
**TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION BETWEEN UGANDA WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY AND INSTITUT CONGOLAIS POUR LA CONSERVATION
DE LA NATURE**

**REPORT ON SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON
CONTROL OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE
GREATER VIRUNGA LANDSCAPE**

12 – 13TH FEB 2007

MBARARA, UGANDA

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Transboundary Collaboration between UWA and ICCN

There has been a transboundary collaboration between Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and The Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) funded by The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Greater Virunga Landscape since 2003. Transboundary collaboration is any process of collaboration across boundaries that increase the effectiveness of attaining natural resource management or biodiversity conservation goal(s). It is a two way process involving contiguous protected areas in two countries, managed in this case UWA and ICCN. UWA is the body responsible for managing wildlife in Uganda and manages ten national parks and twelve wildlife reserves. Its conservation approach focuses on law enforcement, community conservation, research and monitoring and financial sustainability. UWA's counter part in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is ICCN which is the authority responsible for managing wildlife. ICCN manages 8 national parks and several faunal and community reserves in DRC. This collaboration between ICCN and UWA is a management strategy to help the two institutions manage their respective protected areas of Virunga Park in DRC and Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area, Rwenzori Mountains National Park and Semuliki National Park in Uganda effectively.

1.2 Stakeholder meetings

Involvement of other stakeholders through stakeholder meetings has become an important forum for sharing information and strengthening partnerships for UWA and ICCN in the transboundary collaboration process. It is clear that there is a need to involve other groups that deal with law enforcement to tackle the poaching problems in the parks in this region. This collaboration has created a political will to better conserve the Greater Virunga Landscape which is Africa's most biodiverse contiguous landscape of protected areas. Under the UWA-ICCN transboundary collaboration, four workshops have so far been held, one in Mweya in Queen Elizabeth Park, one in Kasese in Uganda in 2004 and the other two in Beni in DRC in 2005. Two of these meetings have addressed issues of concern with law enforcement and subsequent prosecutions. During the two previous meetings participants identified wildlife trafficking as one of the major problems affecting wildlife conservation in GVL and recommended that WCS provide training for customs and immigration officers in helping to minimise the illegal wildlife trade between the two common borders of DRC and Uganda. A two day sensitization workshop was therefore organized jointly by UWA, ICCN and WCS in Mbarara, Uganda from 12th – 13th Feb 2007 to fulfil this request.

1.3 Aim of the workshop

The aim of the workshop was to sensitise customs/immigration officers from selected border posts in GVL to:

- Familiarise the officers with the right procedures of the wildlife trade in Uganda and DRC.
- Acquaint the officers with the list of wildlife species permitted for trade in Uganda

- Emphasise the role of the officers in controlling and monitoring the import and export of wildlife and its products in Uganda and DRC and assist these countries in complying with the CITES regulations.

1.4 *Objectives of the workshop:*

To help UWA and ICCN to curb the illegal wildlife trade, the workshop:

- Introduced the officers to the laws and regulations governing the wildlife trade
- Familiarised participants with the correct procedures to follow for legal trade
- Trained officers in basic identification techniques of animals that can be legally traded
- Introduced participants to investigative techniques of detecting illegal malpractices of the wildlife trade
- Equipped participants with cross-border trade intelligence gathering skills
- Introduced participants to CITES permits

1.4 *List of participants*

2.0 THE WORKSHOP PROCESS

2.1 *Opening*

To start the workshop process participants were requested to set up ground rules so that order could be maintained during the process. At the same time they were asked to list their expectations in order to guide the facilitators and gauge their interests. Summarised below were the ground rules and participant expectations:

2.1.1 *Ground rules:*

- All phones in silent mode and urgent calls should be received outside the hall. One should also request callers to call back during lunch time
- Minimise movements in and outside the hall
- Participants and facilitators were to observe time keeping
- Participants were to respect each others' contributions during discussions
- Seek for permission before making any contributions – THIS IS TOO MUCH DETAIL – NOT REALLY RELEVANT

2.1.2 *Participant expectations*

- To acquire knowledge about how to control illegal wildlife trade
- To know each other and establish contacts
- Certificate of attendance at the end of the course
- To be facilitated in terms of transport, feeding and accommodation
- To visit Mbarara town and major facilities
- To define our specific roles in control of illegal wildlife trade
- To enhance our informal collaboration between Uganda and DRC and develop it into information sharing
- Reference materials on policies, laws and identification and curbing of illegal wildlife trade
- To learn basic identification techniques of wildlife that are permitted for trade in Uganda

2.2 *Methods*

The workshop was conducted in both English and French. Key presentations covering the topics given below were delivered using power point projector and the specific presentations are given in the workshop programme (Appendix 1). There was 30 minutes CITES film presentation on the wildlife trade.

