



BUDONGO : LIVESTOCK FOR CONSERVATION

Strengthening rural livelihoods through livestock farming and beekeeping to promote community–conservation coexistence around Budongo Forest

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 around the forest depend primarily on smallholder agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihoods, in a context marked by poverty, food insecurity and restrictions associated with protected forest areas.

For several decades, the expansion of sugarcane cultivation has reduced the land available for food production and non-protected forests, increasing pressure on natural resources and protected areas.

Parallely, access restrictions to the forest, which are necessary for biodiversity conservation, have limited communities' access to essential resources such as firewood and bushmeat. Crops located near the protected forest are also sometimes damaged by animals such as baboons, fuelling frustration among local communities towards conservation measures, while insufficient economic alternatives are available.

As a result, some illegal practices persist, particularly snare trapping, which directly threatens chimpanzee populations.

PROJECT

Strengthening the role of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) groups so that they become key actors in the sustainable management of forest resources.

1. Developing family livestock farming as a source of income by improving livestock husbandry practices and infrastructure.
2. Improving access to local veterinary services through the training and support of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) who can assist livestock keepers and prevent animal diseases.
3. Promoting beekeeping as a sustainable income-generating activity through the installation and support of beekeepers.
4. Promouvoir l'apiculture comme une activité génératrice de revenus durable par l'installation et le suivi d'apiculteurs

Country overview

- 48,7 million inhabitants
- 159th out of 193 in the HDI ranking⁽¹⁾
- 73% of the population lives in rural areas



⁽¹⁾ Human Development Index

Project overview

- Budongo Forest, Masindi District, Western Region
- Duration: July 2026 – June 2029
- Production: Goats pigs and beekeeping
- Beneficiaries: 260 livestock farmers
- Budget : € 167 149



INTERVENTION PRIORITIES

Supporting community groups for forest conservation

- Organisational strengthening of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) groups through participatory workshops on governance and decision-making;
- Training of CFM groups on conservation issues, stakeholder engagement and the institutional landscape;
- Organisation of multi-stakeholder meetings and dissemination of results;
- Community awareness-raising activities on forest degradation and pressure on natural resources, led by CFM groups.

Supporting livestock keepers living near the forest

- Installation of agro-pastoral households and provision of goats and piglets through an animal revolving loan scheme;
- Training on good livestock husbandry practices, particularly to reduce zoonotic disease risks;
- Technical and economic monitoring and support for livestock production activities.

Establishing a network of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)

- Awareness-raising and training activities on the One Health approach;
- Identification, training and provision of starter kits (equipment and veterinary medicines) for local animal health workers (CAHWs).

Developing beekeeping activities

- Assessment of beekeeping practices and previous support initiatives in the area;
- Installation and training of beekeepers, including the provision of beehives and beekeeping equipment;
- Support to CFM groups for the marketing and sale of honey and other bee products

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 75% of CFM group members improve their knowledge of conservation issues and forest stakeholders;
- 50% of supported livestock keepers report a reduction in animal mortality rates;
- 75% of beneficiaries report increased income from livestock sales;
- 80% of trained beekeepers apply the recommendations acquired through training

OPERATIONAL PARTNER DONORS



CONTACTS

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Key figures

- **200 farmers** improve their livestock farming activities, including 50% women and 50% youth;
- **3 functional CFM** groups strengthen collaboration between communities and conservation stakeholders;
- **14 Community Animal Health Workers** trained and equipped;
- **10 supported beekeepers** increase their income.

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.

