



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

MAY 2008



USAID works to sustain and conserve biodiversity as well as mitigate climate change impacts in Uganda by implementing innovative programs in conservation, agroforestry, farmland and watershed restoration and by promoting environmental management best practices.

BACKGROUND

Uganda is endowed with significant portions of the world's biodiversity and natural resources. However, there are a number of threats and failures that undermine the conservation of these resources. Threats include habitat loss or degradation and unsustainable use of resources, as well as poverty, and institutional policy and market failures. Poor agricultural practices and the lack of alternatives are also to blame. Uganda has a high population growth rate of over 3.6% per annum. The increasing population continues to depend on natural resources for their livelihood. This precarious situation has attracted local and international interests to assist in the conserving of Uganda's biodiversity and ensuring that people get sustained benefits from the country's natural resources.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES

USAID continues to build upon past initiatives to sustainably manage natural resources, thereby enhancing carbon sequestration and supporting ecosystems adaptation to climate change. Since 2005, the USAID funded project, Productive Resource Investment in Managing the Environment (PRIME/West), has been dedicated to conserving biodiversity by reducing threats to forests, woodland and aquatic ecosystems. It has primarily focused on reducing habitat loss and overexploitation of species, with particular emphasis on illegal woodcutting and illegal hunting in protected areas of southwestern and western Uganda. Since its inception in 2001, the USAID-funded nonprofit Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST) has developed sustainable financing mechanisms to support conservation and natural resource management programs. ECOTRUST has been crucial in PRIME/West project activities, assisting communities in planting trees and developing new technologies such as energy-saving stoves and biogas digesters, all of which have reduced deforestation while lowering carbon emissions.

PRIME/West has made considerable progress in the areas of reforestation, in particular with respect to shade grown coffee. In 2007, 400 hectares of on-farm Arabic coffee were brought under shade, increasing the cumulative area of shade grown coffee to 2,170 hectares. The advantage of shade coffee plantations is that it increases the effective area under forest cover, which sequesters carbon, reduces erosion, and promotes sustainable agricultural practices.

PARTNERS

USAID's partners in climate change activities in Uganda include:

- African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
- Development Alternatives, Inc.
- Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST)
- Good African Coffee
- Government of Uganda
- Jane Goodall Institute (JGI)
- Land Albert Safaris Unlimited (LASL)
- Nkuringo Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF)
- Uganda Forest Authority
- Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

Through PRIME/West, USAID has also promoted collaborative resource management practices which have enabled resource users to co-own and co-manage natural resources. During 2007 alone, USAID initiated more than 20 collaborative resource management agreements between protected areas and bordering "front-line" communities. This brings the total cumulative area under collaborative resource management to more than 45,000 hectares.

A third crucial success of the project is its promotion of income generation activities that derive profits from the sustainable management of natural resources. Over 1,000 on and off farm jobs were created in 2007, in areas such as beekeeping and ecotourism development that benefit from sustainable natural resource management and conservation. Acting as a facilitator of environmentally friendly private sector initiatives, USAID helped leverage more than \$850,000 through the development of 17 forest, woodland, and wetland based public and private partnerships. By providing economic incentives to conserve biodiversity, USAID has stimulated the creation of market mechanisms to promote forest stewardship as a viable economic option.

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