- The wildlife trade and international conventions
- Laws and regulations of the wildlife trade in DRC and Uganda
- Identification techniques of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians
- Procedures, verification and detecting illegal animal trafficking

Posters were handed out to participants for awareness creation. An identification guide of species permitted for wildlife trade in Uganda was to be distributed to all the customs/immigration posts in GVL after completion. A workshop report containing all the presentations during the workshop was to be compiled and sent to the participants.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Background information by Isaiah Owiunji

Definition of wildlife trade

- Wildlife trade in simple terms is any sale or exchange by people of wild animal and plant resources.
- This can involve live animals and plants for the pet and horticultural trades,
- Or the trade in a diverse range of wild animal and plant products needed or prized by humans
- It includes sale of skins, medicinal ingredients, tourist curios, timber, fish and other food products.
- Most wildlife trade is probably within national borders, but there is a large volume of wildlife in trade internationally.

Reasons that drive wildlife trade

- Food (for basic requirements as well as tonic and novelty foods);
- Healthcare (from herbal remedies to ingredients of industrial pharmaceuticals);
- Provision of industrial materials (e.g. timber and a wide range of ingredients in manufacturing processes, such as gums and resins);
- Religion (live animals and a wide range of wild plant and animal parts are used for religious purposes);
- Collecting (live animals and plants and a range of wildlife specimens and curios are “collectibles” e.g. drums);
- Clothing and ornament (barkcloth leather, furs, feathers, etc.);
- sport (from falconry to “sport-hunting” for trophies

What is illegal wildlife trade?

- Illegal wildlife trade occurs if a transboundary movement of a wild animal or its product takes place under the following:
- without notification pursuant to the provisions of the CITES regulations;
- without the consent of a State concerned;
- through consent obtained by falsification, misrepresentation or fraud;

- when movement does not conform in a material way with the documents;
- Common methods include: false declarations, concealment, taking animals without any documents etc

Problems caused by illegal wildlife trade

- Some species involved are highly endangered and can go extinct (e.g. Rhinos in Uganda) if not monitored;
- Conditions of transport for live animals are likely to be worse if they are smuggled;
- Illegal operators kill other non target animals in the process of obtaining the target animals (e.g. mothers of baby chimps and gorillas are normally killed)
- The existence of illegal trade undermines countries' efforts to manage their natural resources for a sustainable future;
- Huge amounts of money are lost to countries when their native fauna and flora are traded illegally, money which could be used to further conservation aims.

Wildlife species permitted for trade

- As of 2006 there are 141 animals that have been permitted for trade in Uganda. This list is updated yearly. Animal groups permitted for trade are:
- Birds 87 species
- Chameleons 10 species
- Tortoise and turtles 5 species
- Snakes 26 species
- Agama, geckos and monitor lizards 6 species
- Toads and frogs 7 species

The role of customs and immigration officers

- Unique position to detect illegal trafficking of wildlife and its products by nature of their work.
- Officers are charged with responsibility of enforcing laws relating to, among other matters, illegal narcotics, goods that produce revenue through tariffs and security threats.
- Through the Wildlife Statute 1996 there is a formal, binding arrangement between UWA, Customs/Immigration, Police and the Judiciary to control the illegal wildlife trade
- Training of Customs and Immigration officers is in line with the implementation of provisions of the Wildlife Statute and CITES regulations

3.2 Brief overview about national policies and legislation on wildlife use rights in Uganda by Ezra Mugote

UWA's Mission statement

- *To conserve and sustainably manage wildlife and protected areas of Uganda in partnership with the neighbouring communities and stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community*

Protected areas of Uganda

- Wildlife PAs cover 11% of Uganda's area
- UWA established in 1996

- UWA currently manages 10 NPs, 12 WRs

National Policies and legislation

- Uganda Wildlife policy (1999),
- Uganda Wildlife Act (Cap. 200) 2000 allows for:
- Sustainable wildlife utilisation
- Wildlife Use rights

WUR Regulations

- Subject to WUR Regulations governing Wildlife use rights , no person shall trade in any wild animal listed under Schedules I, II and III of these Regulations or their products unless he or she has been issued with a license authorizing him or her to trade in wildlife and/or wildlife products under Class D of the Wildlife Use Rights.
- Any person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) above shall be guilty of an offence.

Definitions

- **“Wildlife”** means any wild plant or animal species native to Uganda and includes wild animals which migrate through Uganda;
- **Wildlife use right”** means a right granted to a person, community or organization to make some extractive utilization of wildlife in accordance with a grant under Part VI of the Act.
- **Act”** means the Uganda Wildlife Act (Cap. 200), 2000;
- **“Trade”** means the introduction into Uganda including introduction from the sea and export and re-export there from, as well as the movement and transfer of possession within Uganda of any specimen for commercial purposes;
- **“Re-export”** means export from Uganda of any specimen that has previously been exported and/or re-exported;
- **“Country of Origin”** means the country in which the specimen was taken from the wild, captive bred or artificially propagated;
- **“CITES”** means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of flora and fauna;

3.3 Wildlife species permitted for trade in Uganda by Ezraah Mugote

Introduction

- The wildlife-use-rights act allows for six classes of utilization to be permitted by UWA
- In Uganda people are not allowed to hunt and sell bush meat to the public but a few traders are allowed to import game meat and have it on their menu in restaurants and hotel
- Export of birds is currently prohibited due to the prevalence of the bird flu in some countries

WUR Classes

- Class A –Sport hunting (elderly animals, males and problem animals). Currently sport hunting is done around Lake Mburo National Park with only one hunting company.

