



COMBO Project Launch and Training Workshop in Uganda

27-28 June 2016

Workshop Report – 1st July 2016

The COMBO Project: COnservation, impact Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets in Africa

Improved biodiversity outcomes from better development and industry practice in Uganda



Context and background to the COMBO Project in Uganda

The Wildlife Conservation Society, Forest Trends and Biotope have commenced a four-year project (2016-2019) which aims to reconcile economic development in Africa with conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This project is funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the Mava Foundation. It will build capacity to reduce the impacts of development projects on biodiversity. The project will work with governments, developers and industry to expand and improve the application of the mitigation hierarchy in Uganda and three other African nations.

Uganda is undergoing rapid development and investment in projects across the country, particularly around Kampala and in the west of the country in the Albertine Graben. Transport infrastructure is being upgraded in many areas for relieving urban congestion around Kampala and linking towns and industry. Hydropower capacity is being upgraded to meet new development needs: the Isimba Project on the Nile is an example of a project that is being built close to an existing hydropower site at Bujagali. Exploration for oil & gas across the west of the country has indicated commercially viable reserves and production will be implemented soon. A pipeline is planned to export this oil to the coast through Tanzania. There is increasing demand for industrial agriculture such as sugar cane, maize and livestock ranching in the Karamoja region. Uganda's population already exerts a high demand on natural resources, including charcoal, fisheries and bushmeat, and the population is growing at a rate of >3% per annum.



A petroleum tanker passes along the road through Mabira Forest Reserve east of Kampala.

The COMBO Project aims to aid Uganda in addressing these pressures on Uganda's biodiversity and other natural resources by: aiding development of improved policy and regulations based on best practice; improve use of data for planning by building on existing data sources and improving access; supporting operationalization of Uganda's Biodiversity Trust Fund; working with development projects and partners to document case studies of mitigation activities; and building national capacity by training and use of lessons learnt from Uganda and elsewhere.

Launch and Training Workshop – 27-28 June 2016

The COMBO Project was launched in Uganda on 27-28 June 2016, this included a number of technical presentations made by the Government agencies and Civil Society covering; Reconciling infrastructure development and biodiversity, Oil & gas and Uganda's development, Kalagala Offset project presentation, mitigation and offset feasibility studies and Community livelihoods, natural resources and industry development. This enriched the discussions and gave background to the training on the second day. The training aimed at building the national capacity of the Government, private sector and civil society for implementing the mitigation hierarchy.

Highlights from presentations by stakeholders

A number of presentations covered the legal and Institutional frameworks for different industry sectors, including environmental issues for consideration in oil and gas development and community livelihoods around infrastructure. NEMA presented the ESIA process in Uganda, outlined the general principles, basic concepts, environmental monitoring plan and communication findings and decision making.

AFIEGO presented on community livelihoods, natural resources and industry development. Over 70% of Ugandans live in rural areas and depend on natural resource, however they often have little influence on the management of these resources. Current national policy is focused on industrial development of electricity, roads, oil, railway and other sectors: e.g. National Development Plan, Vision 2040, African Union Agenda 2063, African Mining Vision and SDGs. The presentation emphasized that if industry development is not well planned it can disrupt communities' livelihoods and therefore giving communities an effective role in development planning is necessary.

The Kalagala Falls offset highlighted a number of activities undertaken to update the ecological and social economic data for Mabira Forest and restoration of degraded habitats and along the banks of the River Nile.

The presentation from the oil companies made by Tullow, highlighted the studies undertaken within the project footprint and wider landscape. This emphasized the importance of the baseline data from the broad development area that are necessary to inform a robust assessment of the impact of the project and its associated facilities. The findings demonstrated that offsets are required and must be implemented in a landscape where ecosystems are greatly impacted



The Kalagala Falls – credit: Alex Muhwezi

The project was officially launched by Paul Mafabi, the Director of Environmental Affairs representing the Minister of Water and Environment, and Virginie Leroy representing the Agence Française de Développement.

The workshop was attended by a wide range of stakeholders (39 people on Day 1, 33 on Day 2) including government agencies represented by Petroleum Exploration and Production Department (PEPD), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Ministry of Water & Environment (MWE), National Forestry Authority (NFA), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAIAF), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Investment Authority, Uganda Electricity Generation Company (UEGCL) and Uganda Electricity Transmission Company (UETCL). We also had representatives from the oil & gas sector and EIA consultants, as well as NGOs and civil society.



Participants at the workshop

Training

The training focused on providing the foundations of the mitigation hierarchy and offsets. This allowed us to assess the existing level of understanding by participants. We discussed the principles of this area and provided case studies to demonstrate where practical experience had informed development of the subject. The training evaluation showed that there was some existing knowledge but there is a clear need for deeper training. Almost all participants responded positively to the level of the training, although some people were already aware of some of the technical components. In general, most people would have preferred a longer training workshop with more time for discussion.

