

# Healing the Rift: mitigating conflict over natural resources in the Albertine Rift



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# Conservation and conflict



- Conservation biologists focuses on this
- Protected area managers focus on this
- Photo: J.B. Bizumuremyi

# Types of conflict in Conservation



- Armed conflict – war, rebel groups, undisciplined army/police
- Human-wildlife conflict – crop or livestock loss
- Access to natural resources for harvesting/over-harvesting
- Lack of consultation and involvement
- Benefits from conservation unequally shared

# Conflict and Industry

- Override conservation interests
- Pollution
- Destruction of natural habitat



# Management of Natural resources is often conflictual

- Conservation practitioners recognise that they need to manage conflicts
- Not often recognised that conservation policies and practice can create or exacerbate conflict
  - ◆ By restricting access to key livelihood resources
  - ◆ By increasing/adding new economic burdens and risks
  - ◆ Conservation leading to the unequal distribution of benefits
- Conservation in times of armed conflict can increase the risks of conflict over natural resources or add new conflicts

# Conservation in armed conflict areas

- Conservation activities can contribute to violent conflict
  - ◆ Traditional conservation activities can escalate to violence
  - ◆ What conservationists do and how they do it can support active conflicts
- Conservation activities can be negatively affected by violent conflict
- Conservation activities can help address and mitigate conflicts
  - ◆ Root causes can be addressed
  - ◆ Can mitigate some of the impacts of conflict
  - ◆ Can create an enabling environment for peace building

	Conservation-conflict category	Specific conservation-conflict links	Response approach
CATEGORY 1	Conservation can contribute to (violent) conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conservation can create or exacerbate grievances that lead to conflicts with, between and within communities</li> <li>▶ These traditional conservation-related conflicts can escalate into violent conflicts</li> <li>▶ Conservation can sustain (violent) conflicts</li> </ul>	<b>Minimize risks</b> of creating or exacerbating conflict
CATEGORY 2	Conservation can be negatively affected by (violent) conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Violent conflict can directly impact conservation activities</li> <li>▶ Violent conflict can indirectly impact conservation activities</li> </ul>	<b>Mitigate impacts</b> of conflict through appropriate operational response, collaboration and finance strategies
CATEGORY 3	Conservation can be a mechanism for conflict prevention and peacebuilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conservation can address some of the causes of violent conflict</li> <li>▶ Conservation can address some of the impacts of violent conflict</li> <li>▶ Conservation can support an enabling environment for peacebuilding</li> </ul>	<b>Maximize opportunities</b> for conflict prevention and peacebuilding

# Tools to help maximize opportunities for conflict prevention (IISD)

- Identify conflicts affecting a target area
- Prioritise identified conflicts
- Select which conflicts to focus upon
- Analyse the selected conflicts
  - ◆ Conflict tree
  - ◆ Conflict map
  - ◆ Stakeholder profiling
- Design and implement solutions
- Monitor conflict sensitivity



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# Identifying and prioritizing conflicts

TABLE 2: CONFLICTS, VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK (PNVi)

Conflict category	Specific conflicts
Human-wildlife conflicts	Conflicts between park-adjacent communities and conservation authorities over wildlife damage to crops, livestock and property
Protected area (PA) resource access conflicts	Conflicts between park-adjacent communities and conservation authorities over: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illegal exploitation of park resources (e.g., charcoal making, hippo poaching)</li> <li>• Deforestation and encroachment into the park</li> <li>• Human settlement in the park</li> <li>• Absence of revenue-sharing</li> </ul>
Intra- and inter- institutional conflicts	Conflicts within and between government institutions, NGOs and other authorities over: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue sharing (park-adjacent communities vs. PA Authority)</li> <li>• Administrative matters (within PAA)</li> <li>• Land use, park boundaries (traditional leaders vs. PAA)</li> <li>• Presence of armed groups in park (armed groups vs. PAA, NGOs)</li> <li>• Corruption, embezzlement, mismanagement of resources (PAA)</li> <li>• Lack of communication (local stakeholders vs. PAA)</li> </ul>

- Brainstorming and clustering identified conflicts into groups
- Prioritise by:
  - ◆ Identify impacts on people
  - ◆ Identify impacts on conservation
  - ◆ Rank by severity of impact
- Assess your organisation's feasibility to address conflicts