- Class B- Farming (one is allowed to capture wildlife from the wild except in protected areas and breed them for utilization). One company licensed to breed crocodiles and exports skins abroad. Two other firms are allowed to breed ostriches in Uganda.
- Class C- Ranching (allowed with people who have ranches and where there are wildlife. One is required to acquire licence to manage the wildlife). One company tried ranching but was not compliant with UWA regulations and the license was revoked. Currently there is one other company trying ranching.
- Class D- Trade (the class in which wildlife trade is allowed. Permit to undertake trade is required). There are 12 companies that are legally authorized to trade in wildlife.
- Class E- Educational and scientific (non consumptive class which is educational and scientific e.g. zoo). There is one company in Kiwatule in this category.
- Class F- General Extraction (it involves getting products directly from the wild e.g. honey, pasture, firewood, water, medicinal plants). General extraction is not meant to be on commercial basis.

Wildlife species permitted for trade in Uganda

- Birds e.g African Jacan, Red headed lovebird, wood dove etc
- Chameleons(Helmeted chameleon, graceful chameleon,flap necked chameleon etc
- Snakes (Uganda bush viper, common bush viper,rhino viper etc.)
- Lizards (Nile monitor, Blue tree headed Agama etc
- Tortoises (leopard tortoise, Bell hinged tortoise, etc)
- Amphibians (Running Frog and clawed frog)
- Mammals (Bush pigs, vevet monkeys, Baboons, Squirrels (ALL SPP OR ONLY SOME), Maned Rat etc)

3.4 Brief overview of national policies and legislation and current status of wildlife trade in DRC by Vital Katembo

Introduction

- DRC is a large country with rich biodiversity with national and international value
- Bush meat is used as source of protein and building materials also come from the wild
- Other resources of economic value in DRC are timber, minerals and ivory
- Presence of natural resources in DRC led to conflicts

Current status of wildlife in DRC

- DRC is in a conflict situation and it is difficult to control trade in wildlife due to different stakeholders involved
- Animals that stray out of the parks get killed even by the local communities
- In July 2006 a baby Okapi from Walikali was confiscated in Goma which was evidence of illegal wildlife trade
- In Dec 2006 18 Grey Parrots from DRC destined for Dubai were confiscated at Kigali Airport. The trader had successfully crossed Rwanda-DRC border to the airport.

- In Dec 2006 poachers were arrested with 2 skins of lions and 1 skin of python
- In Dec 2006 a military was found with baby gorilla and was willing to sell it for US \$ 300
- In Jan 2007 many people were detained for killing/poaching hippos, elephants etc
- Some of the animals are also killed by the Maimai

Mechanisms, treaties and conventions for wildlife

- DRC has 28 treaties and conventions
- There are several laws and acts for conservation and hunting, e.g.
- Conservation law of 1969 is still being used
- The law about ICCN
- The law about parastatals
- The law about hunting and wildlife trade
- The forestry act
- The constitution

Hunting regulations in DRC

- Traditional hunting is allowed in hunting zones
- Any hunting requires permits and you have to pass a test to obtain these
- No person with a criminal record is allowed to hunt
- Some tax has to be paid for a permit
- There are open and closed hunting seasons
- There are restrictions on types of permits given out
- Permit is valid for one year

Export of animals

- There is need to have permit and types of species to be exported
- Fully protected species are in CITES Appendices
- One needs a permit to own wild animal pets and permits are for duration of 12 months
- DRC has no quota for large mammals
- DRC has a quota for export of Grey Parrots but this is usually abused. E.g. in 2003 the quota allowed was 1000 but 11357 Grey Parrots were exported
- There are many other birds traded illegally
- CITES permits are given by Ministry of Conservation in DRC

Routes of illegal wildlife trade

- Congo River to western countries
- Kinshasha where people sell Grey Parrots openly
- International airports
- Border posts

Challenges to the wildlife trade

- Lack of commitment of different stakeholder, poor services at the border posts
- Inadequate law enforcement by the police, customs and immigration
- Need for collaboration with neighbouring countries
- Insecurity in DRC leading to victimization of individuals

- Old customs laws that do not include wildlife species

3.5 Concealments and wildlife trafficking techniques by Ezra Mugote

- Suspects who deal in wildlife products largely export the products to overseas countries. The method of concealment depends on the type of wildlife/product for in the case of ivory that is raw, they can disguise it with timber.
- Others export it in already made products and they hide it in their brief cases and hand bags
- At one time, tortoises were exported as shells and yet they were alive. It is suspected that they were injected with drugs to appear dead
- Live animals—exotic birds (parrots and macaws), mammals, reptiles, and fish—are hidden in secret compartments, in shipping containers, under clothing, or in luggage, and smuggled across international borders, or are openly declared at the border, but accompanied by false paperwork to make their importation appear legal
- Wildlife parts too numerous to list (or even imagine) are smuggled at one time or another for commercial or personal use: big game trophy animals, animal skins, ivory, complete carcasses, and bile salts, rhinoceros horns, whole or ground (a reputed aphrodisiac and one of the world's most valuable commodities), mounted butterflies (whose species worldwide number in the tens of thousands).

