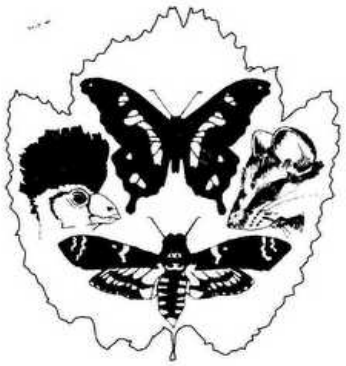
The Biodiversity Report Series

This report is one of a series of 33 Biodiversity Reports which present the results of the first systematic work to document the biological diversity represented in Uganda's major reserved forests. The reports describe fieldwork carried out by the Forest Department between 1991 and 1995, aimed at listing the trees and shrubs; birds; butterflies; moths; and small mammals of the country's 65 most important conservation forests. The purpose of this work is to provide necessary data on the biological value of different forests and establish clear priorities for the designation of new forest Nature Reserves and other conservation areas.

Each report in the series provides a summary of the data collected at one major forest, or a group of similar adjacent ones. The primary purpose of presenting the data in this way is to provide a permanent record of the findings as a basis for later comparative work between sites, and as a baseline for long-term ecological monitoring within Uganda's forests. Subsequent publications will present the results of more detailed comparative analyses presently being undertaken.

The Biodiversity Report Series demonstrates Uganda's commitment to biodiversity conservation and makes a major contribution towards addressing the country's obligations under the International Convention on Biological Diversity, signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and ratified by the Uganda Government in September 1993.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

FOREST DEPARTMENT

Foreword

Biodiversity is a word that has only entered common usage during the past few years, gaining particular prominence since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It is a useful term, describing the variety of life at all levels of organisation from ecosystems to species and genes. Nevertheless, despite the new terminology, many of the concepts it embodies and the principles involved in its conservation have remained fundamentally unchanged.

The Uganda Forest Department has long been aware of the need to protect representative examples of different forest communities in an undisturbed state, in order to safeguard the survival of their associated flora and fauna. Forest Nature Reserves were first established in many of the larger forests during the 1950's and others have been added subsequently. However, with the development of conservation science and the benefit of hindsight, we now know that these early reserves were mostly too small to remain viable in the long-term, and larger areas are consequently in need of preservation. Accordingly, at the time of the Forest Policy revision in 1988, a decision was taken to set aside 20% of the country's forest estate as new forest Nature Reserves, primarily to ensure adequate protection for our forest biodiversity.

Clearly such a policy decision must be implemented on the basis of a sound technical understanding of the issues concerned and a comprehensive knowledge of the biological resources in our custody. Selecting an appropriate national network of sites to protect the full range of biodiversity is a complex task and it has taken some time to complete the first stage in that process, namely an inventory of biological resources in our major forests. We have been fortunate to receive tremendous support for this work from the European Community, the Global Environment Facility and Voluntary Service Overseas, and I take this opportunity to thank all those concerned. Along with others in the series, this report describes the extensive work carried out by the inventory teams, which I have been following closely over the past few years and which I commend to you as being work of very high quality. The results of this research will prove indispensable as we set about the process of selecting our Nature Reserves and will provide a much-needed baseline against which to monitor any future ecological change within our forests.

In September 1993, the Uganda Government ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, thereby undertaking to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the country's biodiversity. As one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, Uganda recognises that it has a special responsibility in this regard. An important task under the terms of Article 7 of the Convention is to identify and monitor components of biological diversity and maintain and organise relevant data. The work described in this series of reports goes a long way towards meeting these objectives and provides a very sound basis for future work.

E.D. Olet
Commissioner for Forestry

Kampala, 1996

Acknowledgements

The Forest Department acknowledges the support provided for this programme by the EC-financed 'Natural Forest Management and Conservation Project' (No. 6100.37.42.015) and the project of 'Institutional Support for the Protection of East African Biodiversity' (UNO/RAF/006/GEF), financed through UNDP/FAO by the Global Environmental Facility.

A great many people contributed to this work. The biological inventory programme is an activity of the Department's Natural Forest Conservation Section, designed and managed by Fred Kigenyi and Peter Howard, with assistance from David Duli, David Hafashimana and (until January 1994) Robert Nabanyumya.

The fieldwork and the compilation of this series of reports was supervised and co-ordinated by Tim Davenport, Michael Baltzer, Christopher Dickinson and Roger Matthews. Data handling and the layout and production of the reports was carried out by the Biodiversity Database Unit, under the supervision and management of Isaac Kapalaga and Paolo Viskanic, with assistance from Justine Mwanje, Josephine Birabwa, Margaret Kibumba, Constance Namirembe and Anne Mpendo.

