NAPE LOBBY

December 2008
28th Edition

Mining in Protected Areas

Wisdom or ....?

Uganda's Experience

Funded by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Growing tension between conservation and economic objectives remain a challenge to many countries! Development benefits flowing from protected areas and the need to reflect them in the plans and budgets of forestry, agriculture, energy, tourism, mining, fisheries and other economic sectors need environmental focus.

Fundamentally, governments give overriding emphasis to economic growth as a goal in itself, and the critical dimensions of development relating to quality of life of the citizens tend to be sidelined. Some important attributes of protected areas which bring contentment, happiness, education, enjoyment and health to communities and wildlife fall outside an economic growth perspective.

Source: NAPE File Photo

Copper Oxide from the abandoned Kilembe copper mines in Kasese flowing intoRiver Nyamwamba and Lake George.

Editorial

Mining in protected areas is prohibited by Law in Uganda (Uganda Wildlife Act, 2000). Despite this, government has initiated limestone mining in Dura-Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) and fossil oil exploration in the Albertine Rift.

Dura, where the proposed limestone mining will be taking place an animal corridor between Kibaale and Queen Elizabeth National Parks. It also lies within a Ramsar site rich in biodiversity.

Also, there are several sites earmarked for commercial oil drilling along the Albertine Graben that are situated within Wildlife conservation areas and national parks.

In both cases (limestone & oil), the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) was hastily and inadequately done and do not comprehensively address the negative impacts that would result from such mining activities in protected areas. There is no comprehensive Sectoral Strategic Environmental Assessment (SSEA) that should have formed basis for planning of commercial activities in such protected areas.

It is a well known fact that mining in National Parks and other protected areas will have significant impact on wildlife and tourism, which is a major foreign exchange earner in the country. Mining in these areas will have significant threat on watercourses in the area, especially River Nile, River Semuliki and Lakes Albert, George and Edward that have transboundary significance.

The biggest challenge, therefore, remains balancing benefits of mining with ecosystem (wildlife) conservation/protection, tourism, fisheries, freshwater supply, social, economic and the peoples' livelihoods in the country.

There is an *"Approval Syndrome"* that is politically motivated at the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) where projects are approved without thorough assessments and consultations to ascertain the feasibility, benefits, risks and need for the projects.

There are key policy and legal issues concerning mining in protected areas, which if not satisfactorily addressed, will render the proposed activities a violation of national law on protected areas.

In this regard, civil society is already in Court challenging Lafarge-Hima's mining activities in QENP. The Court is yet to make the ruling. We are waiting for the court rulling.

The question is, is mining in protected areas wisdom, madness, corruption or mere greed?

In this issue, NAPE discusses the pros and cons of mining in protected areas in Uganda.

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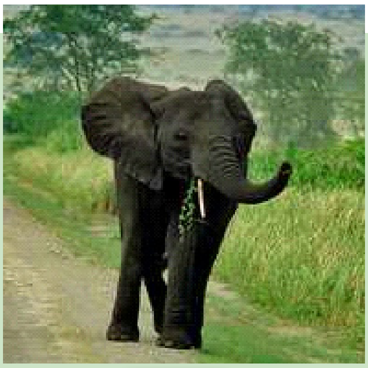

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A Publication of the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)

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Civil Society Oppose Tullow's Construction of Hazardous Waste Storage Facilities in Protected Areas

Tullow Oil is seeking permision from government to construct hazardous waste storage facilities at Kaiso-Tonya and Butiaba-Wanseko in Western Uganda within protected areas. Government is committed to issuing licenses for this purpose. Civil Society in Uganda is opposed to the action, because it is against the law on protected areas and has significant social, economic and environmental impacts . Below are contents of a letter Civil Society sent to National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

Reference is made to a Public Notice placed in the New Vision newspaper of Tuesday, October 28, 2008 by NEMA regarding NEMA's intention to issue license to Tullow Uganda Operations (PTY) to establish hazardous waste storage facilities at:-

1. Exploration area 2 Kaiso-Tonya, in Kaiso village, Tonya parish, Buseruka Sub-county, Hoima district, and
2. Butiaba-Wanseko Exploration area, in Butiaba village, Butiaba Parish, Biiso Sub-county, Buliisa district.

Civil society organizations contest this plan of issuing licenses to Tullow Uganda Operations (PTY) to establish hazardous waste storage facilities at Kaiso-Tonya and Butiaba-Wanseko.

This notice serves to express our objection to the issuance of a license to Tullow Uganda Operations (PTY) to establish hazardous waste storage facilities in the above mentioned sites, because of the following reasons:-

i. These sites are within wildlife protected areas that are highly ecologically sensitive and have significant social, economic and environmental ramifications.

ii. The natures of the wastes that will be generated from drilling activities include flammable (liquids & solids), oxidizing, toxic/poisonous, infectious, eco-toxic and persistent materials that obviously have significant social (health & safety), economic and environmental negative effects/impacts.

iii. The EIAS for the Early Oil Production Scheme (EPS) suggests different types of waste handling facilities and the use of South African Standards in the management of hazardous chemicals (EPS-EIA, B1.5 page 11), but does not explicitly state the technological, design and site specifications and/or approaches that will be applied in the management of the hazardous wastes generated from the drilling activities.

iv. According to NEMA no site-specific EIAS for the hazardous waste storage facilities was carried out. The assumption was that the EPS-EIAS would suffice. However, Section 15 of the Waste Management Regulations and 19(5) of the NEMA Act Cap 153 require that an EIA be done. Such hazardous waste storage facilities will obviously have significant negative impacts on the environment and this calls for an EIA to be conducted.

v. The capacity of the institution (Tullow) seeking a license for establishment of hazardous waste storage facility needs to be first assessed to determine whether they are capable or not to handle hazardous wastes.

vi. Uganda is signatory to various international Conventions, protocols and treaties, which require sound management of hazardous wastes and chemicals. If a license is issued without establishing the likely impacts and putting in place proper mitigation measures, it would be a contravention of these conventions, protocols and treaties such as:-

- Basel Convention that deals with the movement of hazardous wastes and their elimination.
- The Bamako Convention that protects human health and environment from dangers caused by hazardous wastes.
- The Vienna Convention provides for the protection of the ozone layer through control of ozone depleting substance, which are usually generated from oil drilling activities
- The Stockholm Convention on Per-

sistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which are generated from oil drilling activities; among others.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Issuance of license by NEMA to Tullow Uganda Operations (PTY) for the establishment of hazardous waste storage facilities at Kaiso-Tonya and Butiaba-Wanseko in Hoima and Buliisa districts respectively; should be halted until the following are addressed:-
i. An Environmental Impact Assessment of the storage facilities is conducted and subjected to public scrutiny as required by law.
ii. The existing Ugandan legislation needs to be improved and effective standards be put in place for management of hazardous wastes, instead of relying on South African Standards as proposed in the EPS-EIA (Section B1.5, page 11).
iii. Oil exploitation should be delayed, until proper hazardous waste management systems are put in place to handle the hazardous wastes that will be produced.

Key Findings in a Study on Limestone Mining at Dura in Queen Elizabeth National Park

Government of Uganda has initiated limestone mining in Dura area in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP). This act of mining in protected areas is prohibited by law. a. This retrogressive act, prompted NAPE to conduct an assessment of policy legal and institutional framework with a view of establishing the gaps.

The assessment found out the following shortcomings;

i) Mining activity and biodiversity conservation

According to the QENP-Chambura-Kigezi Wildlife Reserve General Management Plan (2000), the proposed mining activity in Dura falls in a land use designated for Biodiversity conservation. The Queen Elizabeth National Park owes its existence to abundance of wildlife, low use of land and other natural resources by humans in the early years of the century and, disease epidemics that necessitated evacuation of human population. Biodiversity protection in this area dates back to 1925 and 1930 when Lake George Wildlife Reserve (689km2) and Lake Edward Wildlife Reserves (559 km2) were established respectively. In 1952, Kazinga national park was created incorporating both Lakes George and Edward Wildlife Reserves. The Park name changed in 1954 to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

ii) Location of mining site vis-a`-vis the Ramsar site

Dura limestone deposite lie within Queen Elizabeth National Park, within the boundaries of Lake George Ramsar site.

