



International and National collaboration for enhancing sustainable rural community Livelihoods, Uganda

Christine Dranzoa, Makerere University
Michael Campbell, University of Manitoba
John Bosco Nizeyi, Makerere University

Overview

- Background
- Other programs
- Proposed solution
- First steps
- Future



Background - Uganda

- Rural poverty, continuous degradation of environmental health and the resultant threat to biodiversity are threatening to social and economic development of Uganda and are prime concerns of the Ugandan Government (SER, 2001)



Background

- GNI 2005 \$250
- 61% of population live on less than \$1/day
- Not always this bleak
- At independence Uganda “The Pearl of Africa” lead all African nations in GNI, GDP and most livelihood measures (education, life expectancy, etc.)



Millennium Development Goal???

The New Vision, Friday, August 27, 2004

Lacor treats 200 malnourished kids

By Tony Onena Langelanga

THE director of St. Mary's Hospital Lacor in Gulu, Dr. Cyprian Opira, has said 200 malnourished children are being treated at the hospital.

He said the malnutrition unit at Lacor has admitted 200 severely malnourished children yet it has only 40 beds.

Opira said this in his office recently during a meeting with a consultant, Dr. Aida Kapetanovic, an employee of Harvard Program on Refugee Trauma, in the US.

Kapetanovic visited Gulu to learn more about mental health services in Uganda in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Opira said many children were malnourished in Gulu because their parents could not afford to feed them on a balanced diet.

He said the people living in camps entirely depended on the little food provided by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Opira said Lacor Hospital had made a project proposal for the HIV/AIDS patients to be fed by the WFP.



EMACIATED: The seven-year old on the left has been fed for a month

- 1963 – late 1980's –series of political shifts and turmoil-1990-N: Uganda
- In addition to the human costs, wildlife in Uganda were plundered and many populations were decimated or extirpated
- Recently, however. Wildlife populations have recovered in many parts of the country



Tourism and environment

- Tourism is one of the largest industries globally
- Much tourism takes place in developing nations
 - In part due to these countries locations in lower latitudes (hence warm climates)
 - Low costs associated with services in developing countries
 - Appeal of the “exotic”



Tourism

- International tourism receipts for low and middle income countries were US\$153 billion in 2003 – dwarfing the US\$68 billion of official aid spent in these countries. Tourism is important even in the lowest income countries. In 41 of the 50 poorest countries in the world tourism constitutes over 5% of GDP and/or over 10% of exports



Tourism

- In Uganda tourism leads coffee in terms of earned revenue 115m USD vs 107m
- However, most of this is derived from business and domestic travel
- Uganda was once the premier tourist destination in all of Africa
- International travel to Uganda has languished (2001) with entries ~ 21,000 but is increasing



- Recent analysis suggests tourism has got reasonable propoor credentials.
 - Labour intensive
 - High female employment
 - Not necessarily import intensive
 - Low barriers to entry
 - Encompasses a range of enterprise from micro to multi national
 - Opportunities for downstream linkages



- A number of initiatives have been undertaken under the direction of aid organizations often at the request of individuals from developing countries
 - SIDA – Swedish International Development
 - SNV - Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers



Sustainability

- Major concerns with the initiatives relate to their sustainability
- Once NGO leaves projects often languish or fail to scale up which threatens their sustainability and the support garnered for the park
- When no NGO involved with community no projects are developed leading to conflict over resources



- This Project will bridge the gap between NGO Aid organization and communities through training of Ugandans at the University level
- Master' Programme in SCT
 - Curriculum developed in partnership with Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Ministry of Tourism
 - Inclusive of a 4 month practicum in 1 of 5 communities located proximate to a National Park
 - Bwindi/Mgahinga, Kibale/Semliki, QE/Rwenzori



First steps

- Baseline RRA/PRA
 - Interactive Meeting
 - UWA field officials, Chief Warden and Community Conservation and Tourism Wardens
 - Key informants from communities
 - Focus Group Discussion
 - Ruhiya, Katunguru and Kigorongo communities.



Results of preliminary PRA/RRA

- Varying levels of community-based organization, initiatives and development.
 - successful communities -initiatives externally triggered
 - Buhoma and Bigodi
 - communities with no initiatives had no or little external interaction
 - Kigorongo, Ruhija, and Ibura
 - Kibale National Park, a new model is emerging - community driven family land-Lord initiatives



The beginning

- Over the course of the next five years
 - Refocus faculty and train 2 PhDs.
 - Graduate 40 M.SC. in sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation
 - Develop three demonstration projects
 - Facilitate community development through student practica
 - Collaborate with communities in applying for UWA environmental conservation funds



Thank you

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