-introduction
 - Lion re-introduction
- Re-introductions / re-wilding:
 - Rhino (UCF Country-wide role, security, and ensuring the readiness of UWA)
 - Ostrich
 - Oryx
 - Roan Antelope



KVCA - Law Enforcement Patrol Coverage & Intensity - (Nov 2024 - June 2025)



Lion Sightings Vs Traps & Snare Recoveries - (Nov 2024-June 2025)





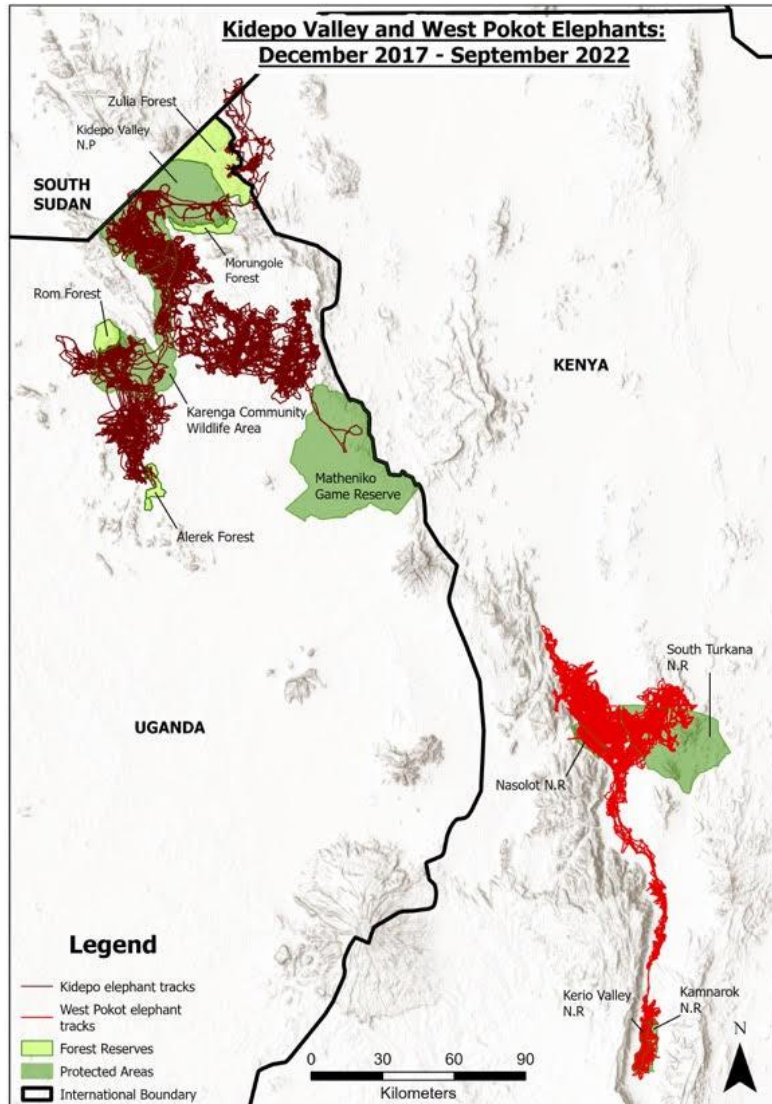
Kidepo / Karamoja Human Wildlife Conflict

Understanding elephant use of the landscape, landscape use and resource conflicts



