



# Research priorities of BMCA

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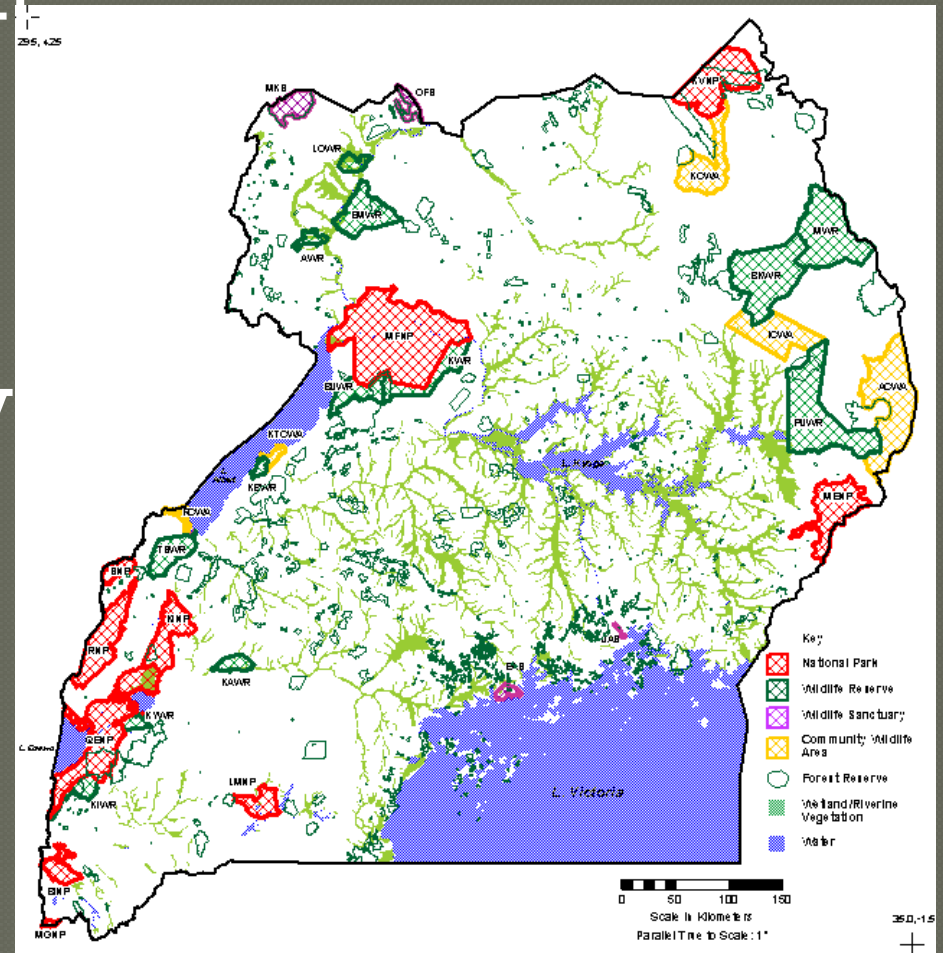
# The summary of the presentation

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- ◉ Location of BMCA.
- ◉ Purpose of gazettment.
- ◉ Purpose for management.
- ◉ Conservation values.
- ◉ BMCA management programs.
- ◉ Objectives of BMCA R&M
- ◉ Threats to BMCA.
- ◉ Critical challenges.
- ◉ Possible research areas.

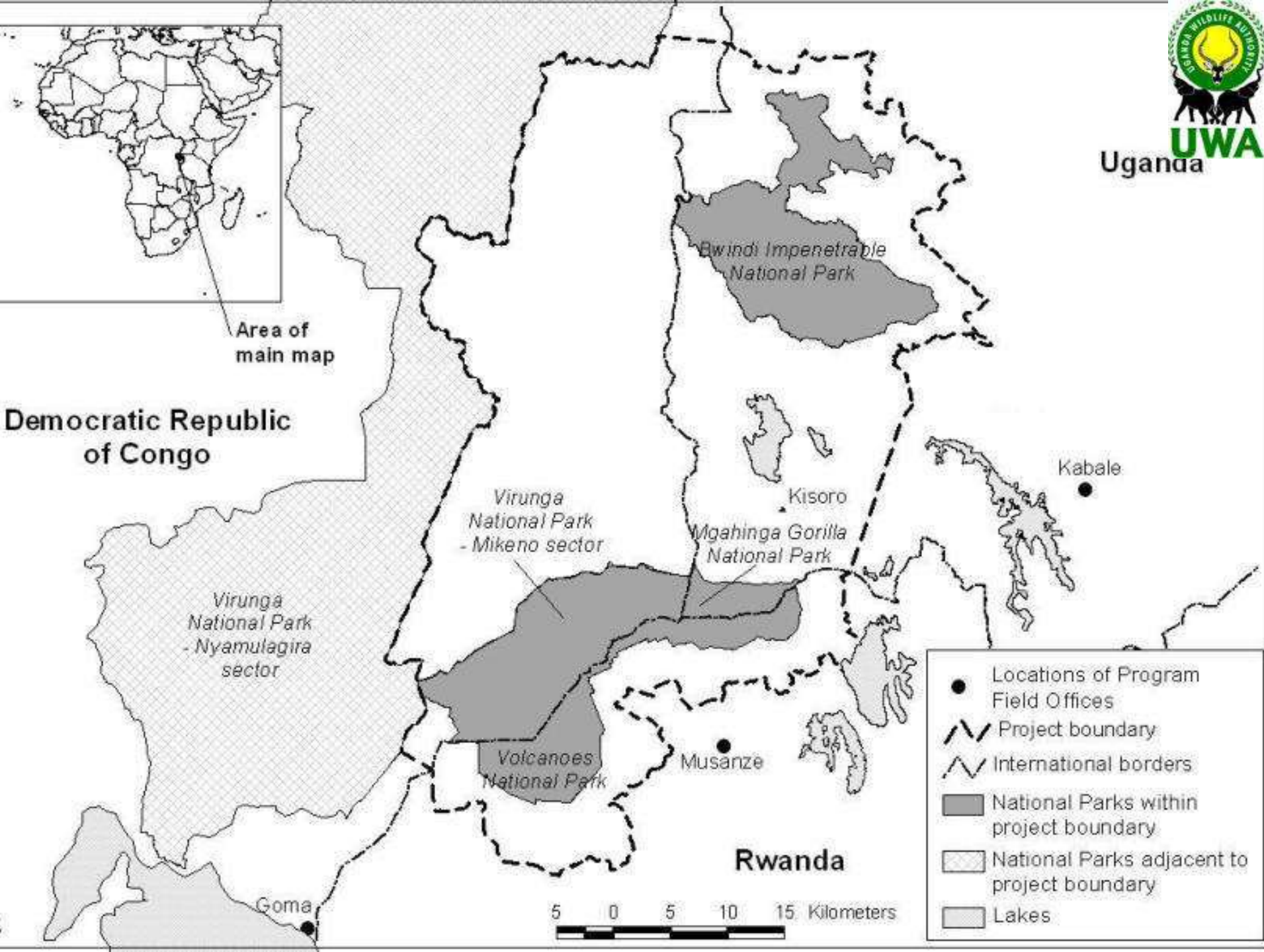
# Introduction – Location of BMCA in relation to other protected Areas