At international level, Article 3.2 of the Ramsar Convention to which Uganda is a signatory, requires Contracting Parties to "arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the list has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference".

Uganda notified the Ramsar Convention to list the Lake Gorge Ramsar Site among the list of Ramsar Sites in danger (Montreaux Record) in the late 1980's due to the spillage of wastes from copper piles along R. Nyamwamba.

By the time of this assessment, Uganda Government had not notified the Ramsar Convention regarding the matter of Lime mining in Dura.

In this regards, mining activity

Antelops in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

in 'Dura is a violation of the national policy and commitments on wetlands conservation and management as well as Ramsar Convention obligations by Uganda. This mining activity will have impacts on the ecology of the wetland through deposition and change in hydrological characters of the drainage that feeds into the wetlands/lake George.

Besides, this is contrary to the management action prescribed in the QENP-Chambura-Kigezi Wildlife Reserve General Management Plan with respect to removal of old Limestone Kiln and cleaning up the locations of surface limestone in order to stop pollution.

iii) Conflict between Wildlife Act and mining activity

According to Article 24 of the Wildlife Act, extractive use of park resources is prohibited under the Law. Therefore, mining limestone from Dura which constitutes extractive use of national park resources is not permissible under law.

ix). Technology for limestone extraction / mining

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for limestome mining in Dura describes two technologies to be applied: Open cast mining involving mechanical ripping of top soil and blasting. Dura is traversed by river rine forests. There is a risk that the top soils excavated may be deposited in these fragile locations.

The EIA study mentions use of explosives in the blasting of the lime rock but it does not reveal the chemical content of the explosives and also whether these explosives have detrimental effects on humans and the environment.

v) Violation of EIAs guidelines

The assessment established that the the EIA report was approved without following proper procedures, for example the EIA was not subjected to a public hearing which is a requirement before approval.

Secondly, Uganda Wild Authority (UWA) geranted mining permission to HIMA without revising the management plan and this was aviolation of UWAs own policies.

vii) Transportation of limestone rock from dura to HIMA

The assessment established that the road earlier identified to transport limestone from Dura to HIMA was not granted user rights as agreed in the EIA that transportation of limestome would be by rail.

Press Clippings

Gov't undermining itself-Nape

MARTIN LUTHER OKETCH
&SALOME ALWENY
KAMPALA

A BODY of environmentalists has accused the government and its agencies of flaunting regulations and threatening the natural habitat around Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (Nape) castigated the government, the National Environment Management Authority (Nema) and Uganda Wildlife Authority for issuing license to Hima Cement allowing it to carry out mining in Dura – at the vicinity of Queen Elizabeth National park. The Hima Cement project covering 450 hectares of land is seen by the environmentalists as a threat to human life and biodiversity in the surrounding communities.

"We are aware that Larfage-Hima have obtained a mining license from the Department of Geological Survey and Mines; have obtained approval from Nema and also obtained a Mining Permit from Uganda Wildlife Authority.

All this is being done in contravention of the law governing protected areas in the country," said Mr Frank Muramuzi, Executive Director Nape, said on March 13. He said the law of Uganda prohibits mining activities in national parks (Uganda Wildlife Act 2000).

He said Nape discovered that the mining activities in the area are likely to pollute Lake George, lake Edward and River Dura and River Rwenkerebe, while the local people will also be equally affected by the mining activities.

"We want the project to follow the law. Otherwise, we know it is a contravention of the law to carryout mining activities in the gazetted areas," he said. Mr Muramuzi said that the area is an important corridor for wildlife criss-crossing Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi and is therefore important transboundary resource that must not be destroyed because the animals create such corridors naturally.

Environmentalists to sue Hima Cement

SALOME ALWENY
& MARTIN LUTHER OKETCH
KAMPALA

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have vowed to sue Hima Cement and all the authorities that approved mining in Dura area, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kasese District.

"We are not going to sit back. We shall seek court redress," Executive Director of National Association of Professional Environmentalists (Nape) Mr Frank Muramuzi, who did not mention when they would seek the court redress, told a news-gathering at their offices in Wandegeya yesterday.

"We denounce the act of mining in the park because the law of Uganda prohibits such activities in National Parks," Mr Muramuzi added.

Uganda Wildlife Authority (Uwa) last month offered the cement firm a permit for limestone extraction in the park, despite opposition from environmentalists who fear that the activity will affect the wildlife population and jeopardise the tourism industry.

According to Uwa Public Relations Manager, Ms Lillian Nsubuga, the decision to give part of the game park was reached after wide consultations with stakeholders.

In June 7, 2006, the Executive director of the National Environment Management Authority (Nema), Dr Henry Aryamanya Mugisha, also gave the company a certificate of approval with a number of conditions including ensuring that any undesirable environmental impacts that may arise due to implementing the project are mitigated.

"It is important to note that Dura limestone is critical for the sustainability of Hima plant in Kasese because the current reserves at Hima can only last for 8 years. The inclusion of Dura will extend this period to 25 years and will save the country in excess of $1,000,000 in cement imports," once the project is commissioned in 2010, Mr David Njoroge, the Hima Cement General Manager earlier said.

Dr. Chris Bakuneta, a member of the Uganda Wildlife Society said the proposed mining activities will change the general animal behaviour, for example, elephants could become agitated and violent and cause harm to people, crops and property.

Environmental damage blamed on Government

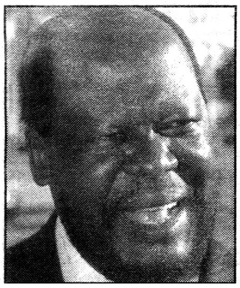
By Moses Odongo

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have blamed the Government for the degradation of the environment.

This was at a public dialogue held in Hotel Equatorial during the weekend.

The debaters said the challenges of preserving the environment are frustrated by politicians who have selfish interests.

The opposition leader in



political leaders, was held under the theme "Environment governance and Justice in Uganda."

Conservative Party President John Ken Lukyamuzi said the challenge was lack of political will among leaders to promote the protection of the environment.

"What they think of is development. Let us invest more in our people, ecology, future and environment. Ensure a sustainable future and environmental security for a better economy since we depend on agriculture," Lukyamuzi said.

Kitgum Woman MP Beatrice Anywar Atim said: "The National Environment Management Authority has failed to fulfill its obligations because of its limited capacity to enforce the law. Even other bodies like the National Forestry Authority and the Uganda Wildlife Authority are not effective. This is due to political interference

SPECIAL COMMENT

Mr Muramuzi said that the area is an important corridor for wildlife criss-crossing Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi and is therefore important trans-boundary resource that must not be destroyed because the animals create such corridors naturally.

To avenge the death of their cattle, herdsmen poison the lions

Queen Elizabeth park lions face extinction

Activists oppose mining in national park

By Gerald Tenywa

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have rejected the proposed plans to mine limestone in part of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

"The public and the Government are being misled that we are in support of mining in the park. There are still so many unre-

Two weeks ago, *The New Vision* published a story quoting environmentalists as backing the mining at Dura quarry. But the association last week called a press conference at their offices in Kampala to refute the story.

Muramuzi was flanked by officials from the wildlife society and Abantu Trust

contravenes the wildlife policy and the Uganda Wildlife Act 2000, adding that the quarrying activities would have adverse environmental effects.

He cited the scaring of elephants and other animals that use part of the park at Dura as a migratory corridor to move between Queen Elizabeth

been exaggerated.

"Many of the people employed there come from elsewhere and beyond Uganda. Others are employed as casual labourers and the pay is not good," he said.

An official of the wildlife society, Dr. Chris Bakuneta, noted that tourism was one of the top revenue

Government sued over Mining in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Environmentalists Sue Government and its Agencies for Flauting Regulations and Threatening the Sanctity of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Sighted from the Daily Monitor

Buffalos in Queen Elizabeth National Park

NAPE and other NGOs have castigated the government, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and Uganda Wildlife Authority for issuing license to Hima Cement Factory, allowing carrying out mining in Dura, part of Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP).