Wildlife use of the Karamoja Landscape

32 Months of Tracking 15 Elephants in the transboundary landscape

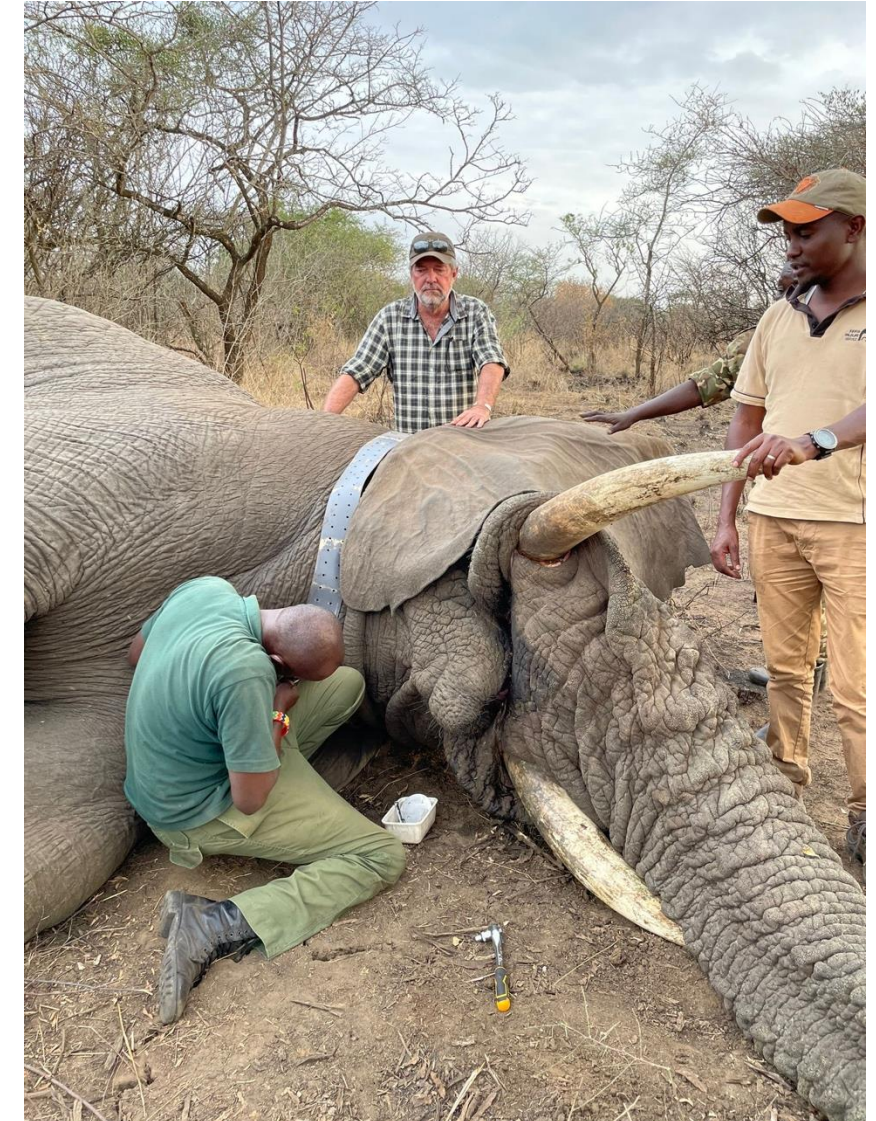


Phase 1 - Collaring:

- **Team:** UWA / UCF / NRT / KWS
Save the Elephants
- 11 Elephants in Uganda, 4 in Kenya
- All registered to UWA's EarthRanger system for 24/7 monitoring
- Numerous surveillance flights across the landscape