Reasons for concerted management efforts and Prosecution of illegal traders

- contributes directly to the loss of global biodiversity.-extinction.
- live animals inhumanely transported in cramped or concealed compartments frequently die before reaching the market.
- Unchecked trade spreads disease, and introduces injurious pests and exotic species that crowd out native species, damaging or altering natural ecosystems.
- To reduce poaching of domestic wildlife including endangered species.

Conventions that help in regulating illegal wildlife trade

- Lusaka Agreement task force (LATIF)
- Monitoring illegal killing of elephants(MIKE)
- CITES

3.6 Arrest, investigation and use of arms by Ezra Mugote

Investigations

- Under cover- mix with the suspects without their knowledge and pretend to be part of them and in the process get the information.
- Use informers-getting people from within the suspects themselves and task them to inform us about the activities of illegal deals.
- Using contacts from partners like police, UPDF, customs, immigration etc.

Arrests

- Arrests in the park involves capture of suspects so that they can be prosecuted. Shooting may be done only to scare but not to kill. If death occurs in the process of shooting, it is by accident or in self defense against suspects who

may be armed.

Use of fire arms

- Section 10(4) (a) and (d) of the Uganda Wildlife Act cap 200 of 2000 gives UWA staff powers of search and arrest and they are authorised to carry firearms in the execution of UWA duties.

3.7 What is CITES? By Bintooro K Adonia

What is CITES

- CITES is an international convention that combines wildlife and trade themes with a legally binding instrument for achieving conservation and sustainable use objectives
- CITES is an agreement between governments
- Its purpose is to ensure that wild fauna and flora in international trade are not exploited unsustainably

Misconceptions about CITES

- CITES regulates domestic trade
- CITES can only address international trade
- The CITES Appendices are a listing of the world's endangered species
- The Appendices only list those species that are or may be affected by international trade

How CITES works

- The Convention establishes the international legal framework and common procedural mechanisms for the prevention of international commercial trade in endangered species, and for an effective regulation of international trade in others
- National legislation to implement CITES must, at the very least:
 - designate a Management Authority and a Scientific Authority
 - prohibit trade in specimens in violation of the Convention
 - penalize such trade
 - allow for confiscation of specimens illegally traded or possessed
- The Management Authority is responsible for the administrative aspects of implementation (legislation, permits, annual and biennial reports on trade, communication with other CITES agencies)
- The Scientific Authority is responsible for advising the Management Authority on non-detriment findings and other scientific aspects of implementation, and monitoring of national trade

Appendices

- Species subject to CITES regulation are divided amongst three Appendices:
- Appendix I
 - includes species threatened with extinction
- Appendix II

- includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for which trade must be controlled to avoid their becoming threatened
- includes species that resemble species already included in Appendix I or II
- Appendix III
 - includes species for which a country is asking Parties to help with its protection
- Appendix I
 - Almost 530 animal species and some 300 plant species
- Appendix II
 - More than 4,400 animal species and more than 28,000 plant species
- Appendix III
 - Some 240 animal species and about 40 plant species
 - The Conference of the Parties is the only body that can decide on the contents of Appendices I and II
 - Any proposal to amend the Appendices requires a two-thirds majority of voting Parties for it to be adopted. Only Parties may propose amendments to the Appendices
 - There are special provisions for:
 - Personal and household effects
 - Pre-Convention specimens
 - Captive-bred or artificially propagated specimens
 - Scientific exchange
 - Traveling exhibitions

CITES documents

- There are four types of CITES documents:
 - Export permits
 - Import permits
 - Re-export certificates
 - Other certificates

Import permit

- (Applies only to specimens of Appendix-I species)
- Import permits can only be issued by the Management Authority, when the Scientific Authority has advised that the proposed import will be for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the species
- Note: by taking stricter domestic measures a number of Parties (e.g. the member States of the European Union) also require import documents for specimens of Appendix II species

Re-export certificates

- Re-export certificates may only be issued by the Management Authority, and only when that authority is satisfied that the specimens have been imported in accordance with the provisions of the Convention

Other certificates

- These are used for particular cases such as:

- Captive-bred or artificially propagated specimens
- Pre-Convention specimens
- Traveling exhibitions
- Introduction from the sea
- Appendix III certificate of origin
- Labels for scientific exchange

The benefits of CITES

- Effective and consistent international regulation of trade in wildlife for conservation and sustainable use
- International cooperation on trade and conservation, legislation and enforcement, resource management, conservation science
- Participation as a global player in managing and conserving wildlife at the international level

Partnerships with Conventions

- CITES collaborates directly with a number of Conventions, such as:
 - Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Basel Convention
 - Ramsar
 - Convention on Migratory Species
 - International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling
- This collaboration can involve Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, joint work activities, etc.
- Collaboration can be across common areas of work, such as joint Customs training, enforcement, streamlining annual reporting, harmonization of legislation etc.