Mining in a national park is prohibited by law in Uganda (Uganda Wildlife Act, 2000). Environmentalists are seeking an injunction against the mining activities of Hima in Dura. The case which is before a Judge at the high Court was heard on 17th November 2008 and a ruling is yet to be made.

If given a go-ahead to extract limestone in this sensitive area, a lot of biodiversity/wildlife will be threatened and this will set a precedent for the continued destruction/degradation of protected areas/national parks whenever a commercially viable mineral in discovered in such areas. It will also be a violation of the tenets enshrined in the law protecting natural resources.

The environment impact assessment that formed basis for NEMA's approval of this mining activity did not adequately address the negative impacts the will result from the project and did not provide adequate and effective mitigation measures against the negative impacts. Also, consultations with communities/ people that derive their livelihoods from the National Park were inadequate and more of *"ice-coating"* to justify the project i.e. the consultation were not genuine.

The mining area lies in a corridor for wildlife that connects important national parks in Uganda, DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania. It also lies in a Ramsar site in Uganda.

Queen Elizabeth National Park is a home to 95 mammal species and a remarkable 612 species of birds. Most notable of the mammals are elephants, Cape Buffalo, Uganda Kob, Waterbuck, Warthog, Giant Forest Hog, Lion, Leopard, Hyena, among others. The birds include Crested Crane, Shoebills, Papyrus Yellow Warbler, Herons, King Fisher, Egrets, etc. QENP is a major tourist attraction in Uganda and contributes a significant fraction of tourism revenues in the country. Tourism is the second largest foreign exchange earner for Uganda.

To build or not to build an Oil Refinery in Uganda

By Bazira Henry

Uganda is in advanced stages of exploring and exploiting her fossil oil reserves in the western Rift Valley. Since 2000, many oil exploring companies, including Tullow Oil, Heritage Oil, Hardman Resources, etc. are involved in the exploration and appraisal of the commercial value of the oil reserves in the region.

Several commercially promising sites have been drilled along the shores of Lake Albert (Waraga, Nzizi, Kingfisher, Mputa, Kaiso-Tonya, Butiaba, Wanseko, Taitai, etc). There are plans to commence off-shore exploration drilling in the Lake, which is being hampered by the inadequate technology available in the country, biodiversity sensitivity of the Lake and political conflicts that have been rife in the recent past between DRC and Uganda over oil drilling in the area. Areas close to the River Nile (Baffalo, Hertebeest, Giraffe & croccodile) have also been earmarked for exploration drilling that are located in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

These oil discoveries have attracted a horde of international and local oil prospecting companies of which have little or no experience in the oil exploitation business, particularly the local ones that have mushroomed in the country in the recent past. These developments are coming along with the old politics of oil characterized by intrigue, corruption, lies, intimidation, lack of sincerity and transparency, anipulations, coercion, conflicts and wars, squander and embezzlement, political interference, impoverishment of the poor, widening the gap between the rich and poor, economic disorder, under-development, environmental degradation, etc.

At the centre stage of these developments are the British and Americans who have since the 1890s desired to maintain their grip, dominance and influence over oil resources in the whole world. Uganda being an infant in the oil business is very gullible about how contracts of oil are made; how oil is processed and marketed; how oil resources are equitably utilized and shared for the benefit of all the country's citizens and the economy in general; and how affected communities can be involved in oil resources use and management, etc. Consequently, Uganda is very prone to wrong advice and guidance from the so called *"Oil Masters/Professionals"* that have a long history in oil exploration and exploitation.

While it is often said that "experience is the best teacher", it is usually not the best way of learning. Uganda must not first make the mistakes in oil that the rest of the world has committed, in order for her to know that it was wrong in the first place. It is prudent that Uganda listens to all tenable professional and technical advice from the oil industry, but must be in position to make independent and well assessed decisions regarding exploitation of her oil resources. This decision-making process should be a multi-stakeholder participatory process that particularly involves Ugandans. Otherwise, the country is likely to fall prey to selfish interests and advice especially from the oil men and women in the world out there. Uganda should select her allies/advisors in the oil business discretely.

Government of Uganda (GoU) is currently being advised by some professionals in the world oil industry that building an oil refinery in the country is outrageous and too expensive for the country to afford or venture into (Daily Monitor, Tuesday, October 30, 2007). Instead, these professionals are advising GoU to export its crude oil for refining elsewhere, preferably Mombasa, and then import back the processed products. While this seems ingenious and sympathetic to Uganda, it is a smack of insult on Uganda's intelligence and capabilities, especially when there is a lot of oil experience and examples Uganda could learn from on the African continent. Even though Uganda may not have the professional, technical and financial capacity to handle oil in the short-term, this does not mean that the country should proceed to throw away her oil jewels (pearls) into the *"mouths of jackals"*. Uganda is in position to build its capacity in the oil sector in the medium and long-term anyway.

Remember that fossil (crude) oil is a precursor of many products such as kerosene, petrol, diesel, aviation fuel, benzene, heavy fuels, solvents, lubricants (grease & other oils), Vaseline, bitumen (tar), cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and plastics, which if harnessed properly are a "gold mine" for the country's economy. For instance, fuels processed in the country could be less expensive compared to those imported. The fact that Uganda is landlocked and must import her fuels and lubricants through Kenya and Tanzania exerts undue strain on the economy and the citizens. *"When Kenya or Tanzania sneezes, Uganda catches the cold"*.

Uganda's development of the

different aspects of the oil industry would be a significant impetus for the provision of the badly needed revenues, jobs, fuels and lubricants, infrastructure, etc. to drive the country's economic growth and social transformation. Also, this would spur domestic, commercial and industrial savings; promote the growth of the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and plastics industry in Uganda; the heavy fuels would contribute to eradicating the current thermal energy crisis; and the tar would enhance the development and expansion of the tarmacked road infrastructure. Currently, Uganda imports US$500million worth of oil products annually. This is a sizeable amount that could be saved or reduced, if Uganda processed all the petroleum products locally from its crude oil.

Although Uganda's oil sector cannot employ every job seeker in the country, through the multiplier effect, the oil industry would create an environment for everybody to economically thrive, as provided for in the Petroleum and Gas Policy. This policy provides that revenues from oil are supposed to be spent in the different sectors of the economy such as schools, (education), health (hospitals, drugs & services), transport (air, water, road & rail) infrastructure, water and sanitation, power, etc. This, of-course, is on the assumption that the oil sector is devoid of corruption, squander, embezzlement, misallocation of resources, political interference, and that the politicians of today restrain themselves from illicitly dipping their hands in the petrodollars generated thereof. If we fail to achieve this, then the *"Curse of Crude Oil"* will be Uganda's synonym.

Most oil producing countries in Africa have suffered this curse mainly because they have given away the cortex of crude oil, which are the other bi-products of refining other than paraffin, petrol and diesel and the associated jobs, taxes, revenues that go with the refining process to the company/ country where the refining is done. As a result, such crude oil exporting countries have suffered the double torment of loss of value of their oil and the consequent importation of petroleum products at very exorbitant prices. Furthermore, oil has reduced government and public interest in other sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and metallurgy often considered inferior to oil, thus resulting in an economy that is highly dependent on imported consumer products (food stuffs, timber, metals, etc) and a large population of malnourished and poverty-striken people.

For example, Nigeria the leading producer of crude oil in Africa and with a population of approximately 250 million people, has more than 75% of its population living below the US$1.0 per day. The country is riddled with corruption, conflicts concerning sharing of oil benefits, and militias that cause mayhem in the Niger Delta. Angola, the second oil producer, has been characterized by bloody wars for over 40 years. Equatorial Guinea, the third oil producer on the continent and with the smallest population (0.5million people) compared to many African countries, has most of its people languishing in poverty. Gabon that has been producing crude oil since the 1960s and has a relatively small population of 1.0million people, appears very rich in the capital city Libreville, has the highest income per capita of US$6,500, but has 66% of its population living in abject poverty. Sudan is slowly rising onto the oil stage with records of killings, massacres and illegal detentions. Now, we await the conduct of Uganda, Mozambique, Madagascar, Kenya and Ethiopia as they jump onto the oil stage.

