



# BUDONGO: LIVESTOCK FOR CONSERVATION

## *Wildlife protection in the Budongo forest through the promotion of small-scale livestock farming*

### CONTEXT

In Uganda, 42% of the population lives below the poverty line, and 71% faces moderate to severe food insecurity. In Masindi District, communities living near the Budongo Forest are particularly vulnerable.

Hunting has traditionally been a major source of food and income for these communities, but their livelihoods have been undermined by increasing restrictions imposed for biodiversity conservation. In the absence of viable and accessible economic alternatives, illegal hunting persists, deepening the tension between human needs and the preservation of local wildlife. While not directly targeted by hunters, chimpanzees are particularly affected by snares set to catch other species.

Although livestock farming is already practiced in the region, it remains poorly structured and faces numerous challenges: limited access to veterinary services, limited uptake of good practices, and insufficient support for farmers. The Budongo Conservation Field Station (BCFS) has carried out several livestock-related initiatives in the area, but despite tangible progress, the results remain insufficient to meet the growing needs of local communities.

### PROJECT

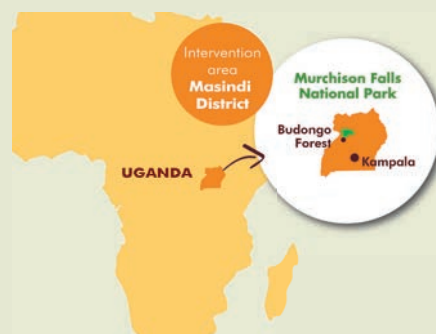
This pilot phase aims to carry out a diagnosis of livestock farming practices around the Budongo Forest, in order to design a project that promotes livestock as a sustainable and socially accepted alternative to hunting, and encourages better coexistence between conservation efforts and local communities.

It will aim to:

1. Gain a better understanding of livestock farming in the target area, by analysing the results of past interventions, the links with hunting, and local practices in animal husbandry and health.
2. Provide a viable economic alternative for local households, reducing their reliance on illegal hunting and ensuring a stable income through livestock farming.
3. Improve access to local veterinary services by identifying and training Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs).

### Country overview

- 48,7 millions inhabitants
- 159<sup>th</sup> out of 193 in the HDI<sup>(1)</sup> ranking
- 73% of the population lives in rural areas



<sup>(1)</sup> Human Development Index

### Project overview

- Budongo Forest, Masindi District, Western Region
- Duration: April 2025 – March 2026
- Production: Goats and pigs
- Beneficiaries: 50 livestock farmers
- Budget: €36,000





## INTERVENTION PRIORITIES .....

### Initial diagnosis focusing on:

- Characterizing livestock systems and assessing the impact of previous support in the target area
- Analyzing the links between livestock farming and hunting, to determine to what extent livestock can serve as an alternative to hunting and poaching of wildlife

### Support for livestock farmers living near the forest

- Installation of livestock farmers and distribution of goats and piglets as part of a microcredit scheme
- Training in good livestock keeping practices, particularly to help reduce zoonotic risks
- Promotion and dissemination of practices that are respectful of both the environment and animal health

### Structuring a network of Community Animal Health Workers

- Awareness-raising and training on the One Health approach
- Identification, training, and provision of starter kits (equipment and medicines) for Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES .....

- 1 field diagnosis clearly identifying the prerequisites for making livestock farming a viable alternative to hunting
- 100 animals distributed through a pass-on scheme
- 70% of beneficiaries apply good livestock practices
- 10 Community Animal Health Workers identified, trained, equipped, and able to deliver frontline animal health services

## OPERATIONAL PARTNER .....



## CONTACTS

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## Key figures

- **50 smallholder farmers** benefiting from livestock-based microcredit, including 50% women and 50% youth
- **10 Community Animal Health Workers** trained and equipped
- **1 One Health workshop** held in each targeted village

### ONE HEALTH

#### A concept grounded in the Budongo context

Human, animal and environmental health are closely interconnected. Good livestock practices, access to veterinary care, and reduced bushmeat consumption help lower the risk of zoonotic disease transmission, thereby protecting both human and animal health.