Internal partnerships

- Inter-agency cooperation and partnerships at the national level are also important
 - CITES Authorities
 - Customs
 - Police
 - Judiciary
 - Resource sectors

3.8 Basic identification of mammals and products by Ezra Mugote

A mammal is an animal that feeds its young on the mother's milk.

- More than 4,500 species (kinds) of mammals
- Examples of domestic mammals are Cats and dogs.
- Farm animals as cattle, goats etc.
- Wild animals e.g. hippopotamuses, kangaroos, giraffes etc
- Human beings are too mammals

Habitant (home)

- Tropical regions e.g. monkeys and elephants

- Deserts e.g. camels and kangaroos
- Oceans e.g. whales and seals (swim)
- Flying mammal
- One group of mammals, the bats, can fly.
- Largest animal that has ever lived, the blue whale, is a mammal.

Mammals differ from all or most other animals

- (1) Nurse their babies—that is, they feed them on the mother's milk. No other animals do this.
- (2) Have true hair. All mammals have hair at some point in their life, though in certain whales it is present only before birth.
- (3) Mammals are warm-blooded (4) Mammals have a larger, more well-developed brain than do other animals.

How people use mammals.

- Meat
- Skins for clothing
- Tools and ornaments made from their bones, teeth, horns, and hoofs.
- Horses and oxen have long been used to carry people or their goods.
- As pets
- Scientific research. For example, new drugs are tested on domestic mice and rats and on dogs, guinea pigs, monkeys, and rabbits.
- NB. Elephants, hippopotamuses, and walrus are killed for their tusks, which consist of ivory. Rhinoceroses are killed for their horns.
- Source of enjoyment. Many people travel to national parks to delight in viewing bears, deer, moose, and other mammals in their natural environments.
- Balance of nature through dispersal mechanisms.

3.9 Basic identification of birds, reptiles, amphibians and their products by Isaiah Owiunji

Introduction

- Require skills through training
- Require experience through several years of field work
- Possession of identification equipment
- Must have the interest to do the work

Birds

- 87 species permitted for trade
- 17 species are CITES - listed
- Basic identification hints
- Learn to observe carefully colours and impression.
- Size of a bird in relation to others you know is important
- Note the overall shape (e.g. slender, plump/stout,)
- Recognise the body parts (bill, tail, eye)
- General behaviour (e.g. aggressive etc)
- Please note that there is a lot of variation in colour and most young birds may look different

Colours and patterns

- Check and name colours of:
 - body
 - head
 - face
 - eye
 - wings
 - belly
 - tail

Size of a bird in relation to others you know is important

- Comment on the overall size of the two birds but also on the size of:
 - beak
 - neck
 - legs
 - what other features do you see?

Recognition of body parts

- Recognise the body parts:
 - Bill
 - Tail
 - Eye

Tortoise or turtle

- Are recognised by their protective shell
- A tortoise is a land-dwelling shield reptile
- A turtle is a big water or marine-dwelling shield reptile
- A terrapin is a small fresh-water-dwelling shield reptile

Hints on identification

- Size
- Shell colour and pattern
- Shell shape (domed, flattened)
- Location (freshwater, on land, on a rock, in the sea)

Lizard

- Size
- Colour and pattern
- Head shape and ornamentation (crests, ear hole shape and size, horns, spikes, neck thick or thin)
- Feet shape
- Tail length
- Location (on rock, tree, on sand, on wall, under ground cover)
- Behaviour (head bobbing speed of mov't)

Chameleons

- **8 species but** all CITES-listed – ten above????

- Size
- Colour and pattern
- Head shape and ornamentation (crests, ear hole shape and size, horns, spikes, neck thick or thin)
- Tail length
- Behaviour (head bobbing speed of mov't)

Snakes

- 1 species the African Python is CITES-listed
- Size, (snake sightings are often emotional situations so be objective)
- Colour and pattern
- Behaviour (does it freeze, hiss, spit venom, spread a hood)
- Location

Amphibians

- Size and shape of the body
- Nature of the skin (rough or smooth)
- Where does it live?