The so-called oil professionals have been advising Uganda to export its crude to Mombasa for refining, which should not be surprising. They argued that Uganda's crude oil potential is less than 100,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd); is to heavy (waxy) and solidifies at room temperatures and therefore it will be difficult to obtain a market price. Hence, it is not worthwhile for Uganda to construct her own refinery in the country. However, all this is being said when exploration is still going-on (incomplete) and the real oil potential of the Albertine Graben not yet fully established.

It is a well known fact that even with most advanced technology today, it is still very difficulty to determine with certainty the exact oil potentials of an area. Dry oil wells are still being reported today in places thought to have oil. Also, surprise *"Oil Gushers"* have been reported in America, Venezuela, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Baku-Azerbaijan, etc. in areas originally projected to have low oil production capacities. Even in Nigeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé, Prìncìpe, Mauritania, Angola, Cabinda, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Algeria, Libya, and Chad, Africa's leading oil producers, were initially not known to have the oil capacities that they exhibit today. In other words, exploration of oil is not always 100% accurate.

Tullow Oil, which holds a larger oil concession than Heritage Oil in the Albertine Graben, claims that the oil reserves it has so far discovered has a recoverable capacity of 100-250 million bopd. Heritage Oil also claims to have an even higher capacity at a single well, although they have not published any figures. This, however, is being contested by some few international oil men with the claim that Tullow Oil and heritage Oil are over-stating their recoverable oil capacities in Albertine Graben in order to influence their market values at the London and Toronto Stock Exchanges, an incentive that could spur them into manipulating recoverable oil figures. Officials in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) oppose this view saying that it is highly unlikely that Tullow Oil and Heritage Oil could over-state their oil reserves, because if found out to have lied about their recoverable capacities, such lies would easily lead to their collapse at the different Stock Exchanges. MEMD too claims to continuously conduct independent reviews and keeps updated reserves calculations. MEMD has on some occasions protested the figures quoted by the two companies Tullow Oil and Heritage Oil for being too conservative and unrealistic, probably with the intention to cheat. According to MEMD, the recoverable oil from the Albertine region is much higher than what is frequently quoted by the companies.

MEMD officials are of the opinion that government constructs a refinery with a capacity of 100,000 to 150,000 (bopd). While this is a welcome proposal, the manner in which it is being pursued is highly contestable, because the proposal is leading government into building the refinery within protected areas. This decision is not particularly popular, especially at a time when most of the protected areas in the country have been or are in the process of being degraded /destroyed to establish commercial/industrial estates and plantations for sugar, Palm oil and biofuel production. Also, the decision is not popular at a time when the dwindling forest estate, is renown to aggravating the current climate change crisis the world over. The common justification for government's desire to encroach on protected areas for purely commercial purpose is that gazetted land (i.e. Land held by government in custody for the public) is readily available and cheap compared to that in the private sector, which is a misconception. The fact that government holds protected lands in custody on behalf of the Ugandan public does not warant it freedom to decimate or change land-use of these areas. Any change of landuse of a protected area should be in accordance with national laws and consent of Ugandans themselves.

The option preferred by MEMD officials of domestic value addition will require substantial amounts of money that Uganda may not have readily. It is argued that if the oil companies that can easily mobilize such money continue to go against building a local refinery, then Uganda will not be able to exploit her crude oil resources. The option preferred by the international companies of building a pipeline to Mombasa will also require substantial amounts of investment, including pipe heating, which Ugandans will eventually bear in terms of oil prices or interests on loans secured by the oil companies. It is said that the export option is the most preferred option because it is "flexible" (*read: provides dividends on the other bi-products*) and that it would allow the companies get a "global price for the oil". *This is outright theft!!!!*

If we fail to achieve this, then the *"Curse of Crude Oil"* will be Uganda's synonym.

While it is fact that the commercial value of Uganda's oil has been enhanced by the recent escalations in oil prices (upto US$150/barrel) on the world market, any sudden drop in oil prices (to less than US$50/barrel) on the world market would make Uganda's oil very expensive and a domestic refinery unviable.

However, the apparent disagreements between the international oil men/women and government are a reflection of the old battles that have raged on in the oil industry and the tangle of difficulties involved in determining the best option for Uganda's oil. The best way forward would be that government:-

- Conducts costs, benefits and opportunity-costs assessments of the alternative options of exploiting the oil in Uganda, because whichever way, it will involve large capital investments.
- Comprehensive social and environmental impact assessment should complement all EIA studies.
- Equitable use and benefit-sharing strategies among the different sectors of the economy and affected communities should be part and parcel of the assessments. Emulate the Netherlands that has the best oil resources and revenues management system in the world.
- Delay the exploitation of Uganda's oil resources until such a time when the country has developed the necessary capacity (policy, legal, institutional, standards and guidelines) to adequately manage oil resources and revenues and when it is profitable to do so.
- Stay the exploitation of oil until when it feasible to have a domestic crude oil refinery. Uganda already has a potential oil market in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, to mention, but a few.
- Negotiate and sign oil contracts that offer greater proportion (> 60%) of oil proceeds to government (like in Kuwait). Rents on oil resources should be comparable to the best in the world to avoid the problems that have bedevilled Africa, especially in Nigeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sudan, etc.

Civil Society Groups urge DRC, Uganda to resolve border spat in the Oil-Rich Albertine Rift

By: Dickens Kamugisha

Civil society groups and local communities along the Albertine Rift met on the 5th of September, 2008, at Imperial Royale Hotel-Kampala Uganda and called upon the Governments of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to resolve the border and ensure transparency in any negotiations they undertake by involving local communities and all other relevant stakeholders for equitable gains from the oil extraction.

In a joint communiqué issued at the end of a high level regional policy forum organized by the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, participants from Uganda, DRC, Nigeria, South Africa and others appealed to the two governments to move fast and conclusively address existing national governance gaps as well as cross border conflicts that have been triggered by the discovery of oil in the Albertine Rift.

"The two governments should be transparent and provide information to their citizens and allow the citizens to participate in all national decision making processes as way to seal all avenues of conflict with both the central Government and local governments; and then between the two governments on how to extract and equitably utilize the proceeds from oil," says Dickens Kamugisha, the Executive Director, AFIEGO.
Participants noted that both Uganda and DRC are aware that persistent hostilities threaten both national and regional democratization as well as stability. Congo and Uganda's relations were soured in 1996 when the Ugandan army invaded eastern Congo in what government termed as 'hot pursuit' of rebel dissidents of Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the invasion triggered a full-scale regional war drawing the involvement of countries like Rwanda, Angola, Burundi and Zimbabwe claiming the lives of up to 5 million people.

Analysts have attributed the border conflict in the Albertine rift on the effects of Congo's 1996-2003 civil war which has rendered vast parts of Eastern Congo lawless, Eastern Congo is now a safe haven for numerous rebel groups and militias including Uganda rebels of LRA and ADF.

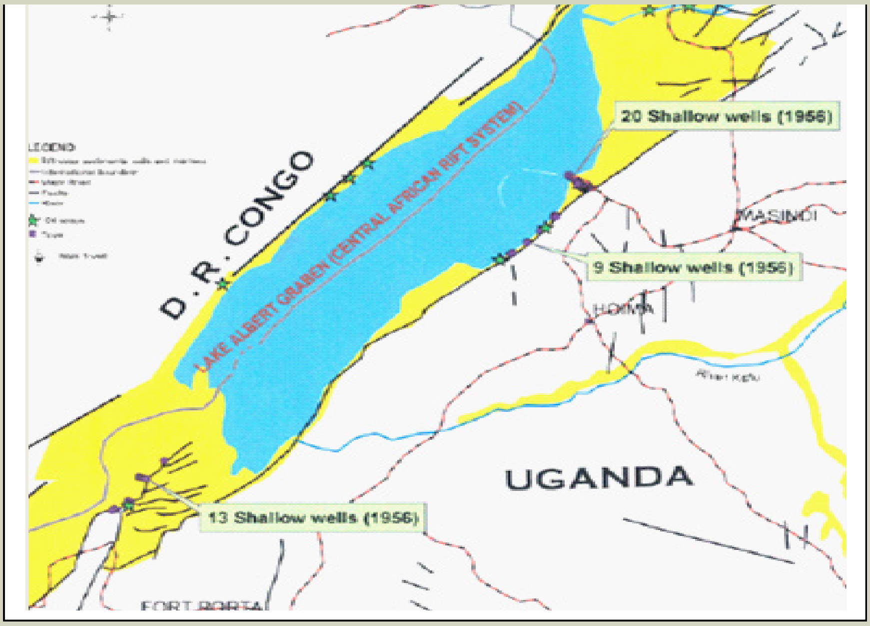
Since last year, the border conflict has mainly hovered over the strategic Island of Rukwazi, located in the southern tip of lake Albert, whereas Uganda claims that colonial borders indicate that the Island is on its side, 90% of the inhabitants are Congolese. In the Semuliki valley, River Semuliki has been shifting over the years due to soil erosion and Congo insists that the River is the natural boundary.

