Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision-Making in Uganda

A project funded by the UK Government

Accounting for nature for tourism in Uganda’s post-COVID-19 recovery

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Importance of natural capital to green recovery of the tourism sector in Uganda

- Tourism is a key sector for growth, foreign exchange and employment
- The sector has been the hardest hit by COVID-19
- Uganda’s rich biodiversity, natural ecosystems and iconic species are a key tourist draw
- Conservation, enhancement and sustainable exploitation of this natural capital is essential if wildlife watching tourism is to catalyse recovery in the sector

Source: Ahebwa & English (2021) based on UboS data. 
Biodiversity and Tourism Accounts Produced

Integrated accounts produced for 12 key protected areas:

• Natural Ecosystem Extent

• Iconic Species (Medium to Large Mammal Abundance)

• Ecosystem Services (Visitors as a proxy)

• Extended SNA Supply & Use (Value of wildlife watching tourism expenditures)
Using the accounts for Green Recovery

- Economic case for continuing investing in conservation of natural ecosystems and species
- Informing investment options for innovative tourism packages in less visited protected areas:
  - Tropical mountain forest in Mount Rwenzori National Park for adventure tourism
  - Iconic species that can support more tourism in Kidepo Valley National Park
- Linking investment to decent job creation and poverty alleviation (e.g., Kidepo)
Progress made and next steps

• Biodiversity and Tourism; Fisheries Resources; and, Land and Soil Improvement accounts complete
• Roadmaps for institutionalizing the compilation and use of the accounts
• Green growth options paper
• All will be available at: https://www.unep-wcmc.org/featured-projects/nca-in-Uganda
• Many extensions to consider: Additional protected areas; ecosystem services; accounting for birds as iconic species; information on domestic tourism
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Thank you for listening!