Suggestions of what should be done when wildlife is encountered at the boarder

- Identify the animal
- Ask for legal permit
- I will cross-check if it is permitted for trade or not
- Identify the trader and animal or origin
- Have reference document
- Check with reference doc
- Contact the expert or the conservation organisation (ICCN and UWA)
- Seize the travelling doc then arrest if they forged

3.10 Some of the challenges to the wildlife trade in Uganda Ezraah Mugote

- *Scientific Information* on wildlife trade requires adequate scientific information for sustainability. For many Ugandan species the information is not available.
- *Monitoring and Enforcement*—illegal trade is not easy to completely eliminate due to inadequate resources and manpower for enforcement.
- *Health issues* wildlife trade has to be conducted in such a manner that disease transmission is avoided or minimised (e.g. ebola, bird flu, anthrax, etc).
- *Restrictive Legislation* importing countries may come up with restrictive legislation as a precaution against diseases or other factors. These are not necessarily bad but may at times be disadvantageous to the exporters.
- *Land ownership*, wildlife ownership—in Uganda sustainable production of wildlife for trade requires adequate land and a law that accommodates such activities. The Local Governments need to be more involved.
- *Awareness*. There is still inadequate awareness amongst the population on the importance of wildlife and the value of conservation.
- Limited technical capacity building for successful and sustainable implementation of the WUR programme
- No trapping is allowed in a parish bordering a protected area and a protected

- area in this regard is Forest Reserves, National Parks and Wildlife Reserves
- Trapping of animals in the Albertine districts or districts surrounding mountainous National Parks will be done with prior information to UWA. The affected districts: Kisoro, Kabale, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Kasese, Kabarole, Bundibugyo, Kibale, Hoima, Masindi, Nebbi, Arua, Yumbe, Moyo, Sironko and Kapchorwa.
 - On every trapping trip, the companies will be required to apply for a trapper's/capture permit, which will be valid for only one month. The permit will be in the names of the trapper and the company he/she works for. The permit shall specify the number and animal species to be captured.
 - LCI and LCIII in villages where trapping takes place will endorse wildlife use right data sheets. Grantees must pay them for their services. No export license will be issued if the respective LC officials do not endorse the data sheets.
 - UWA will give quotas for trapping from the wild limited to a year after which companies are expected to have built their capacity to sustain their business by depending on captive bred species every capture includes 20% animals for breeding (2nd and more generations).

Field reporting systems

- Nearest UWA or Protected Area office such as Forest Department ,where applicable
- District Environment Officer –endorsement
- LC III & LC I of the areas where the trapping is to take place.

2.3 *Group discussions*

Participants discussed two themes during the group discussions: role of customs and immigration officers in the wildlife trade was discussed in the first day of the workshop and minimising concealments and illegal wildlife trafficking in DRC and Uganda on the second day. Lead questions were asked to guide and stimulate the thinking of the participants as summarised below. Group discussions were facilitated by UWA, ICCN and WCS staff and language differences were interpreted by WCS and ICCN staff.

The role of customs and immigration officers in the wildlife trade:

- *How much do you know about wildlife trade across borders?*
 - Goods that are commonly traded illegally include timber, fish, quinaquina, palm oil, bhang and mairungi
- *According to you what can best be done to minimize/control wildlife trade?*
 - Continuous sensitisation of officers at border posts
 - Have in place samples of permits required for transacting the legal wildlife trade at the border posts in both countries
 - Need for appropriate scanners for detection and checking of cargo
 - Need to have at hand various legislation in force both in Uganda and DRC
 - Need to share experience and information regularly with various stakeholders
 - There is need to have samples or photos of prohibited wildlife and products
 - Monitor potential traffickers

- Goods that are traded illegally once confiscated should be destroyed except live wild animals
 - Provide and exchange permits so officials on each side of the border know the correct documentation,
 - Prosecute offenders in countries where they have committed the offences under the relevant laws of the concerned state
 - Be more ruthless with the corruption at the border
 - Creation of public awareness on conservation laws and regulation through radio programmes, workshops etc
 - Introducing income generating activities to the communities to divert their attention from viewing wildlife as the only way of survival
- *What challenges do you envisage in participating in control of illegal wildlife trade?*
 - Inadequate facilitation for enhanced border patrol
 - Lack of timely information to enable timely intervention
 - Lack of proper information management due to bureaucratic red tape
 - Inadequate capacity due to lack of training and exposure
 - Existence of a vast and porous border therefore difficult to adequately control
 - Non involvement of local communities
 - *What are the practical solutions to the challenges mentioned above?*
 - Need to improve on information sharing and management
 - Investing in capacity building through new and refresher courses and get-together parties
 - Improve facilitation of border officials to be able to cover the vast border areas through regular patrols
 - Involve the local communities for active participation in the control of the wildlife trade
 - Improvement of methods of communication for law enforcement officers and those working at the border posts

Minimising concealments and illegal wildlife trade in DRC and Uganda

- *Wildlife products are always disguised while crossing borders. What methods do you use to detect these products and other contraband goods?*
 - Physical checking
 - Prior intelligence information
 - Follow up of potential suspects by observing their trends of movement as portrayed in their passports
 - Cross checking of the documents for validity and authenticity
 - Spot checks and ambush
- *Have you ever detected illegal wildlife products moving across the borders?*
 - Timber
 - Fish (undersize fish)
 - Quinaquina
 - Opium