		Human impacts				
		High	Medium	Low	None	
Conservation impacts	High	Illegal resource extraction by armed groups in the park		Encroachment into the park for agriculture		<b>High priority conflict</b> Carry through for further CSC analysis
	Medium		Village grievances over absence of revenue-sharing			<b>Medium priority conflict</b> Carry through for further CSC analysis if extra resources available
	Low					
	None					<b>Low priority conflict</b> Consider for CSC analysis in future – no immediate need

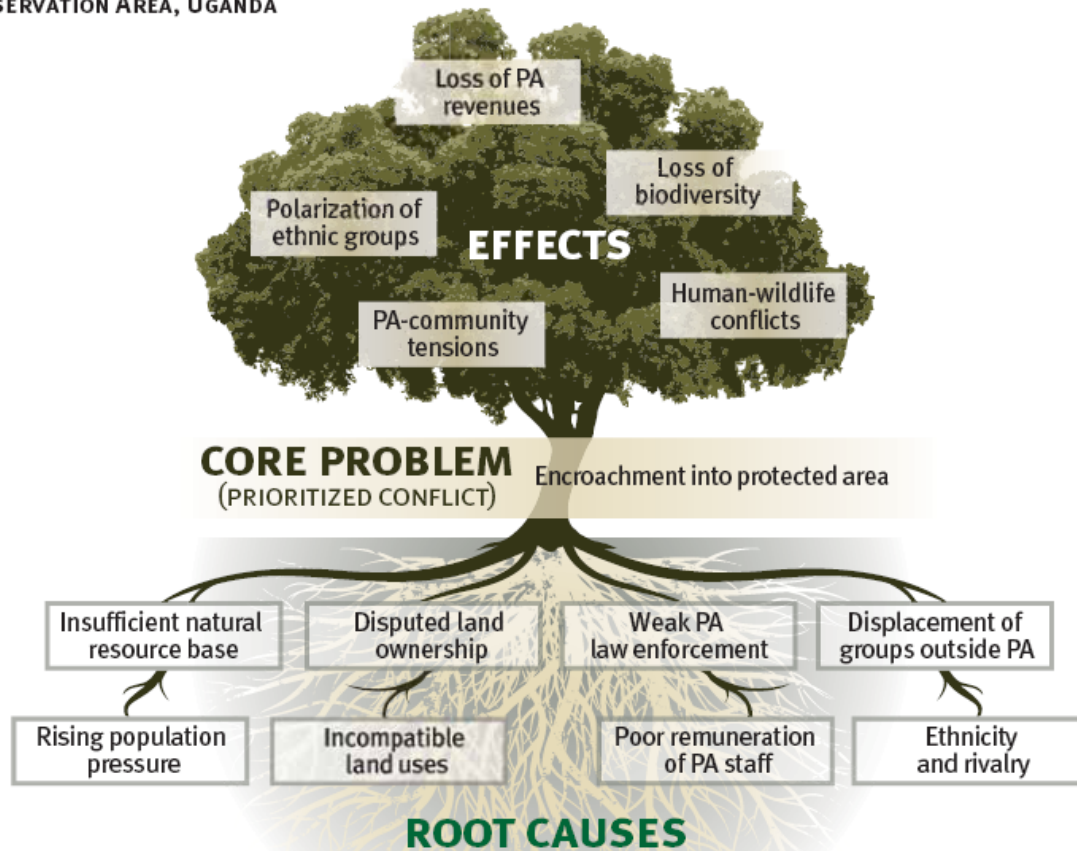
# Selecting which conflict to focus upon

Prioritized conflict	Impacts	Feasibility	Notes
Encroachment into the park for agriculture	Medium	High	Low risk to staff, within mandate, building on existing partnerships
Illegal resource extraction by armed groups in the park	High	Low	High risk to staff, requires too many resources, need more strategic partnerships (e.g., military, police)

- Select conflict to address which have high impacts but where feasibility is also high
- Assess what partnerships may be possible for conflicts you cannot address

