

# UGANDA

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation, Uganda Wildlife Authority, and National Forestry Authority, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a nation-wide assessment of the trail system within the National Parks and Central Forest Reserves.

With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development in Uganda, the U.S. Forest Service provided two embedded advisors at the National Forestry Authority to facilitate the development of strategic documents and enhance institutional capacity.



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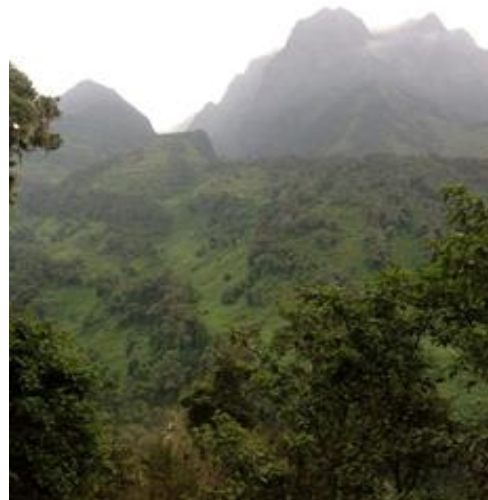
### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Situated squarely in the Great Rift Valley, Uganda features a diverse ecological landscape of dense montane forests and lowland woodland savannahs, interspersed by Great Lakes. A number of these Great Lakes – notably Lake Victoria and Lake Albert – drain into the White Nile, which merges with the Blue Nile to form the Nile River. Uganda's rich landscape reflects the country's status as an ecological crossroads between Central and East Africa. From west to east, Uganda's ecology transitions with the elevation gradient, shifting from the dense rainforest emblematic of the Congo Basin to the woodland savannah endemic to much of East Africa.

The Virunga and Rwenzori mountain ranges run along much of Uganda's western boundary with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and include a network of national parks – Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Kibale Forest, Mgahinga Gorilla, and Rwenzori – that are home to iconic species like the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) and mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*). Kidepo Valley National Park, tucked neatly into Uganda's northeastern corner between South Sudan and Kenya, features a rugged savannah landscape and fauna more typically associated with protected areas in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Drivers of land use change in Uganda include the expansion of small-scale, subsistence farming; weak governance; and an ever-increasing population density – Uganda's population growth rate consistently ranks among the highest in the world.

The U.S. Forest Service has worked in Uganda for over a decade. With support from the Uganda office of the U.S. Agency for International Development, protected area management – mainly infrastructure and tourism development – has provided the primary means of technical cooperation between the U.S. Forest Service and in-country partners, notably the Uganda Wildlife Authority, the National Forestry Authority, and the Africa Wildlife Foundation. More recent engagements between the U.S. Forest Service and the Government of Uganda have focused on institutional strengthening and capacity building.



Rwenzori Mountains National Park, Uganda.  
Photo by Brehan Doud, U.S. Forest Service.



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