- Parrots
- *What are the major entry points where wildlife trade transit borders?*
 - Border points
 - 'Panya' routes
 - Beach (landing sites)
 - Airports

4.0 PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Matters arising from the opening remarks and presentations

Hand out of presentations:

- Participants emphasized the need to have copies of the presentation especially the presentation on the background of the Greater Virunga Landscape

Animals that are confiscated due to illegal wildlife trade:

- *A participant wanted to know as to what happens to those live animals that are confiscated due to the wildlife trade?*

UWA personnel at border posts:

- Participants suggested that UWA deploys personnel at border posts to help identify smuggled wildlife products.
-

Inadequate public awareness:

- Participants observed that inadequate public awareness creates conflict between law enforcers and breakers and stressed the need to strengthen public awareness on wildlife conservation.

Relevant documents:

- Participants noted that sharing of relevant wildlife documents with Police, Army, Customs and Immigration officials would be more effective compared to presence of UWA staff at border post.

Migratory species:

- Participants emphasized the need for joint protection of species that migrate between Uganda and DR Congo borders.
- Is money for migratory species involved in tourism shared among nations?

Illegal possession of wildlife by the military

- One participant wanted to know why ICCN could not use high ranking military officers to confiscate the baby Gorilla in Goma being hidden by a military officer.

Involvement of ICCN staff in poaching

- The possibility of some ICCN staff being involved in the poaching was raised by one of the participants

4.2 Reactions to matters arising:

- Participants were informed that there would be handouts but also efforts will be made to send them copies of the workshop report
- Animals that are confiscated are normally sent back to the countries of origin. For example if a person is exporting an Okapi illegally and is arrested in Uganda, the animal is to be re-exported back to DRC but not to be kept in Uganda
- Species that migrate are viewed where ever they happen to be and are protected in those areas where they migrate to.
- On the issue of the baby Gorilla participants were informed that there was information of the baby Gorilla but it was hidden from the ICCN staff therefore it was difficult to confiscate it
- It was clarified that it was true that some members of ICCN were involved in poaching and administrative measures were already taken to correct on it. E.g. some of the staff were either suspended or dismissed.
- It was reported that there was also training going on in Ituri and Garamba to build the capacity of ICCN staff to curb poaching

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

- Improvement on information sharing and management through provision of relevant materials related to the wildlife trade. More strategies should also be laid for information sharing and awareness raising
- Investment in capacity building through training and sensitization seminars for the relevant stakeholders,
- Improvement on facilitation of officers at the borders through provision of proper equipment for detection of illegal materials and remuneration
- Involvement of local communities around protected areas through sensitisation. This could be done through radio programmes and advertisements in churches and public gatherings
- Improvement on border patrols and having frequent spot check points by URA
- Provision of incentives to encourage intelligence gathering
- UWA should deploy borderline monitoring groups to keep in contact with immigration and customs officials.

6.0 CLOSING REMARKS BY RDC MBARARA

The Resident District Commissioner Mbarara welcomed the participants and facilitators of the workshop to Mbarara. He wondered of the situation of participants enduring use of two languages when actually they could have used one common local

language. He observed that there was a need for blacks to liberate themselves and come out with their own languages if they are to develop.

The RDC commented on the challenges of the wildlife trade in the region and pointed out the importance of educating the community to appreciate our national heritage so that it could be passed onto the next generation. He lamented on the indiscriminate fishing in the Ugandan lakes. He said that most conservation laws and policies are not known to the local people and that is why there is need to bring every body on board i.e. technical people, the security, politicians, local people, etc if we are to succeed in conservation. He emphasised the need for sustainable utilisation of the wildlife. He observed that when people go hunting, the first animal that appears gets killed irrespective of the age and status. The RDC compared this with domestic animals where the owner of the animals makes selection instead of indiscriminate killing. He thanked the facilitators for involving officers from DRC and Uganda. He said that animals can make a good example to us for an African Union since they migrate through these countries whenever they want to escape from insurgencies.

The Resident District Commissioner emphasised the need to work together as Africans. He said that he is concerned with the security of the people and that both DRC and Uganda should equally share information as regards security of Uganda and DRC. This is because wildlife can equally be affected by insecurity. He said that there is need to come up as Africans to fight the wildlife trade since the finished products from overseas are sold expensively back to us. He said that if this trade is contained we can benefit from our natural resources. The RDC told DRC participants to take a message back home that Ugandans shall continue with the partnership in order to conserve the wildlife. He congratulated all the workshop participants for going through the workshop successfully and wished them a safe journey back home. The RDC then declared the workshop closed.