- In the South western tip of Uganda
  - The two parks are close
  - proximity, similarity
  - conditions & management
- ## Challenges
- Home to the endangered mountain gorillas.





Uganda





## Purpose for gazettelement

- Conservation of ecological resources of high biodiversity value (vulnerable populations of plants and animals endemic to the area).
  - Protection of the mountain gorillas.
  - Protection of the important economic resources (the forest)



## **Purpose for Management of BMCA**

Purpose as derived from the General Management Plan (2001 – 2011) is;

***“Biodiversity, physical and ecological process of BINP and MGNP, especially the globally endangered mountain gorilla, conserved for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community”***



## Conservation values of BMCA

- ❑ The mountain gorilla (about half the global population in BMCA).
- ❑ Water catchment
- ❑ Afromontane forest
- ❑ Scenic landscapes & topographic features
- ❑ Crater lake on Muhabura and high altitude swamp on Gahinga
- ❑ Cultural & historic values
- ❑ Diverse flora and fauna
- ❑ Climatic stabilization & carbon sink

# BMCA Management Programs



- Resource Conservation and Management
- Tourism Development
- Community Conservation
- Monitoring and Research
- Park Operations and Maintenance
- Regional Co-operation





## Main Objectives of Monitoring & Research

1. Effectiveness of management interventions evaluated.
2. Implementation of Management Information System (MIST) enhanced and improved.
3. Health of mountain gorillas ensured and relationship between humans, livestock & gorilla health investigated.
4. Inventory of PA ecological resources carried out.



## Main threats in BMCA are:

- climate change related threats,
- visitor numbers and satisfaction,
- poaching,
- encroachment
- wildfires,
- Wildlife-Human disease transmission,
- plant resource harvesting,
- human wildlife conflicts,



## •Threats cont'd



- waste management
- hydro electric power development ,
- Limited knowledge of the ecology of other animal species such as elephants ,carnivores duikers etc.
- Incomplete biodiversity surveys,
- unsustainable resource harvesting
- Invasive and exotic plant species,
- pit sawing,

# Some critical Management Challenges

- Gorillas ranging outside the park



- Problem animal Management

- Habitat/ecosystem management. How should it be done?



## Possible research areas on Poaching:

- Comparative analysis of disincentives and incentive methods of controlling poaching
- Effectiveness of UWA strategies to tackle poaching
- Analysis of markets and the trade in bush meat.



## **Wildlife diseases:**

- Epidemiology of common wildlife/livestock zoonotic diseases in and around BMCA

## **Plant resource harvesting**

- Resource regeneration rates and calculation of sustainable off take levels .
- Identification of alternative resource (s) outside protected areas and analysis of potential for on farm substitution.
- Ecology of specific target resources.



# Human wildlife conflicts

- Effectiveness of ICDPs in reducing human wildlife conflicts
- Social economic analysis of the human wildlife conflicts around BMCA
- Analysis of potential barriers that could reduce crop raiding



# Invasive and exotic species management

- Inventory of exotic /invasive plant species in BMCA
- FEASIBILITY of controlling invasive exotic plant species in BMCA and possible eradication methods
- Distribution and regeneration of exotic species and their impact on indigenous species.





## Pit sawing

- Effects of pit sawing on species regeneration, diversity and richness
- Economics of the timber trade locally to BMCA AND analysis of alternatives



# Hydro electric power development

- Economic analysis of HEP development in a protected area and its environmental impacts.

It's BMCA's desire to promote Applied research and monitoring that is relevant to addressing conservation needs and threats to protected areas thus contributing to meaningful wildlife conservation and management approach in BMCA

I therefore call upon researchers to find out lasting solutions for the above threats so as to help BMCA to fulfill its purpose

**Conserving for Generations**