It should be noted that since last year, over 10 people from both Uganda and DRC have been killed in clashes triggered by border conflicts as a result of increased oil exploration activities on the Ugandan side of the lake Albertine rift. The insecurity is blamed on the absence of strong institutions as well as weak national and regional governance institutions to handle or deal with cross boarder issues including oil exploration and production; and the failure of the two governments to involve local communities and all other stakeholders in the ongoing joint security commissions, oil agreements negotiations and other socio-economic initiatives.

The one day conference attracted participants from the central governments, local governments, Embassies, academic institutions, non governmental organizations, local communities, cultural institutions, donor community and others from Uganda, DRC, Nigeria, Norway and South Africa. The forum supported by the Open Society Initiative for East Africa, (OSIEA) provided an opportunity for different interest groups to consult and share information on oil resource management and governance.

Participants also noted the problem of limited information on the negotiations and transactions being undertaken by the two Governments in respect of natural resource exploitation in the boarder areas. Uganda's resolve to go ahead with the early Production Scheme (EPS) by the end of 2009, despite lack of serious oil exploration activities on the Congolese side is also creating a lot of suspicion between the two neighbours. Early this year, Congo accused Tullow Oil of enlisting the support of the Congolese army to violate its borders.

Participants also noted that local communities and other stakeholders in the oil regions and other parts



The Oil rich area shared between DRC and Uganda

of Uganda did not effectively participate in the drafting of Uganda's Oil and Gas Policy, 2008 and government has declined to reveal information contained in the Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) signed with oil companies citing confidentiality clauses. This is a big obstacle to good governance and national democratization of natural resource exploitation for sustainable development. The communities are concerned that without access to information, and active participation, oil companies may come up with unfair profit margins at the expense of the nationals, as has happened in other oil producing African countries. They want the Government to openly discuss with them the procedure for compensation, plans for community development and environmental conservation strategies.

The groups are appealing to the government of Uganda to do the following before commencing the extraction process:

1. Publish the Production Sharing Agreements, including the total cost of the Early Production Scheme and the Environmental Impact Assessment information on the Albertine Rift oil.
2. First strengthen her legal, policy and institutional framework before commencing the oil extraction, as these are the most fundamental factors for ensuring revenue transparency and accountability in any country.
3. Take advantage of, and adopt and implement the existing international resource governance initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for the benefit of her young oil industry. EITI provides for revenue information openness that allow the public to access the necessary information with which it arms itself to hold governments and oil companies accountable for each decision taken on its behalf in the utilization and management of revenues generated from the exploitation of extractive resources.
4. Ensure that public policy decisions on oil governance are just, equitable, and do not impact disproportionately and negatively on different sections of the public or on its neighbors. This requires the government to involve the public and all her neighbors in all the oil processes in the country, including those in the boarder.
5. Avail necessary information including the PSAs, licenses, concessions and others to the public to encourage effective public participation and facilitate non governmental organizations and other interest groups to participate in all the initiatives for effective oil resource management for transparency and accountability to achieve social and economic development

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The Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is a local civil society organization registered (Reg No. S. 5914/ 5315) with the NGO Board, Ministry of Internal Affairs-Uganda. It is a public policy research and policy advocacy organization whose main goal is to promote good energy governance in Eastern and Southern Africa.

For more information go to: http://www.afiego-ug.org

The Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA) supports and promotes public participation in democratic governance, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in East Africa by awarding grants, developing programs, and bringing together diverse civil society leaders and groups. OSIEA plays an active role in encouraging open, informed dialogue about issues of public importance in East Africa.

For more information go to: http://www.soros.org/initiatives/osiea

Development is failing the National Park Concept

By: F. C. Oweyegha-Afunaduula

In a previous article in the 26th Edition of NAPE LOBBY of April 2008 under the title "Environmental Politics for Sustainability, I defined environmental politics as "the way politics is used to determine human-environment interactions, including the use of resources and the balancing, or not balancing, of the various dimensions (social, ethical, moral, ecological, political, psychological, intellectual, economic, etc) of human welfare and activities within the environment".

I went on to name three main types of environmental politics, namely:

(i) That which takes environment and development as parts of the same spectrum of progress;
(ii) That which insists that development should always come before development; and
(iii) That which insists that environment always come before development.

I averred that (i) and (iii) constitute what can be referred to as "environmental politics for sustainability".

My thesis was that the forces of globalization, privatization, modernization and commodification of life have conspired with corrupt and bankrupt political forces in countries such as Uganda to postpone environmental politics for sustainability in favour of a politics of the environment that subordinates environment to development. I wrote that this essentially technomechanistic and techno-econoministic development specializes more in inducing poverty than transforming the lives of the straggling poor for the better; and that it can best be characterised as "politico-corporate crime" against humanity. I advocated for curricula and politics of integration towards more meaningful peace, security, cooperation, justice and prosperity that are not militarized. It was my view that unity of knowledge (consilience) and integration of purpose and actions in environment and development would ensure sustainable progress.

Lended my article with a truism that "…when our development choice is based on conquering Nature or the environment, we so often end up conquering ourselves. Through our globalized philosophy, practice and policies of development we are evermore dynamically initiating droughts, floods, desertification, earthquakes and climate change thereby undermining the capacity of our environment to sustain human life and activities. It is an environmental politics of unconscious actors in environmental change….

The way forward, therefore, is to rethink our current environmental politics, which is a politics of environmental destruction, and begin to practically embrace the environmental politics of sustainability, which is a politics of understanding, wisdom and survival in a clean, safe and healthy environment…"

It is against this background that I set out to write this article. I did not choose the title of this article out of the blue. I wanted to start from where "Environmental Politics for Sustainability" ended. However, I had a myriad of possible titles to choose from including: "How politics is failing the environment"; "How politics is failing development"; "How environment is failing politics"; "How environment is failing development"; "How development is failing environment"; and "How Development is failing the national park concept". I chose the latter.

I was guided by the current politico-corporate choice of large or near large infrastructure development in hitherto protected areas or areas rich in bio-cultural diversity and critical to our future ecological and environmental security and survival. Examples include Bujagali falls in the landscape of Busoga with rich biocultural diversity now under siege; the oil rich Albertine area rich in fish and wildlife waiting for a catastrophe and chaos in the name of oil mining; the 18MW Mpanga Gorge Hydropower project in an area where a cycad plant species, *Encephalartos whitelocki*, is endemic, occurs in a density said to be the largest in the whole world and has survived for well over 300 years.

I perceived that development in Uganda was nothing but rape and defilement of the Pearl of Africa, thanks to the environmentally unconscious decision-makers who see development as nothing but conquering Nature. All the decided projects are exercises in politico-corporate crime from beginning to end with little human content. Emphasis is on profit, political power, control over resources and the actions and minds of people rather than human development.

This is, therefore, a case of development being deployed as a tool of the politics of exploitation and control of human actions and minds rather than of human progress and sustainability. In other words, it is development driving or wheeling politics based on a purist utilitarian worldview that environment is nothing but a source of resources. Ecological and environmental integrity and conservation are secondary, or else perceived by the beneficiaries of development (i.e. the men and women of power and those in the patronage chain) as a roadblock to progress. We cannot separate rising corruption, bankruptcy, indebtedness and the "I don't care attitude" in political governance from this kind of development and development application choice.

