



ECOLOGICAL TRENDS
ALLIANCE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of Ecological Trends Alliance from January 2018 to December 2018.

All Photos / Ecological Trends Alliance

Editors: Michael Opige

Layout & Design: Torach Ernest Edwin



VISION

The vision is to 'Green' development through knowledge and experience-based options for humanity

MISSION

To secure global solutions to biodiversity and development challenges through providing biologically diverse and proven alternatives.

CORE VALUES

Honesty: Integrity, ethics and honesty inform all our actions and operations. We are committed to a clean and quality job with respect for all humanity

Safety: We promote a sound Health, Safety and Environment culture and management for all employees, contractors, subcontractors and associates. We pride in innovativeness to solve our client's problem

Creativity: We continuously undertake research to enhance innovativeness throughout our work. We are always exploring new heights through setting of higher goals to allow for continuous improvement

Adaptability: We are agile and hence embrace the fact that change can be rapid. The world is a dynamic place and Ecological Trends Alliance follows in its footsteps to keep with the tide of change. We commit to setting best standards in our services while listening to the needs people.

FACTS & FIGURES

11

Is the number of publications produced

UGX 270,0000,000

Is the total amount of funding received for our programmes

2

Is the number of Districts worked in

10

Is the number of Full time and part-time staff at Ecological Trends Alliance

2

Is the number of projects we implemented



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Ecological Trends Alliance has a Board which scrutinises the works of the secretariat. Every year, the organisation reviews its performance in as far as achieving its set out objectives and targets, clearly identifying the constraints, challenges and opportunities as a basis for repositioning for the subsequent years. This process helps the board to deliver on its mandate of providing policy oversight.

This board was inaugurated at the beginning of this year and already has had two meetings **(a)** to review the progress of the organisation and **(b)** to commission and approve the audits. On behalf of the board, I would like to appreciate all the stakeholders in the relevant sectors we work in including donors, political leaders and CSOs among others. We now provide to you a summary of what we were able to do in 2018. I wish you good reading.

In future, we as an organisation, need to examine the decisions that are coming from government and see if they are strong on safeguarding the environment and the rights to a clean and safe environment. These is fundamental to any meaningful understanding and engagement in lobby and advocacy so that we make good use of the results of our research work.

For God and my country.

Thomas Mayega Kiwanuka
Chairman, Board



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Government of Uganda and BIDCO agreed to enter into partnership to invest in Oil Palm in the Islands of Lake Victoria on one hand and on the other agreed with Total E&P Uganda to do exploration and development of the productive oil and gas wells in Murchison Falls Conservation Area (MFCA). These development activities in the Islands and MFNP may create disturbances which may distort the ecosystems in both areas. It was on this background that we targeted these landscapes with our programmes.

In 2018, we implemented two programmes worth about **UGX 270,000,000** with support from Tropenbos International and donations. We were able to work with two local governments of Kalangala and Buvuma to conserve the forests in their jurisdiction and in Murchison Falls Conservation Area (MFCA) on issues of Human Wildlife Conflicts and Bush-meat.

We believe that through our engagement with the different stakeholders along the programme implementation path, we built capacity, changed attitude, introduced alternative approaches and above all, positively impacted on the environment. With this kind of approach, we hope to even deliver more in future.

On behalf of the secretariat we want to thank all who supported our cause during the year. May God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Opige', written over a background image of giraffes in a savanna.

Michael Opige
Executive Director

OUR PROGRAMMES

Research

1. We produced **11** papers during the year. The publications looked at issues of land-use changes, environmental impacts, gender-based impacts, land sales, and gains and losses from investing in oil palm.
2. Produced two synthesis reports looking at issues of human wildlife conflicts and bush meat in and around Murchison Falls National Park.
3. The year concentrated mostly on carrying out research with limited dissemination as it was scheduled for the following year.
4. The research gave good foundation for information to be used in lobby and advocacy in the subsequent years.

