

**PRIORITY /EMERGING RESEARCH  
ISSUESFOR BWINDI AND MGAHINGA  
CONSERVATION AREA  
BY: Raymond R. Kato-WRM**

- Introduction.
- Why Research and Monitoring.
- Immerging issues.

# Introduction

- The GMP is a document that guides management operations for a particular period. UWA's GMPs last for 10 years and each conservation area has a 10 year management plan where it bases its operations.
- We are in the process of formulating Bwindi and Mgahinga Conservation Area management plan for the next 10 years as the running one has expired, and we have reached the proposal generation level.

# Introduction cont.....

Research and monitoring has the primary objectives of

- Availing accurate, relevant and timely information for resource management.
- To carry out effective management oriented research

In this document(GMP), a lot has been proposed, and the

Research and Monitoring the following issues have been

emphasized if lasting solutions that aid management

informed decisions have to be made

# **1. Impacts of emerging developments near the forest**

## **Mining**

Iron ore, oil exploration, walfram, gold etc

We need an economic viability study of the forest resource Vs mining activity if we are to protect this resource

## **Urbanization**

Power is being extended at the peripheries of the forest in Rushaga, Buhoma and Nkuringo and these centers will glow. What are associated dangers on biodiversity and the future of gorilla conservation

## **Agriculture**

## 2. Population habitat viability analysis

- Gorillas are taking long to multiply vs improved protection and management
- Has the population reached the carrying capacity or it is other factors
- What is the actual carrying capacity of the forest

### 3. Population trends of major species of wildlife

- We need to spread out our conservation efforts
- Currently data available is of gorillas
- What are other species of wildlife that we protect in bwindi forest
- Periodic census of major species necessary for trends analysis
- Lack information and management intervention on other animal species

## 4. Data base records for timely information

- How far have we reached with database management- server connection (IGCP)
- Brake down of soft wares for data management e.g. MIST
- Do we have alternative means of data management.
- Capacity building for data management
- Compatible soft wares that aid prompt data access

## 5. Effectiveness of Mauritius thorn as a measure against crop raiding.

- Study carried out and recommended MT
- How effective has it been
- Has it got any effect on biodiversity
- On some areas it is colonizing other species
- What is the long term plan for the usage of MT.



## 6. Climate change and its impacts on conservation

- Shrubs colonizing former wetlands
- Increasing temperatures. Ave 17, Low 7, High 20 Vs current trends Hi 26
- Other species of wildlife emerging-cats, reptiles, mosquitoes, exotic plants
- Experiencing long dry spells
- Increasing home range of gorillas even outside the forest

# 7. Pressure to habituate more gorillas

- 30 groups, and 10 groups habituated for tourism
- What are the dangers
- Are these dangers clearly understood
- How many gorillas should be habituated Vs total population in the ecosystem

## 8. Mgahinga national park attract few researchers both social and ecological

- Little information to guide decision making
- Call for more researchers
- Limited research facilities
- Habitat use by Nyakagezi gorilla group(very wide home range)
- Exotic species in the park

# Undertake capacity for UWA staff to carry out Research other than monitoring

- Currently relying on ITFC for scientific research
- Ngo's for veterinary interventions(CTPH, MGVP)