This worldview and associated practice undermines human progress and sustainability and succeeds more in impoverishing the majority of people while enriching the powerful or people in the patronage chain. In Uganda it is these people who have striven to establish a new ownership society and recruited foreigners to act as accomplices in the 21st century plot to grab cultural, ancestral, forest, wetland and even parts of national park lands for self-aggrandisement.

The cry phrase is "investment and development", which manifests more and more as "total government commitment to building a culture of money, materialism and epicureanism. Investment in people, Nature or environment has become symbolic, secondary or sporadic, or diminished with the passage of time as investment in militarism has supersonically increased. The poor are being pushed more and more to the margins of Nature while a philosophy of "environment is inferior to development" is being institutionalized and universalized by none other than the Presidency of Uganda. Herein lays the looming catastrophe for the concepts of national park and nature reserve in Uganda.

National Parks and Preserves are unique public lands or bodies of water within a country, set aside by the government to protect ecosystems, plant and animal species, scenic landscapes, geologic formations, or historical or archaeological sites.

A national park is managed primarily for public recreation, providing exceptional locations where visitors can view wildlife and enjoy the outdoors. It is a large area of public land chosen by a government for its scenic, recreational, scientific, or historical importance and usually given special protection. Generally, protected public lands impose limits to hunting, livestock grazing, logging, mining, and other activities that exploit natural resources. Some parks commemorate significant historical events. For example, Gettysburg National Military Park (1895) in Pennsylvania conserves the 13 sq km (5 sq mi) site of the pivotal battle in the American Civil War (1861-1865).

National preserves, sometimes called nature or wildlife reserves, often are located within or near national parks. These lands are managed by national governments primarily for wildlife protection, or scientific research instead of recreation, and provide "living laboratories" in which scientists observe plant and animal species in their natural habitat. Hunting, fishing, and mining are permitted within many United States preserves.

Historical Aspects

President Ulysses S. Grant and the United States Congress designate Yellowstone, an area in the northern Rocky Mountains of the United States, as the world's first national park. In 1872, Grant signed the bill to create the park, preserving 898,317 hectares (2,219, 791 acres) of scenic wilderness. Since then countries around the world have established more than 4000 national parks and preserves. Many national parks and preserves protect remote, unspoiled natural environments, while some protect islands of wilderness within heavily populated regions.

Although Yellowstone National Park is recognized as the world's first legislatively created national park, it was not the first public land conserved by federal law in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln signed a grant in 1864 deeding 3079 sq km (1189 sq mi) of land in the Yosemite Valley to California. The grant specified that this area, now Yosemite National Park, be preserved for public recreation. Subsequent expeditions to the central Rocky Mountain region prompted naturalists to urge similar

protection for the Yellowstone area in northwest Wyoming and bordering lands in Montana and Idaho.
Many countries now have national parks. China did not begin conserving open lands until 1956, when 11 sq km (4 sq mi) Zhaoging Dinghushan Natural Reserve was established in Guangdon Province. Although China now has 463 protected areas, land preservation there still lags behind that of other Asian nations. Poorly defined boundaries, poaching, logging, mining, construction, over-grazing, the craze for super dams and the growing human population threaten many areas designated for natural habitat and wildlife protection in the country.

The Great Siege

In Uganda forest reserves and swamps have long suffered annihilation at the hands of political decision-makers. This, however, reached a peak in the 1990s with the growth of politics , as form of employment and the patronage chain as the most lucrative industry and employer.

Lake Mburu National Park has its original size long been reduced to almost half in the last 20 years in favour of nomadic pastoralists.
Queen Elizabeth National Park wsas for most of the past 20 years more or less under siege from the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) under the now defunct National Enterprises Corporation (NEC), which had exclusive leeway to mine limestone in the corridor area, albeit illegally.

Thousands of square kilometers of Bugala island forests in Kalagala District in Lake Victoria were allocated to palms (a type of grass), resulting in the genocide of thousands of trees and tens of thousands of other beings that thrived in the forests.

More recently Government, on the demands of President Museveni attempted to excise a large chunk of Mabira rainforest for sugarcane growing. Mabira rain forest is a critical resource in the water budget and in ecological and environmental stabilization and environmental flows in the Nile Basin. The corridor space and the business once done stealthily by NEC, is cleverly, and through manipulation of the law, being given to a French mining firm, Lafarge, and Hima Cement Factory. It is likely that cement made from the factory to be set up in or near the corridor will be used in the construction of Bujagali and other dams. There are unconfirmed reports that Queen Elizabeth National Park may have lost more than 50% of its size in the last 20 years. We can get the truth from Uganda Wildlife Authority's Moses Mapesa, its Executive Director, as to how much has actually been lost. Marauding nomads have also had their toll on the integrity of the park, with the connivance of some state officials.

Kidepo National Park in Karamoja is virtually no more. This used to be an important dry season watering and grazing area for the nomadic Karimojong before it was declared a national park by the British Colonial Government. We shall never know the full range of species of plants, animals, birds, etc that have been lost as a result of the collapse of the park.

Rebel activities and the mining of gypsum (a white or colorless mineral consisting of hydrated calcium sulfate used in cement, plaster and fertilizers) in Ruwenzori National Park have reduced that park to a miniature of its past grandeur. Marauding nomads have, as in Queen Elizabeth National Park, had their toll on this Park.

Murchison National Park is facing possible siege either physically or via noise and climate change from hydropower development schemes such as the Ayago dams (these will flood Murchison Falls, which is part of the National Park) and Karuma dam.

Virtually every national park in Uganda is under siege and is being converted into an "ecological island".

An ecological island is land, which has been invaded at its boundaries by human settlement and activities, and has assumed the appearance of an island such as that in a lake, sea or ocean, with the human settlements and/or activities around the land manifesting like water surrounding an island, as is the case with Madagascar. What all this means is that the national park concept has an uncertain future as a contributor to civilization. National Parks, which are undergoing the process of reduction to ecological islands, are in effect simultaneously experiencing a reduction in biodiversity, especially at their boundaries called ecotones. Ecotones enjoy enormous species mixing and highest biodiversity compared to the rest of a park. Concurrently the aesthetic value of the parks and local and foreign tourism potential are nose-diving. Uganda will not be a favored tourist destination.

The Fountain of Honor, the President, has not given as much political leadership to conserving Uganda's heritage, including our diverse cultures and ethnicities, as to political survival and corporate interests. He is at ease talking for investment in things -which he believes is right development- while providing the political leadership necessary to desecrate cultural institutions and annihilate sacred places, national parks and forest reserves in the name of modernization and liberalization of the economy.

This, for example, is what is happening to Bujagali falls, in which three million Basoga belonging to some 495 Clans, are integrated culturally, spiritually, ethically and ecologically. It is as if cultural and spiritual death has been declared upon these people who, unfortunately, have been compelled to suffer the painful death in silence, with few showing bitterness. The consequences of this death will definitely be felt in future when the people realize they are manifesting more as foreigners in their own but perverted environment.

And as I have recorded elsewhere, the type of development the President adores is not so much human development as technomechanistic development, which emphasises things, money and borrowing, not people, animals, plants, nature, environment or local production. Tourism is not a priority in the President's environmental politics or political agenda. Therefore, to him, nature reserves and national parks are like empty spaces that must quickly be cleared and replaced by large infrastructure, grass (palms and sugarcane) or else used for military exercises. When he abused environmentalists, this is his mindset.

If, therefore, the concepts of nature reserve and national park are endangered in Uganda, and I have recorded in this article that they are, their resuscitation must begin with the President and end with the President. The President must rethink his current environmental politics, which is a politics of environmental destruction, money culture and materialism, and begin to embrace the environmental politics of sustainability, which is a politics of understanding, wisdom and survival in a clean, safe and healthy environment.

> Virtually every national park in Uganda is under siege and is being converted into an "ecological island".

When the President does that he will manifest more as a true statesman capable of providing both the political and the environmental leadership we need to measure up to Tanzania, Kenya and others in leading our people from ecological and environmental decay and collapse to ecological and environmental restoration and survival, than as an agent of destruction of ecological and environmental integrity, security, peace and future. How possible is it for us to cooperate with Kenya and Tanzania in promoting wildlife-based tourism as a regional undertaking if, in Uganda, the political agenda, or even development agenda, is to replace nature reserves and national parks with concrete, grass, military bases or areas for military exercises?