Assessment of short term gains from oil palm plantations in Kalangala, against long term benefits of forest conservation



Abstract Summary: Kalangala Island has been converted to oil palm plantations. This report looks at short-term gains from oil palm against long-term benefits of forest conservation. It compares the economic and social benefits of central forest reserves and oil palm plantations in Kalangala.

Keywords: Kalangala Island, oil palm, forest conservation, economic benefits, social benefits.

Comparison of the economic and social benefits of central forest reserves and oil palm plantations in Kalangala



Abstract Summary: This report compares the economic and social benefits of central forest reserves and oil palm plantations in Kalangala. It examines the impact of land-use changes on the local community and the environment.

Keywords: Kalangala Island, forest reserves, oil palm, economic benefits, social benefits.

Environmental impacts of oil palm plantations in Kalangala



Abstract Summary: This report examines the environmental impacts of oil palm plantations in Kalangala. It discusses the effects of land clearing, deforestation, and the loss of biodiversity.

Keywords: Kalangala Island, oil palm, environmental impacts, deforestation, biodiversity.

Gender-based impacts of commercial oil palm plantations in Kalangala



Abstract Summary: This report explores the gender-based impacts of commercial oil palm plantations in Kalangala. It analyzes the different roles and responsibilities of men and women in the plantation sector.

Keywords: Kalangala Island, oil palm, gender-based impacts, women, men.

Land use changes (1990-2015) in Kalangala and Buvuma districts, southern Uganda



Abstract Summary: This report documents land use changes in Kalangala and Buvuma districts from 1990 to 2015. It identifies the drivers of land-use change and the resulting impacts on the environment and local communities.

Keywords: Kalangala, Buvuma, land use changes, 1990-2015, southern Uganda.

OUR PROGRAMMES

Research (continued)

Ssemenada R, Opige MO (eds), 2018. Oil palm plantations in forest landscapes: impacts, aspirations and ways forward in Uganda. Research report. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands and Ecological Trends Alliance, Kampala, Uganda. 55pp.

Ssemmanda R, Opige M, Pasiiecznik N, Vellema H, 2018. Paradise lost, or found? The introduction of oil palm to Uganda's tropical forest islands in Lake Victoria – a review of experiences and proposed next steps. 8pp.

Nangendo G, 2018. Land use changes (1990-2015) in Kalangala and Buvuma districts, southern Uganda. 8pp.

Namaganda M, 2018. Environmental impacts of oil palm plantations in Kalangala. 5pp.

Mwima PM, 2018. Impacts of oil palm on forest products and implications for the management of remaining forest fragments. 4pp.

Bigirwa J, 2018. Gender-based impacts of commercial oil palm plantations in Kalangala. 6pp.

Masiga M, Anena S, Nviri G, 2018. Comparison of the economic and social benefits of central forest reserves and oil palm plantations in Kalangala. 4pp.

Banana A, Kaukha S, Nsita A, 2018. Assessment of short term gains from oil palm plantations in Kalangala, against long term benefits of forest conservation. 6pp.

Namanji S, Ssekyewa C, 2018. Mitigating negative impacts of oil palm expansion in Kalangala, and complementary livelihoods options. 4pp.

Kakungulu Mayambala R, 2018. Implications of land tenure laws for ensuring the sustainable management of forested landscapes alongside planned oil palm expansion in Buvuma. 5pp.

Human wildlife conflict and bushmeat survey in and around Murchison Falls Protected Area. Report writing and layout by Badru Mugerwa with support from Michael Opige, Richard Ssemmanda, Dr. William Olupot, Erick Evans Kigai Bigala and Genesis Okello.

Capacity development

1. We invested in training the research team in First Aid. This was to improve vigilance and preparedness while working in the wild. The training included both staff and part-time research teams.
2. We also took the opportunity to build experience of staff on the use and application camera traps in the modern day conservation work.
3. Communities and Local Government officials of Buvuma and Kalangala were trained in the priority setting and decision making for common good.



Community engagement / development

- 1.** Communities were involved in research to understand gender-based impacts of commercial oil palm plantations in Kalangala and in detailing economic and social benefits of Central Forest Reserves vis-a-vis oil palm plantations.
- 2.** Communities around MFCAs were engaged on how to apply Non-lethal mitigation actions to manage the Human wildlife conflicts. This included use of scare crows, physical guarding and fencing with unpalatable crops.