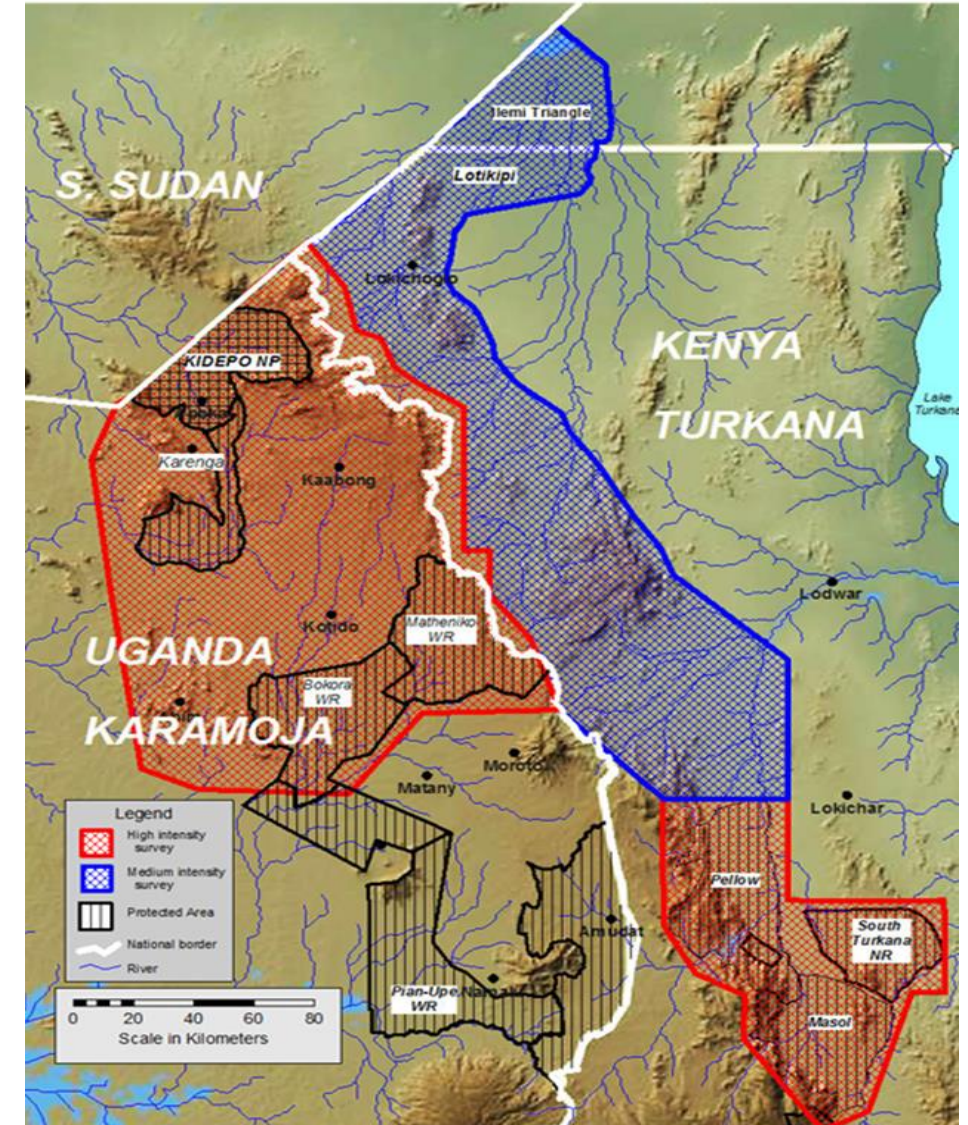
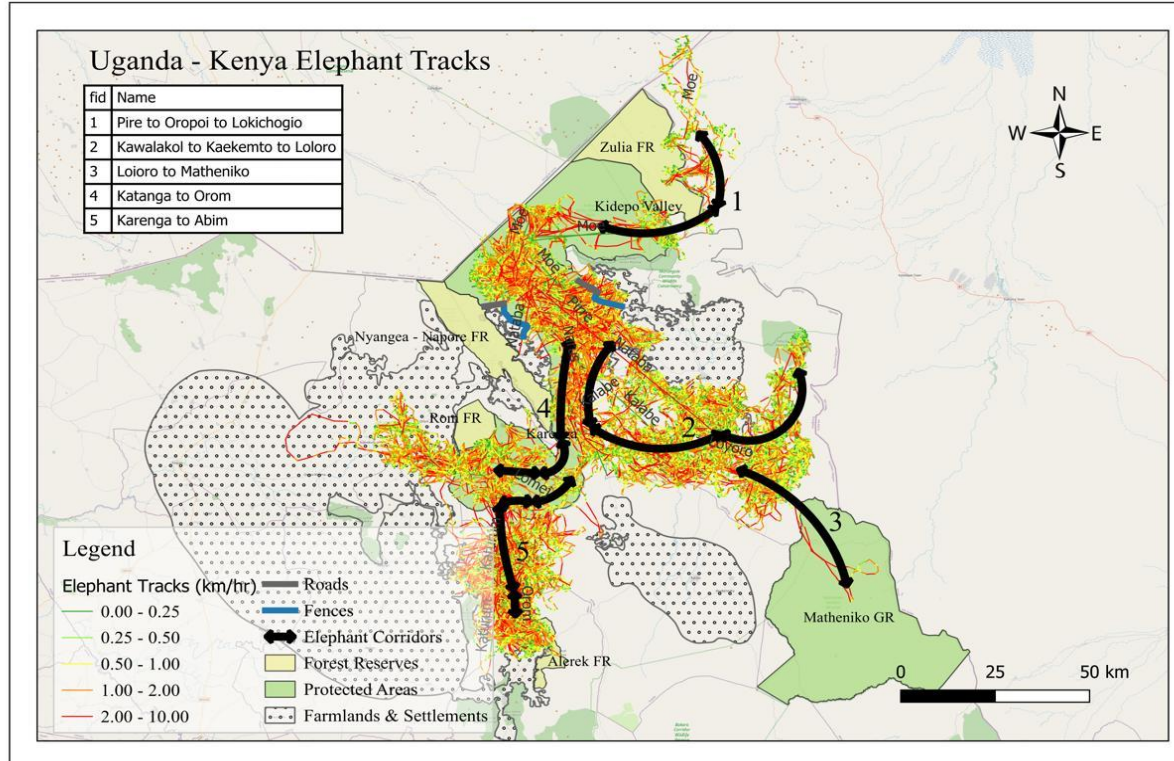
Phase 2 - Ground Review of information:

- Ground truthing of information carried out by UWA / Wild Landscapes with the support of UCF / NRT & the Mara Elephant Project – October 2024
- Recommendations for elephant fencing & further Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation measures
- Q2 2025 – additional collaring planned.