Much of the fieldwork was carried out over a period of 27 months between January 1993 and March 1995 by teams of forest rangers, including C. Andama, A. Chale, S. Chemusto, H. Dumba, C. Kabaseke, D. Mijumbi, S. Nsengiyunva, P. Nsubuga, K. Odrale, R. Oduko, J. Tagaba, F. Tinkasiimire, W. Wandwasi, and T. Williams. In addition, J. Kasangaki, S. Kirya and D. Nkuutu were engaged on the programme throughout 1993, and J. Adriko, H. Alule, U. Ndyanabo and L. Omoya between January 1994 and March 1995. The fieldwork could not have been carried out without the support of the Department's field staff throughout the country, and members of the communities surrounding the forests who served as guides, field assistants and porters. Their assistance is very gratefully acknowledged.

The scientific integrity of the information contained in these reports has been considerably enhanced by the expertise of various plant and animal taxonomists who have assisted with the identification of specimens. In particular, many of the more difficult plant identifications were made by A. Katende (Makerere University), and most of the mammal specimens were identified by R. Kityo (Makerere University). Makerere University herbarium was used extensively and the assistance of E. Kakudidi and O. Maganyi is gratefully acknowledged. At Forest Department headquarters, a new herbarium has been established under this programme, where field specimens have been mounted, catalogued and stored under the supervision of R. Badaza, with assistance from S. Kifuku, J. Mukunya and A. Namukwaya.

Outside Uganda, invaluable assistance was provided with the identification of difficult bird specimens by L. Bennun, C. Jackson and staff of the ornithology department of the National Museums of Kenya; and by L. Fishpool and B. Finch. Some of the more difficult mammal specimens were identified by J. Kerbis (Field Museum, Chicago); problematical butterflies by S. Collins (Monsanto, Nairobi) and Saturniid moths by A. M^{c}Crae (CAB International, Oxford).

The success of the field programme owes much to the high standards of initial training in biological inventory techniques provided to the field teams at Makerere University Biological Field Station and nearby forests between May and August 1992. Particular thanks are extended to J. Ahrens, R. Nabanyumya, D. Pomeroy, A. Johns, J. Kasenene and G. Basuta for overall co-ordination, and to the many technical experts who participated including C. Dranzoa, J. Goodman, P. Ipulet, C. Kanzig, A. Katende, A. Kisubi, R. Kityo, J. Lwanga, J. Obua and J. Omoding.

A draft version of the first in this report series was circulated for review and comments and subsequent volumes have benefited from suggestions made by A. Balmford, L. Bennun, I. Francis, J. Hall, A. Hamilton, R. Howard, J. Kerbis, J. Kingdon, T. Lee, A. M^{C}Crae, E. Mupada, H. Osmaston, A. Plumtre, D. Pomeroy, V. Reynolds, A. Rodgers, D. Sivell and L. Stewart.

Any programme of this kind depends on strong administrative support and the efforts of R. Nabanyumya, J. Kizito (GEF), A. Sinton and M. Serwadda (EC) are gratefully acknowledged. Secretarial and other support services have been very ably provided by R. Babirye, P. Bafirawala, M. Kibumba, S. Nakachwa and C. Namirembe.

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Finally, this programme would not have been possible without a strong commitment on behalf of government and donors based on a recognition of the importance of Uganda's biodiversity. The personal interest of the Commissioner for Forestry, E. Olet and his predecessor, L. Kiwanuka has proven invaluable, as has the commitment of Chief Technical Advisors, D. Earl, R. Murtland, and A. Rodgers.

THE BIODIVERSITY REPORT SERIES

No. 1 Mount Elgon National Park

No. 2 Rwenzori Mountains National Park

No. 3 Budongo Forest Reserve

No. 4 Kalinzu-Maramagambo Forest Reserve

No. 5 Kibale National Park

No. 6 Moroto, Kadam and Napak Forest Reserves

No. 7 Labwor Hills Forest Reserves

No. 8 Nyangea-Napore, Rom and Ogili Forest Reserves

No. 9 Bugoma Forest Reserve

No. 10 Kagombe, Matiri and Kitechura Forest Reserves

No. 11 Kasyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve

No. 12 Mount Kei Forest Reserve

No. 13 Mabira Forest Reserve

No. 14 Agoro-Agu and Lokung Forest Reserves

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No. 25 Luwero District Forest Reserves