Conservation

The follow up on recommendation of opening of boundaries for Central Forest Reserves (**CFRs**) to allow regeneration of the forests. This was a result a research “Impact of oil palm on land cover and land use in Kalangala and Buvuma – trends and future predictions” that underpinned the complete obliteration of CFRs in Buvuma district with almost all CFRs occupied by communities.

Since Human Wildlife Conflicts (**HWC**) is a community problem, we recommended that all stakeholders including the communities, UWA and the districts to participate in mitigation actions. Non-lethal mitigation actions such as training guards and deploying more rangers should be the preferred sustainable HWC mitigation actions. Using alarm sounds was the most effective mitigation against threat to humans.

Bush meat poaching being a very secretive activity, we suggest a combination of law on ground enforcement and intelligence. Along these lines, we suggest the use of “conservation” dogs that have proved effective at controlling poaching for elephants and other iconic wildlife.



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Using Simulation Games to explore Pathways of Oil Palm expansion In Uganda

This was a unique way of making stakeholders in the oil palm value chain understand exactly what happens. Through a series of participatory role playing exercises, the stakeholders better understand how the decisions taken determine the environment and their future. In each round the players, each taking on a different role (e.g. plantation owner, out-grower, transporters, local millers etc.) are faced with different scenarios, challenges and decisions to be taken.

In the end, the game explores different oil palm trajectories with stakeholders and decision makers in the landscapes and help chart a path towards more sustainable and inclusive futures. This was done on the premise that Oil Palm plantations planned for Buvuma island, Uganda, will have major impact on Buvuma's environment and livelihoods of its inhabitants.



A photograph of four men in a field. One man on the left is wearing a camouflage jacket and is gesturing with his hands. Three other men are standing near a white vehicle. One man is holding a large green raincoat. The background shows a natural, outdoor setting with trees and grass.

FROM THE FIELD

Human Wildlife Conflict and Bush-meat Surveys, My Experience

I was part of a team that did a baseline study whose main objective was to understand underlying issues in Human Wildlife Conflicts (HWCs) and Bush-meat (BM) in relation to conservation and development. My task was to set camera traps around Murchison Falls Conservation Area (MFCA).

Setting camera traps helped to improve on my research skills. I had to ensure that these cameras were well hidden and out of reach of both wild animals and poachers yet with good views to capture as many quality pictures as possible. I learnt how to create rapport with team members and maximize resources through toolbox meetings. I had to be good at time management meaning that speed and accuracy were key assets to my work.