Elephant Conservation & Human Wildlife Conflict

Understanding elephant use of the landscape and resource conflicts



- 1st Transboundary aerial survey of the region incorporating all existing forms of protected areas and outside
- To be overlayed with wildlife collaring data, conservancy development, satellite imagery
- 1200 elephants more found in the landscape than thought existed!
- UCF is working with the Ministry and UWA, and other stakeholders to develop a landscape elephant / wildlife conflict plan

Community Owned & Managed Conservancies

Ensuring conservancy development is done correctly, for the long term



2021 Feb: NRT / UCF Learning exchange visit to NRT Kenya for UWA, NFA & B4R (RTI)

2021 / 2023: Various visits to Kidepo by NRT, including supporting collaboration in the region.



The MCC Board with Dr Robert Olivier.

Community Conservancy 2:

Naperetom Community Conservancy (NCC)

- Ground truthing of information carried out by UWA / Wild Landscapes with the support of UCF / NRT & the Mara Elephant Project – October 2024
- UCF hosting & leading the Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation planning across the landscape
- Q2 2025 further 14 elephants collared

Community Conservancy 1: Morungole Community Conservancy (MCC). 2023 / 2025

- FPIC / exchange visits and training
- Board & management elected and established
- NGO & UBRS Registration complete
- Full time scout team employed and trained by NRT & UCF, operational for one year
- New LandCruiser provided to support operations and development within MCC
- Participated in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge.
- Planted 10,000 indigenous trees across 5 schools
- Trained 12 Scouts to manage and look after trees.
- Two youth Diploma's sponsored.



Murchison Falls Conservation Area

Once the most visited park in Africa – now has
one of the greatest recoveries in Africa.

Picture: Achana (Acholi King – Cy Baker, Wildlife Artist of the Year 2023

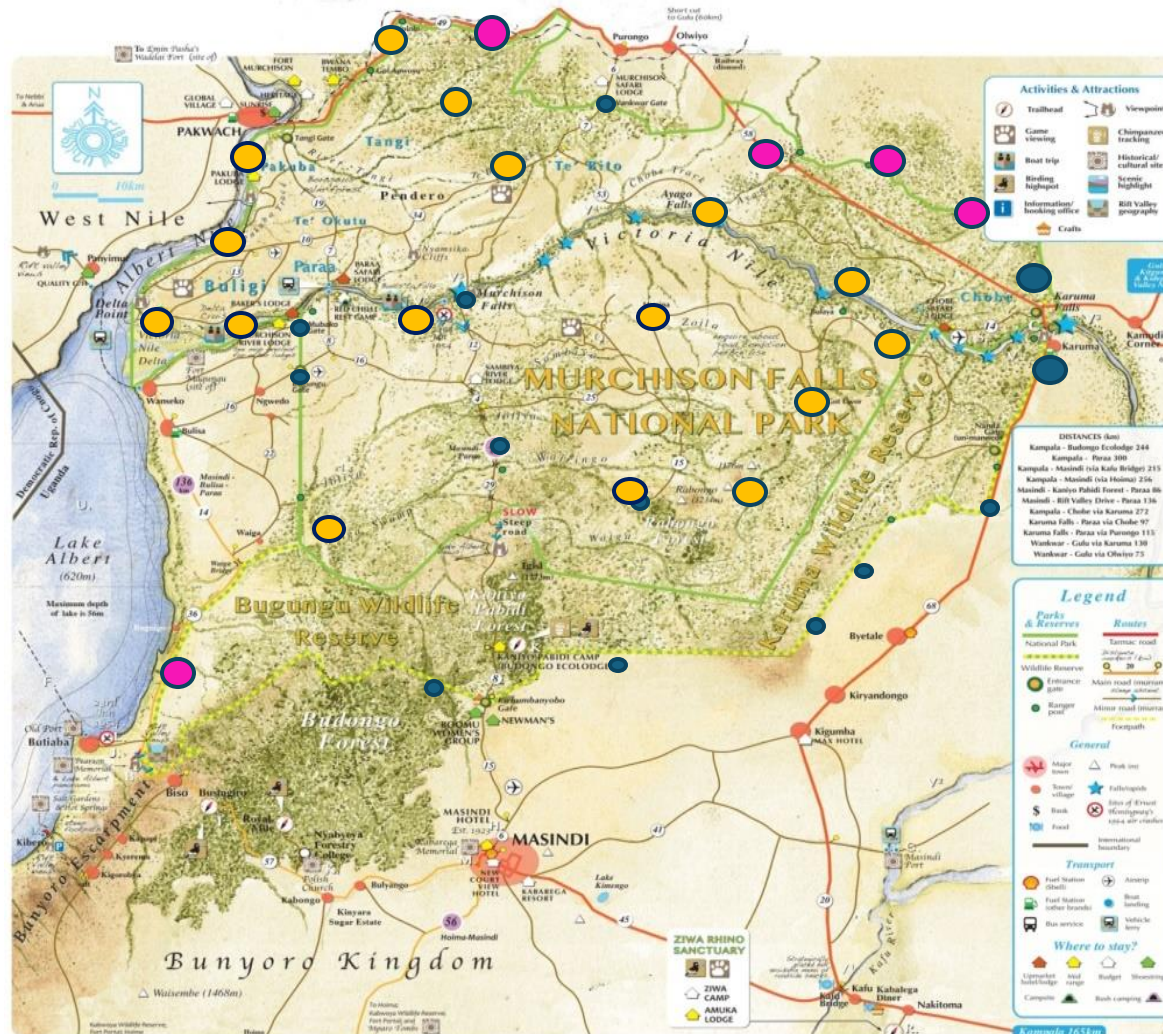
The Recovery Programmes: Murchison Falls