7.0 APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Programme for sensitization workshop on control of illegal wildlife trade in the Greater Virunga Landscape 11-13th Feb 2007, Mbarara Uganda

DATE & TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR (S)
11th Feb.2007	Day 1	
	Arrival of participants and registration in Pelikan Hotel	UWA/WCS
12th Feb.2007	Day 2	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration; house keeping announcements/logistics Self introduction – facilitators & participants	WCS/UWA
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome Remarks	LCV C/M Mbarara
9:30 – 10:00	Background information on workshop	WCS (IO)
10:00 – 10: 20	TEA BREAK	
10:20 – 11:00	Brief overview about National policies and legislation on wildlife use rights in Uganda	UWA (EM)
11:00 – 11:40	Brief overview about National policies and legislation on wildlife trade in DRC	ICCN (VK)
11:40 – 12:20	Wildlife species permitted for trade in Uganda	UWA (JB)
12:20 – 1:00	Status of wildlife trade in DRC	ICCN (VK)
1:00 – 2:00	LUNCH BREAK	

2:00 – 2:30	Basic identification of mammals and products	UWA (JB)
2:30 – 3:30	Group Discussion on the role of customs and immigration officers in wildlife trade	UWA& WCS
3:30 – 3:45	TEA BREAK	
3:45 – 4:45	Presentation & Reactions on previous day discussion	WCS/UWA
END		
13th FEB.2007	DAY TWO	
8:30 – 9:20	International policies and legislation on wildlife trade	UWA (AB)
9:20 – 10:00	Concealments and wildlife trafficking techniques	UWA (JB)
10:00 – 11:20	TEA BREAK	
11:20 – 12:20	Minimizing concealments and illegal wildlife trafficking in DRC and Uganda (Group discussion and presentation)	WCS/UWA
12:30 – 1:00	Arrest, investigation and use of fire arms	UWA (EM)
1:00 – 2:00	LUNCH BREAK	
2:00 – 3:00	Basic identification of birds, reptiles, amphibians and products	WCS (IO)
3:00 – 3:30	Compliance & challenges to the wildlife trade in Uganda	UWA (EM)
3:30 – 4:00	Challenges to the wildlife trade in DRC	ICCN
TEA BREAK		
4:00 – 4:30	Recommendations and the way forward	WCS/ICCN
4:30 – 5:00	Demonstration - guide/posters	WCS/
5:00 – 5:30	Closing remarks	RDC- Mbarara
End		
14th Dec 2006	Day 3	
Breakfast & departure		

Appendix 2: List of participants of customs/immigration officers

Name	Organisation	Designation	Address	Tel No.	E-mail
Ezrah Mugote	UWA	Community Conservation Officer	P.O. Box 35530 Kampala	041-355000 0772650875	ezrah.mugote@uwa.or.ug
Jean Sendugu	OFIDA/DRC Immigration	Verification/O FIDA	Ishasa DRC	0772194069	
Byarugaba, J.	Immigration	O/C Ishasa (Ug)	Ishasa River, Kanungu	0772959474	
Hector Sambu	Customs DRC	Customs Officer	Goma	0998298378	
Bakaihahwenki Africano	Immigration (Uganda)	O/C Mpondwe	Mpondwe border	0772444494	abakaihahwenki@yahoo.co.uk
Musinguzi Justus Magingo	Immigration (Uganda)	O/C Lia	PO Box 283 Arua or Box 7165 K'la	0772311744	
Otim John Bosco	Customs (Uganda)	Customs Officer Mpondwe	Mpondwe border	0772559353	
Joel Bemanza	Immigration Officer	O/C Ishasha	Ishasha border	0772194017	joelsema@yahoo.com

Oscar Ndahiriwe	Immigration	Chef de Division (Goma)	Nord-Kivu Goma	0808500834	
Lt. Edward Matukunda	UPDF	Security Officer, Ishasha Sector	Ishasha Sector	0772-612808	
Munyamahoro Zebede	Immigration Bunagana	Immigration Officer	Goma Bunagana	0994221546	munyazebedee@yahoo.com
Deo Kujirakwinja	WCS	Project Manager	Goma	+243994400837	dkujirakwinja@wcs.org
Isaiah Owunji	WCS	Project Coordinator	P.O. Box 7487 K'la	+256 (0) 772411278	iowunji@wcs.org
Christian Bilambo	OFIDA Kashindi	Verification Officer	Kashindi	0752634816 0997727212	chrisbils@yahoo.com
Matoka Mbinda	Customs OFIDA	Customs Officer	Bunagana	0994401339 0774352116	
Joseph Ilanga	Immigration Kasindi	Chef de poste Adjoint	Kasindi	+243994092288	
Bintoora K Adonia	UWA	Chief Warden LMNP	P.O. Box 880 Mbarara		bintoora@yahoo.com
Namatovu Rehmah	UWA	Community Conservation	P.O. Box 35530 Kampala	0772 622638 0782624866	niimahmatovu@yahoo.com
Nuwe J Bosco	UWA	Community Conservation Coordinator	P.O. Box 35530 Kampala	0782689972	
Vital Katembo	ICCN Goma	Chef section Technique et scientifique	Goma	+243998092075	vitalkatembo@yahoo.com
Clement Kandole	Président's Office	Resident District Commissioner	P.O. Box 1 Mbarara	0772541230	kandolec@yahoo.com