As I have said many times before, there can be no democracy, respect for human rights, justice, equity or a secure future in a depreciated environment. We are witnesses to this in the 21st Century as we were in the 20th century. We can explain the social upheavals in our country today by evoking the decay and collapse of our environment in all its dimensions -ecological biological, socio-economic and socio-cultural.

We need wholesome leadership -political and environmental -from the President to sustain our national parks, nature reserves, environment and ourselves in this complicated environment and century. A political agenda of reproduction of the culture of money at the expense of our traditional cultures and values is a pronouncement of genocide of all creatures and/or beings without which we are incomplete. I have elsewhere written about types of genocide such as hydrocide, ecocide and environcide. All these are realities in Uganda. Should they be?

Mining at Dura in Queen Elizabeth National Park, the worst project Uganda has ever had!!

By: Frank Muramuzi and Kureeba David

Hima cement limited is Asubsidiary Company of Lafarge group. The registered office of Hima cement limited is centre court, 4, ternan Avenue, P.o Box 7230 Kampala, Uganda. The production plant is located in Kasese western Uganda. Lafarge is a French industrial company specializing in four major products, cement, construction aggregates; concrete and gypsum wallboard. It is the second world producer of cement. It was founded in 1833. Lafarge is a major consumer of fossil fuels, particularly coal. With those activities Lafarge has often claimed that it is excellent in corporate social responsibility that promotes environmental sustainability. In Uganda it is doing contrary. But also Lafarge has always claimed that it promotes activities that do not pollute the environment .However, in Uganda it is involved in a project that pollutes and degrades the environment. But even in other countries people had complained. For example on July10th 2008, The Albany time's union reported that Lafarge's Ravena, New York plant "was the greatest source of Mercury emissions in New York from 2004-2006"

Hima/Lafarge started mining in Queen Elizabeth National Park. Queen Elizabeth national park, according to its management plan it is a preservation area meaning that human activities are prohibited. The mining area lies in an animal corridor for elephants crossing from Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) to Kibale National Park (KNP). The area falls in a Ramsar site. A Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance, a Ramsar site is selected depending on biodiversity richness of the area. Mining contravenes the management objective of Queen Elizabeth National park, Uganda Wildlife Act (UWA) and the Constitution of Uganda.

This national park (QENP) is with in the Albertine region and connects with three other parks in Uganda, DRC Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. This is in addition to the interspersed with gazzeted tropical rain forests of Imaramagambo, Kibale and Bwindi impenetrable forests.

Queen Elizabeth national park is a potential area for tourist attraction. There are about 600 birds' species, it contains 15 species of the 28 globally endangered species and 12 of which occur in the Lake George basin which forms part of Ramsar. Here, fears elude on the fact that mining will contaminate the waters hence losing those globally vital recognized species. Hence loss of foreign exchange earning from tourism

Tourism is the second largest foreign exchange earner for Uganda. And Queen Elizabeth National Park QENP is the 2nd largest national park after Murchison falls in tourist attraction. The fear is that blasting of limestone will affect the wild animals population greatly, hence dwindling tourism activities in the area. It is from tourism gate collections that 20% is ploughed back to communities. This incentive will be lost.

People in the vicinity used to informally/formally access the area and obtain specific natural resources such as herbs, firewood and hand craft materials. Lafarge / Hima will not allow communities to access these resources as they used to.

The Mineable area falls in between two important rivers (Rwimi and Rwenkerebe) which are important sources of water for wild animals and people. These rivers subsequently drain into Nsonge River, subsequently to Nsonge swamp. These are the wetlands that form the Ramsar site of Lake George in western Uganda Albertine region.

Government of Uganda issued a permit to Lafarge /Hima to mine in the national park. This transaction was done in total disregard of QENP management plan and Uganda is signatory and party to the Ramsar, CBD, CITES, BAMAKO, Basel convention among others. Lafarge is known to have a good social responsibility, why does it go ahead to promote mining in an area that is rich in biological diversity? The mining permit was issued based on insufficient studies and Hima /Lafarge is not concerned about these issues of National and International significance

The community members around the mining site were inadequately consulted and sensitized about the risks and dangers of limestone mining. Furthermore, people were not educated about their entitlements

and rights to the project which was injustice to them. Limestone will be transported by road, but there is no mitigation put in place for dust control and accidents since these heavy loaded trucks will be motorable through villages where there are schools. This ultimately shows one that issues of corporate social responsibility were underlooked.
Since 1994 the factory was taken over by Hima /Lafarge from the government of Uganda. But since that time, the issues of corporate social responsibility were not looked at as important factors to consider. People in the peripheral areas have for so long pleaded with Hima to be provide with clean water but all in vain. Residents say, the water is contaminated with pollutants from the Hima factory due to dry and wet precipitation. This situation has made lives of the neighbouring communities very difficult because nobody can thrive on earth without water.

When National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) a semi-autonomous institution that manages Uganda's environment was informed about the communities out cry, NEMA instructed Hima to install electrostatic precipitators for filtering all the impurities from the pollutant before it is released into the atmosphere. Unfortunately, these precipitators hood winked both the people and the authority because they only work when NEMA or members of parliament promise to visit the factory. People have continued to complain about the factory but all in vain.

Lafarge is not promoting the principle of sustainable development like it is doing in other areas where it is operating.

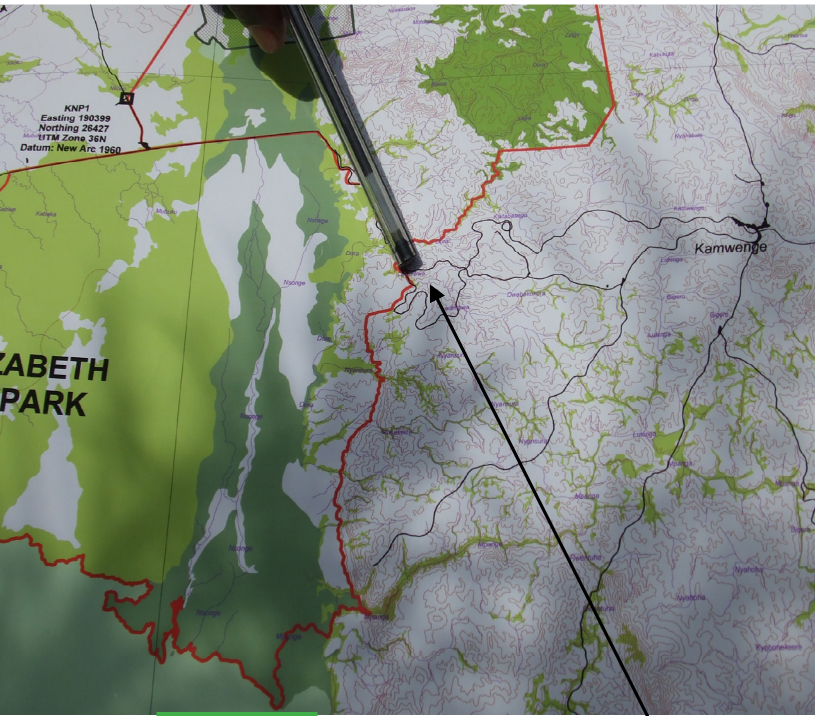

Plate 1.

The Animal corridor

Plate 2.

The Ramser boundary

Plate 1. Pen pointer showing the animal corridor between Kibale National Park and and Qeen Elizabeth National Park

Plate 2. showing the proximity of Ramser boundary to the proposed mining sites at Dura in QENP

The role of Communities in the Management of protected areas

By: Betty Obbo

Uganda possesses a rich natural endowment of forests, mountains, and waterways, harboring some of the most diverse wildlife in Africa. Much of this diversity is represented in an extensive system of protected areas, including ten national parks and twenty-nine game reserves, sanctuaries, and controlled hunting areas.But, in the past few decades, much of this system has experienced severe encroachment and degradation by human activities spearheaded by government in the name of development. The nation's once well-established tourism industry, once the country's third largest source of foreign exchange, has now greatly diminished.