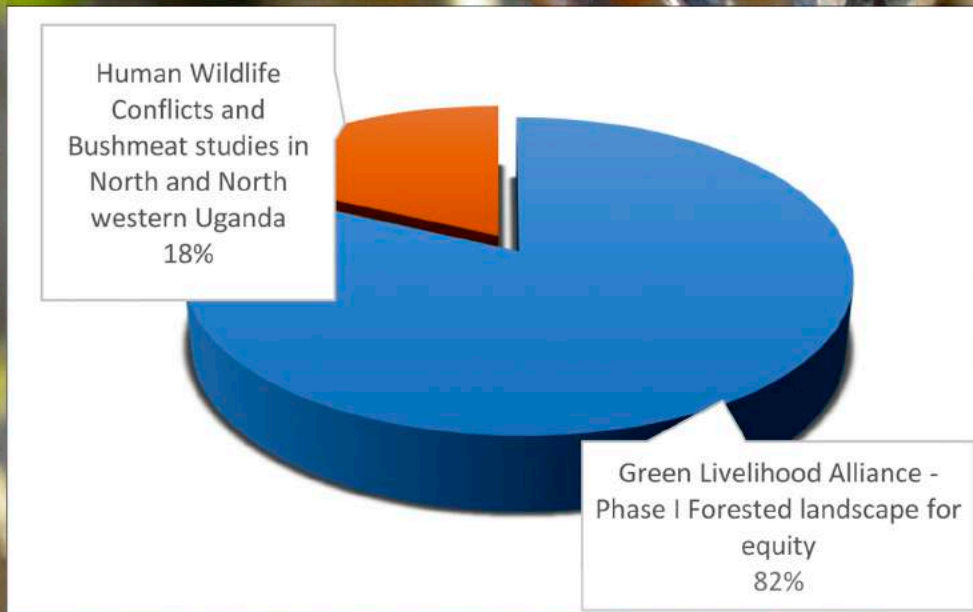
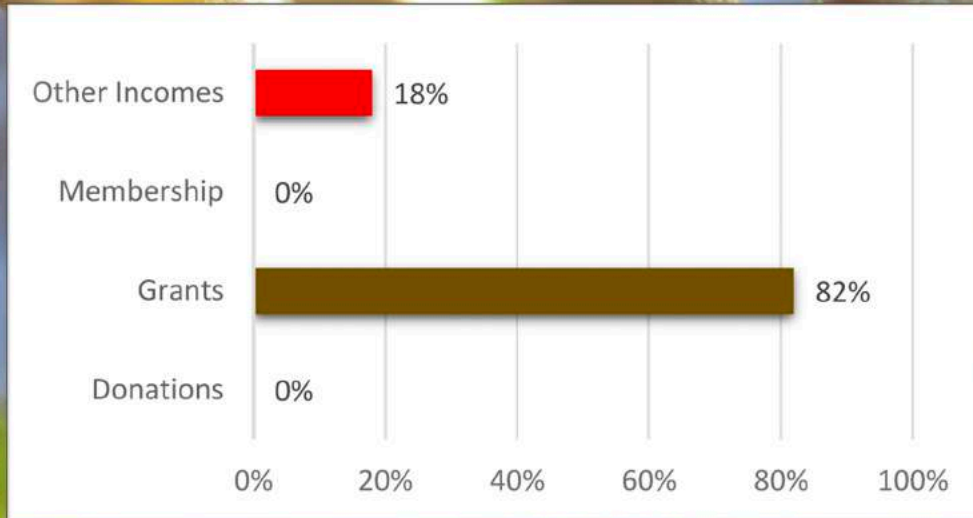
Trekking the many kilometers deep in the jungles of MFCA in both heavy sunshine and rainfall are moments I will not forget. In some of those treks, we would encounter armed poachers who refer to this conservation area as “world bank” and so feel entitled to access every resource therein. This would culminate into a cat and mouse chase accompanied by gunshots since we moved with rangers. It made me appreciate the work done by our gallant rangers in keeping these poachers at bay.

I have since realized that only a few members of these communities understand issues of conservation vis-a-vis development. Therefore there is still work to do in getting these communities on board.