No. 26 Kilak, Aswa River, Wiceri, Zoka and Opit Forest Reserves

No. 27 Luunga, Namwasa, Taala and Bwezigola-Gunga Forest Reserves

No. 28 Bukaleba and Mukono Forest Reserves

No. 29 West Bugwe and Igwe-Luvunya Forest Reserves

No. 30 Kibeka and Maruzi Hills Forest Reserves

No. 31 Kazooba, Kasana-Kasambya and Nsowe Forest Reserves

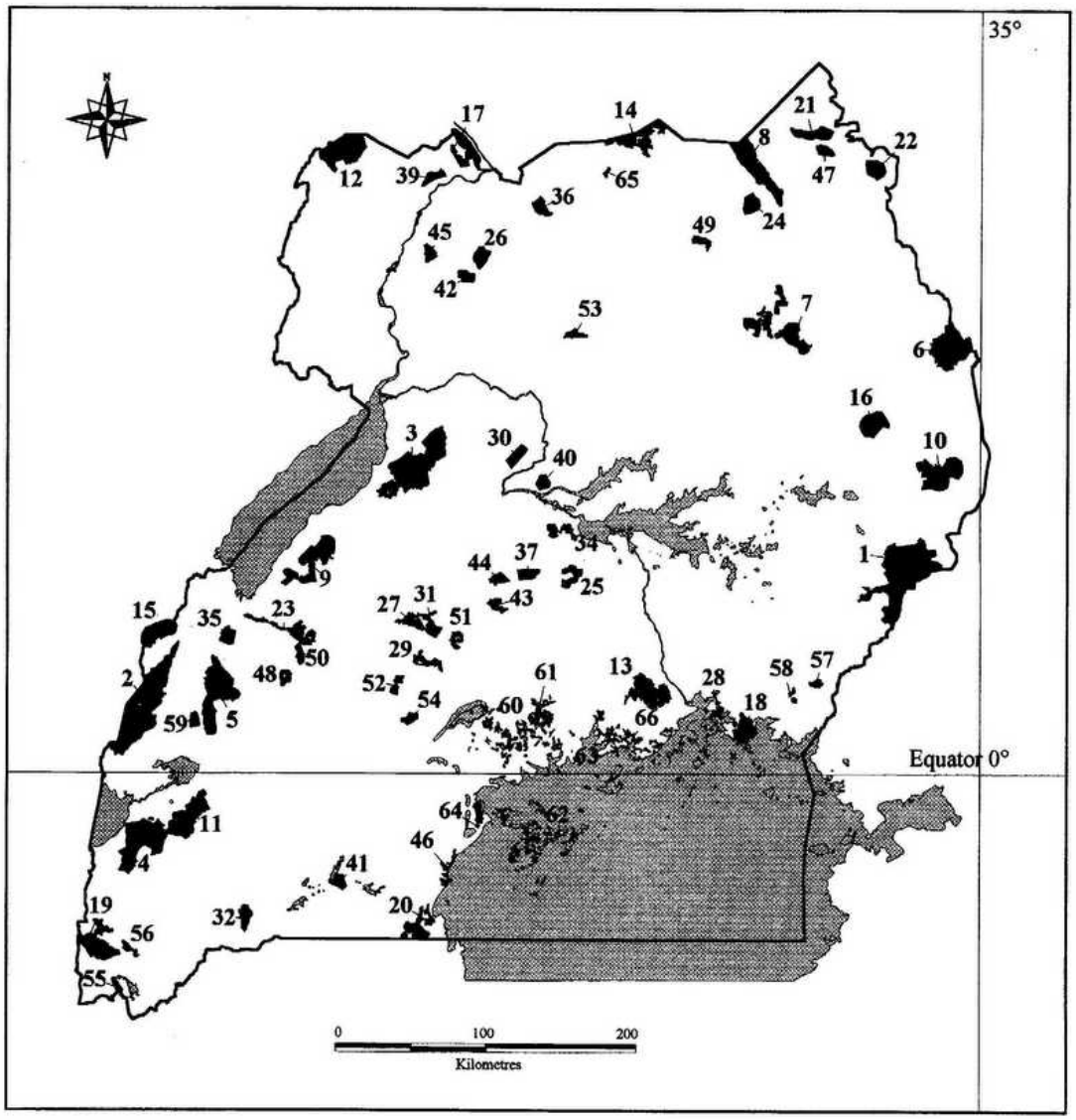
No. 32 Rwoho and Kijanabolola Forest Reserves