Waterbacks in Queen Elizabeth National Park

Queen Elizabeth National Park alone is home to 95 mammal species while the bird list is 612 species long. The diversity has an impressive range of habitats. There are five vegetation types: forest; grassland; bushy grassland; Acacia woodland and lakeshore/ swamp vegetation. Residents of the park's grasslands include elephant, Cape buffalo, Uganda kob, waterbuck, warthog, giant forest hog, lion, leopard and hyena.

Wildlife population in the national parks is dwindling as a result of poaching and degradation of their habitants. Uganda has good natural resources management laws and regulations, but despite the availability of good laws, there has beena evidence of violation of the laws by the institutions that are supposed to enforce and/ or oversee it.

In the recent past, government of Uganda has initiated limestone mining in Dura area in Qeen Elizabeth National Park. Mining in a national park is prohibited by law (Uganda Wildlife Act, 2000).

The environment impact assessment (EIA) for this mining activity was poorly done, without consultation of the communities living near the park. This EIA report was used as a basis for aproval of the mining activity by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in a protected area.

Proper management of protected areas equates to the effective, long-term conservation of biodiversity, through a sustainable and cost-effective management of its wildlife, and cultural resources.

Such a conservation approach calls for ecosystem based management system that recognizes indigenous/ communities around a resource as key stakeholders in natural resource management. Involvement of communities in the management of natural resources is crucial based on their interrelationship with other ecosystems such as forests, rivers, swamps wetlands and ponds.

The government has given overriding emphasis on economic development and sidelined the quality of life of the communities near thhe national parks and the wildlife.

Gender perspective in Environment and Development

By: Shillar kyomugisha

Women and men have gender based roles and responsibilities in their own lives, households and communities. They have different knowledge of access to, and control over natural resources and different opportunities to participate in decision making regarding natural resources use and management.

Knowing women`s and men`s relationships on to the environment plays an important role in developing solutions for more sustainable use of natural resources because they are these roles that negatively affect natural resources.

Books have mainly focused on men`s roles and women interaction with nature has been ignored; even historical texts have been deficient in writing about women participation in environmentalist actions. The result has been that women`s role in environment struggles and debates about nature has been hidden from history. However, in recent, environment crises, one observes that women of every social class, nation or colour have raised concerns about the environment more noticeably and openly.

Women and men are both sources of knowledge about sustainable resources management practices, but they however know differently about species and practices according to their activities.

In the developing areas of the world, women are considered to be primary users of forests, land and water because they are the responsible for gathering fuel wood, food and fodder which in some cases are obtained in areas such as fringes national parks.

This brings rural women in particular to a close relationship with land and other natural resources which promote a new culture of respectful use and preservation of the environment such that the next generation can meet their own needs.

Women`s perspectives and values for the environment are somewhat different than men`s .women give greater priority to protection and improving the capacity of nature to regenerate since it is the major source of their livelihood.
Repeated studies have shown that women have a stake in environment and this stake is reflected in the degree to which they care about natural resources.

Gender roles and activities influence natural resources such as national parks whereby for example culturally men were meant to hunt and construct houses and women to fetch firewood and water, cook food, look after children and maintain cleanliness at home.

However these roles have greatly affected biological diversity in areas like national parks particularly men`s activities which involve killing of animals especially the edible ones, clearing of bushes and cutting down trees. This greatly affects the diversity of both flora and fauna compared to women`s activities which tend to ensure sustainability of resources.
It has been noted that irrespective of women`s greater contribution towards environmental conservation, they have continued to be discriminated, marginalized, their decisions frustrated and their efforts hampered hence they tend to have little or no influence in decision making both at community, national and international levels.

In some countries, rights to natural resources are linked to women`s marital status; women usually lose their rights if they are divorced and widowed. Even in countries where the law guarantees women and men access to land, women in most cases are not aware of their rights and sometimes customs exclude them from ownership.

For example in Zimbabwe, Burkinafaso and Cameroon, women have legal rights to own land and trees but in practice men nearly control all the resources. Such insecure land tenure influences how different people use natural resources. Women, the poor and other marginalized groups are less likely to invest time and resources or adopt environmentally sustainable farming practices on land they do not own. For this matter therefore, it is noted that women are less likely to plant trees for food, medicine and fuel wood in areas where future access in uncertain.

Therefore it is true to assert that women`s views ,influence and decisions have continued to be disregarded and overshadowed by their male counterparts and their impact regarding environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources has continued to be minimal and less felt on both local and international scenes.

Events

What	Where	When & Contact
Scientific Congress on Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions The aim of the congress is to provide a synthesis of existing and emerging scientific knowledge in the lead up to the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will take place in late 2009	Manana, Bahrain	10 - 12 March 2009 For more information contact: Jane Søgård Hansen, University of Copenhagen; tel: +45-3532-4251; e-mail: jsha@adm.ku.dk; Internet: http://climatecongress.ku.dk/
5th World Water Forum	Istanbul, Turkey	16th -22nd March 2009 www.worldwaterforum5.org/fileadmin/WWF5/Forum_Programme/Concept Tel: +90 (216) 325 49 92 Fax: +90 (216) 428 09 92 ...
Second Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) has been tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11-15 May 2009, immediately before the 62nd World Health Assembly.	Geneva, Switzerland	11- 15 May 2009. For more information contact: tel: +41 22-917-8111; fax: +41 22 797 3460
World Business Summit on Climate–Copenhagen 2009 The World Business Summit on Climate Change will be convened by the United Nations Global Compact, the Copenhagen Climate Council, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. The Summit aims to ensure that a new global policy framework on climate change takes into account the needs of the business community and provides the right incentives for cutting carbon emissions.	Copenhagen, Denmark	24 - 26 May 2009 For more information contact: Lynette Thorstensen, WBCSD; tel: +41-22-839-3141; Internet: http://www.copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/
Symposium on Renewable Energy and Water Productivity This meeting is co-organized by Crans Montana Forum Middle-East in association with the Bahrain Economic Development Board and UNIDO.	Manana, Bahrain	7 - 9 December, 2009 For more information contact: UNIDO Energy and Cleaner Production Branch; tel: +43-1-260-265-177.

War of water between Tanzania and Uganda

Adopted from Indian Ocean Newsletter

Lake Victoria is the largest freshwater Lake in Africa and it support over 30 million people and several power dam projects in the region.

The World Bank is concerned about the amount of water that Uganda is using to fill its electricity generating needs, which could exceed its allotted share of the Nile. It has therefore asked the government in Kampala to provide a monthly report on its use of water, in order to avoid diplomatic problems with other countries in the region. In a recent Power Sector Development Report, the Bank's senior energy specialist, Malcom Cosgrove-Davies stated that "these reports should be prepared for the monitoring exercise and sent to the East African Community (EAC)". The Ugandan government should also undertake to participate in negotiations concerning the joint Lake Victoria water management programme, held either by the EAC or by the Nile Basin Initiative.

The World Bank wants to ensure that the quantity of water Uganda uses to generate electricity does indeed correspond to the quantity it is authorised to use by the neighbouring countries. The Ugandan government is still considering this recommendation and has let it be known that its energy needs require the use of a quantity of water higher than the net flow. The use of more water than the Nile supplies has already had the consequence of bringing down the water level in Lake Victoria. This goes some way in explaining the recent state of tension of diplomatic relations between Tanzania and Uganda.






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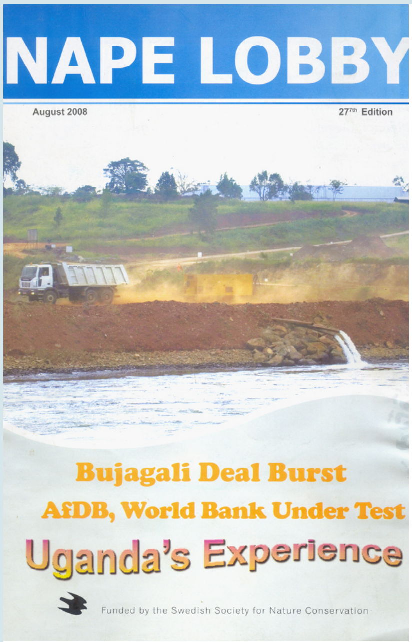
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