Kigai Erick Evans Bigala - Research and Information Coordinator

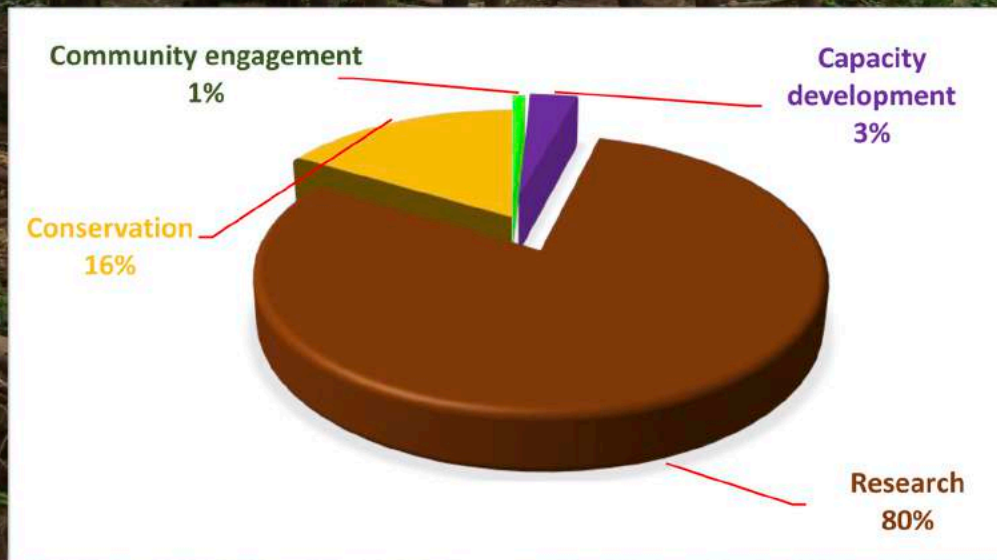
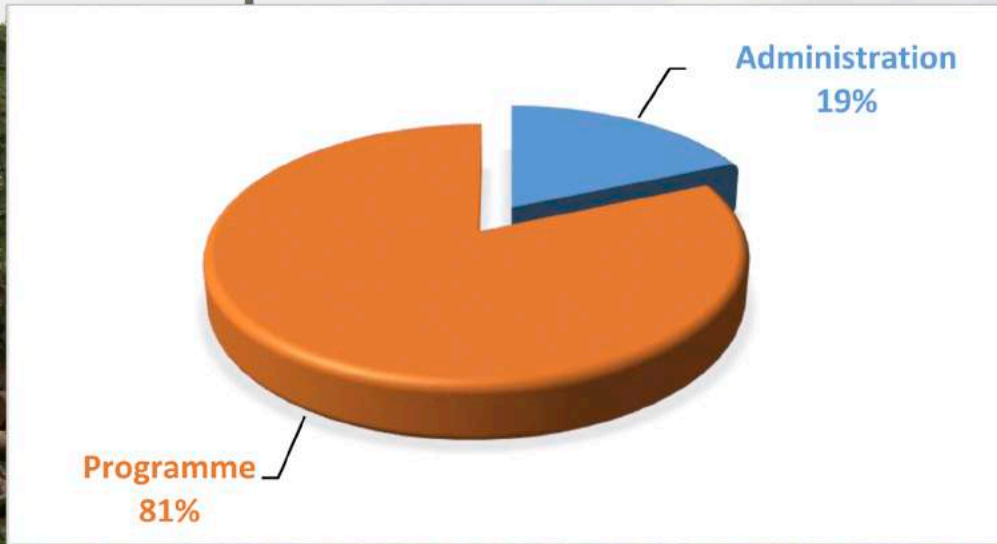
FUNDING

In 2018, our income stood at **UGX 268,236,492** to support our works on Green Livelihoods Alliance (**82%**) and Human Wildlife Conflicts and Bush-meat studies in the North and North western Uganda (**18%**).



EXPENDITURE

During the year, we spent **81%** on programme implementation and **19%** on administration. Most of the programme funds (**80%**) was spent on research while **20%** went to conservation, capacity development and community engagement.



AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Ecological Trends Alliance
Audit Report and Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended 31 December 2018

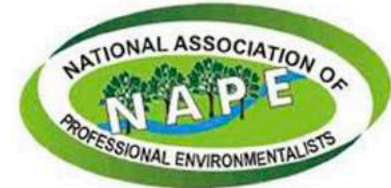
5.2. Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense/ Financial Performance

	Note	UGX
Incomes		
Grant Income	6.11	134,821,975
Other Income	6.12	28,400,686
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Total Income		163,222,661
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Expenses		
Administration Costs	6.13	49,744,528
Programme Costs	6.14	218,491,964
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Total Expenses		268,236,492
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Surplus/(deficit) for the period		(105,013,831)

The notes (6.1- 6.20) to these financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2018 form an integral part thereof and should be read and construed as such

PARTNER APPRECIATION

Here are the partners we worked with in 2018. Thank you for the trust you have shown in us and we acknowledge that without your financial and technical support, we could not have met the goal we set for ourselves.



Government of
the Netherlands



A vulture with a bald head and dark feathers is perched on a green, leafy tree branch. The bird is looking towards the left of the frame. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

**...“enhancing environmental conservation and knowledge
for the benefit of the people and sustainable national
development”...**

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