Phase 1: Establishing the Foundations of Protected Area Management



Top: JOCC in MFs – built by UCF with all bricks and skilled labour from the UCF community youth training programme.

Bottom: QRF Car – with poachers arrested



Yellow dots – new law enforcement ranger posts. Purple dots: HWC ranger posts. Blue dots: ranger posts built in the 1950s, positioned to stop the agriculture encroaching more.

Kololo Sector Command Post, 2014 and now. Respecting the welfare and rights of the men and ladies on the frontline. Secure houses, water catchment and storage, internal armoury.





UGANDA
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

20th
ANNIVERSARY







UWA Digital Strategy

Technology Adaptation



The UWA Digital Strategy

UWA is about to become the global best in class





The Digital Strategy

- UWA operates a unified, fully owned digital system ensuring national control and sustainability.
- UCF serves as the Allen Institute for AI's delivery partner for EarthRanger in Uganda.
- A young Ugandan tech team developed and deployed the country-wide EarthRanger system.
- UWA's EarthRanger program has the broadest operational scope globally, backed by a governance framework approved by UWA Trustees.
- EarthRanger and EarthRanger Mobile now cover Queen Elizabeth, Murchison Falls, and Kidepo/Karamoja, with World Bank support for expansion.
- Digital radio, ER Mobile, and LoRaWAN networks have expanded park communication coverage from 5% to over 80%.
- UCF hosted the EarthRanger East Africa workshop in Uganda, training 200 UWA staff.
- The current focus is on automating analytics and reporting for improved operations.
- Funded \$50k from GC & \$50K IEF.



The UWA Digital Strategy



Technology Governance Framework – Uganda Wildlife Authority



3.1. Technology Governance & Leadership

1. Technology Governance

2. Technology Strategy

3. Technology Policy and Procedure

4. Roles and Responsibilities

5. Regulatory Compliance

6. Internal Technology Audit

7. Staff Competence Training

8. Performance Management

3.2. Technology Change Management

1. System Change Governance

2. Change Requirement Definition and Approval

3. System Acquisition

4. System Development

5. Quality Assurance

6. Technology Testing

7. Change Security Management

8. System Integration Management

9. Technology Project Management

3.4. Technology Risk Management

1. Manage Technology Risk

2. Risk Identification and Analysis

3. Risk Reporting, Monitoring and Profiling

3.3. Technology Operations Management

1. Manage Assets

2. Interdependencies

3. Manage Service Level Agreements

4. Technology Availability and Capacity Management

5. Manage Data Centre / Operations Centre

6. Network Architecture and Monitoring

7. Technology Incident Management

8. Data Backup and Recoverability

Professionalising Protected Area Management

Establishing the standards for the future – Global Best Practice



- Policy, SOP & Training Syllabus Overhaul - including human rights, de-escalation of force etc
- Learning, awareness and assessment capacity being built into EarthRanger
- SOP Guide on EarthRanger to support Operations