No. 33 Kisangi Forest Reserve

Series editors: Peter Howard and Tim Davenport

Layout and production: Paolo Viskanic

Forests sampled during the biodiversity inventory programme



Code	*Forest name*						
1	Mt. Elgon	18	South Busoga	35	Itwara	51	Bwezigola - Gunga
2	Mt. Rwenzori	19	Bwindi	36	Aswa River	52	Kasana - Kasambya
3	Budongo	20	Sango Bay	37	Kabuika - Maj	53	Opit
4	Kalinzu - Maramagambo	21	Morungole	38	Kazooba	54	Nsowe
5	Kibale	22	Timu	39	Era	55	Echuya
6	Moroto	23	Kagombe	40	Maruzi	56	Mafuga
7	Labwor Hills	24	Rom	41	Kijanabolola	57	West Bugwe
8	Nyangea - Napore	25	Kasagala	42	Wiceri	58	Igwe - Luvunya
9	Bugoma	26	Kilak	43	Kapimpini	59	Kisangi
10	Kadam	27	Luunga	44	Kamusenene	60	Mpanga
11	Kasyoha - Kitomi	28	Bukaleba	45	Zoka	61	Mpigi Archipelago
12	Mt. Kei	29	Namwasa	46	Mujuzi	62	Sesse Islands
13	Mabira	30	Kibeka	47	Lwala	63	Zika
14	Agoro - Agu	31	Taala	48	Matiri	64	Jubiya
15	Semliki	32	Rwoho	49	Ogili	65	Lokung
16	Napak	34	Wabisi - Wajala	50	Kitechura	66	Mukono Archipelago
17	Otzi						

Biodiversity inventory programme participants

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Fred Kigenyi
Head of Programme (from April '88)

Isaac Kapalaga
Acting Head of Programme (Oct. '94 - Aug. '95)

David Duli
Regional Coordinator, Northern (Jan. '90 - Aug. '95)

David Hafashimana
Regional Coordinator, Western (July '91 - Dec. '95)

Robert Nabanyumya
Regional Coordinator, Central (July '91 - Jan. '94)

Peter Howard
Principal Programme Advisor/
Coordinator(from July '90)
Paolo Viskanic
Database Coordinator (from Jan. '94)
Tim Davenport
Field Programme Coordinator/
Rapporteur (from Feb. '93)
Michael Baltzer
Chris Dickinson
Roger Matthews
Field Programme Coordinators/
Rapporteurs (July '93 - Sept. '95)

FIELD RESEARCH

BOTANICAL RESEARCH TEAM:
Tony Katende
Botanical Advisor
Rose Badaza
Herbarium Curator
Jane Mukunya
Agnes Namukwaya
Simon Kifuku
Herbarium Assistants

Ranger Botanists:
Herbert Alule (Jan. '94 - Mar. '95)
Acia Chale (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Sam Chemusto (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Hezekias Dumba (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Stephen Kirya (July '92 - Dec. '93)
Uzziah Ndyanabo (Jan. '94 - Mar. '95)
David Nkuutu (July '92 - Dec. '93)
Patrick Nsubuga (July '92 - Mar. '95)
John Tagaba (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Wandera Wandwasi (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Tenywa Williams (July '92 - Mar. '95)

ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH TEAM:
Roger Matthews
Michael Baltzer
Ornithological Advisors

Ranger Ornithologists:
Charles Andama (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Clovis Kabaseke (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Robert Oduko (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Simon Nsengiyunva (July '92 - Mar. '95)

ZOOLOGICAL RESEARCH TEAM:
Tim Davenport
Entomological Advisor (butterflies)
Chris Dickinson
Robert Kityo
Mammalogy Advisors
Peter Howard
Entomological Advisor (moths)

Ranger Zoologists:
Joel Adriko (Jan. '94 - Mar. '95)
John Kasangaki (July '92 - Dec. '93)
Deo Mijumbi (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Kalema Odrale (July '92 - Mar. '95)
Lamton Omoya (Jan. '94 - Mar. '95)
Francis Tinkasimiire (July '92 - Mar. '95)

TECHNICAL REPORTING

Peter Howard
Series Editor; Contributor, moth chapters
Tim Davenport
Series Editor; Contributor, butterfly chapters
Michael Baltzer
Roger Matthews
Report Editors; Contributors, bird chapters
Chris Dickinson
Report Editor; Contributor, mammal chapters
Jerry Lwanga
Contributor, plant chapters

Paolo Viskanic
Layout and Production Manager

Justine Mwanje
Database Officer

Josephine Birabwa
Margaret Kibumba
Anne Mpendo
Constance Namirembe
Helga Rainer
Production Assistants