Training next steps

More than 50% of training participants completed evaluation forms. We will analyse the comments more fully in due course, but almost all people stated that further training would be useful. In particular, we received a request from the Uganda Association of Impact Assessors for specific training for their members. We also had requests from other organizations on specific training. We were asked for sectoral guidance on methodology for implementing the mitigation hierarchy including offsets for UETCL.

Key next steps for the COMBO Project in Uganda

Key points coming out of the workshop that we are integrating into the COMBO workplan for Uganda are the following:

- Maintain support for the development of improved government policy, laws and regulations
- Develop sectoral guidelines for business, including oil & gas and energy sectors
- Develop improved availability and access to data for planning and quantifying impacts
- Update the Albertine Graben SEA if feasible
- Identify projects and sites for potential case studies
- Facilitate exchange between partners involved in mitigation and offsets
- Support exchange of lessons learnt and best practice experiences
- Identify training and capacity-building priorities and prepare training plan
- Work with Government and other partners to establish the project steering committee

Workplanning will be completed in coordination with key partners, including the government, and other partners involved in reducing impacts on biodiversity from project development.

Further details

Further details of the training and the background to the COMBO Project can be found on the project website (<http://combo-africa.org/>) or by contacting the project managers: uganda@combo-africa.org. Further details of WCS Uganda's activities with industry can be found here: <http://wcsuganda.org/>.

Appendix A: Workshop Agenda

Industry and Biodiversity in Uganda

The COMBO Project: addressing effects of planned investments through the mitigation hierarchy and implementing enduring and resilient offsets

27-28 June, 2016, at Hotel Africana Uganda

Workshop Program: Day 1 (08:30 – 17:00)

Morning: What is the strategic environment within which the private sector will operate?

Afternoon: What are the key questions for mitigating impacts on biodiversity from industry and how can we address them?

08:30	Registration Opens	
09:00	Introduction of participants	Beatrice Kyasiimire, WCS Project Manager
09:10	Welcome by WCS, context and on-going initiatives in Uganda	Simon Nampindo, WCS Uganda Country Director
09:30	Welcome and background to mitigation of industry impacts. <i>Importance of coordinating impact mitigation and land use for future development and investment.</i>	Ray Victurine, WCS
09:50	Opening remarks by the Director – Environmental Affairs , Ministry of Water and Environment	Mr. Paul Mafabi, MWE
10:10	Reconciling infrastructure development and biodiversity in western Uganda	Mr. Edgar Buhanga, Deputy Director in charge of planning, UWA
10:30	Short Break	
10:50	Introduction of COMBO (Conservation, Impact Mitigation and Biodiversity Offsets in Africa) Project	Hugo Rainey, COMBO Project Director, WCS
11:10	NEMAS' role in EIA Process	NEMA Technical Officer
11:30	Community livelihoods, natural resources and industry development	AFIEGO
11:50	Kalagala Offset project presentation	Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)
12:10	Oil & gas and Uganda's development	Petroleum Exploration and Production Department (PEPD), Ministry of Energy & Mineral Development
12:30	Presentation by business of the outcome of their mitigation and offset feasibility studies	Robert Lwanga, Tullow Uganda Oil Pty
13:00	Lunch	

14:00	<p><u>Discussion Session – Facilitating Mitigation of Impacts on Biodiversity</u></p> <p>Introduction by facilitator: 10min</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definition of direct and indirect impacts <p>Thematic break out groups (Direct impacts – terrestrial habitats / Indirect impacts – terrestrial environments / Direct impacts – freshwater habitats / Indirect impacts – freshwater habitats): 80min</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on GoU priorities for mitigation implementation at the national and project levels • Data gaps for implementing the mitigation hierarchy • How can the private sector address these issues - what is good practice, what is feasible? • What and from what sources might be major potential cumulative impacts? • How do we ensure persistence of these species in the landscape? • How can companies collaborate to achieve overall net gain • How can communities play a role? 	Break out groups each moderated by COMBO team
15:30	Short break	
15:45	Groups reporting back and discussion	
16:30	Feedback, Summary of Discussion and Recommendations (with Q&A)	Hugo Rainey
17:00	Launch of Combo Project by the Ministry of Water and Environment	Mr Paul Mafabi Director – Environmental Affairs, Minister of Water and Environment
17:30-19:00	Cocktail	

Workshop Program: Day 2: Training by the COMBO Project for Government, private sector and civil society on implementing the mitigation hierarchy

08:30	Day Opens: Introduction: training objectives	
08:30	<p>Focus on key concepts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mitigation hierarchy: avoidance, minimisation, restoration and offsets • Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts • The BBOP Principles • International standards (Notably IFC PS6) • Objectives of no net loss (NNL) & net gain (NG) • Offsets and international best practice • Practical exercise • Discussion, questions and answers 	COMBO team
09:45	Short Break	

Appendix B: List of Workshop Participants

	Name	Institution	Position	Contact details
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