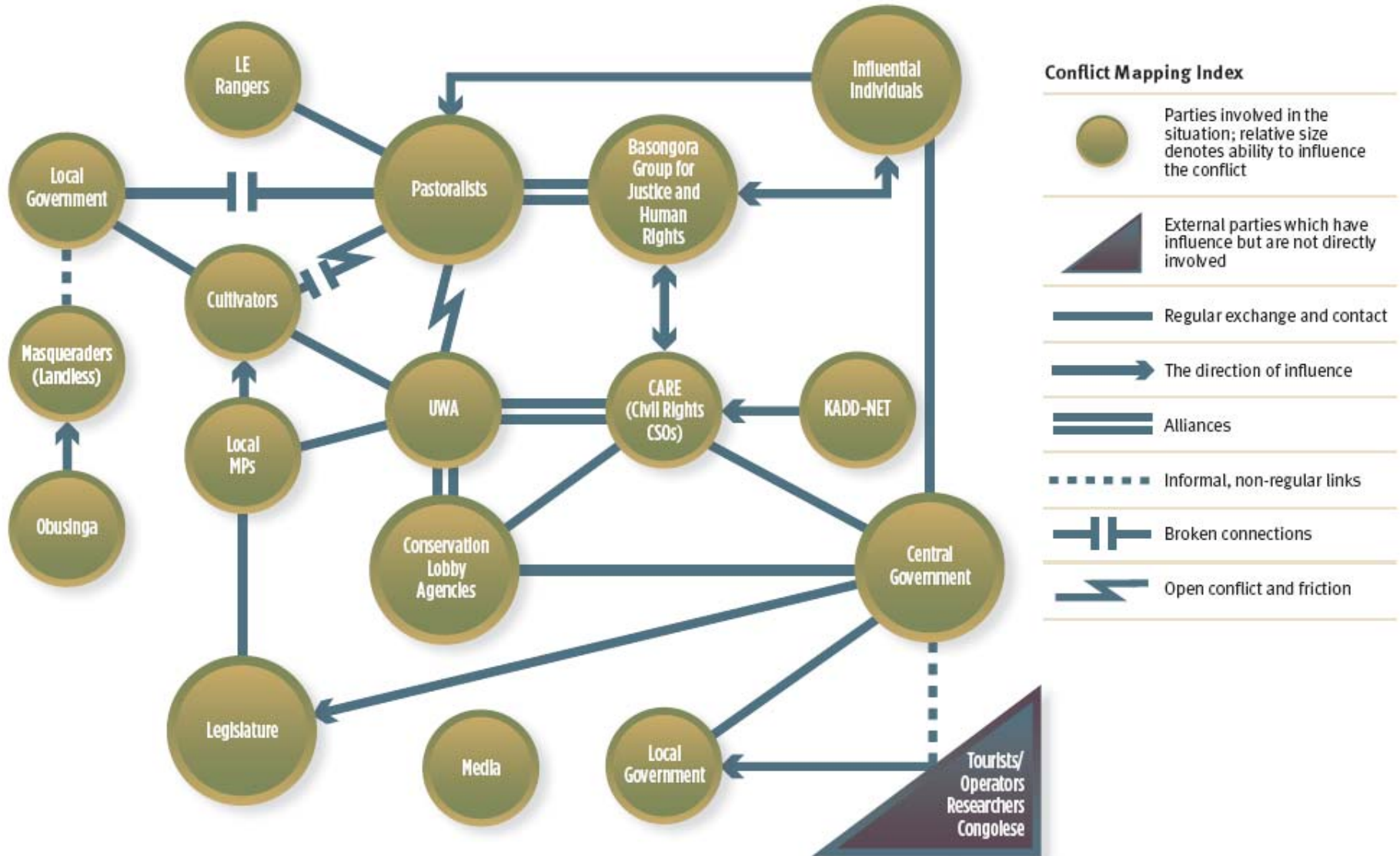
# Analyze Conflict: Problem tree

FIGURE 4: SIMPLIFIED CONFLICT TREE FOR ENCROACHMENT IN QUEEN ELIZABETH CONSERVATION AREA, UGANDA



- Identify effects of the selected conflict – branches
- Identify Root causes of selected conflict - roots

# Analyze Conflict: Conflict map



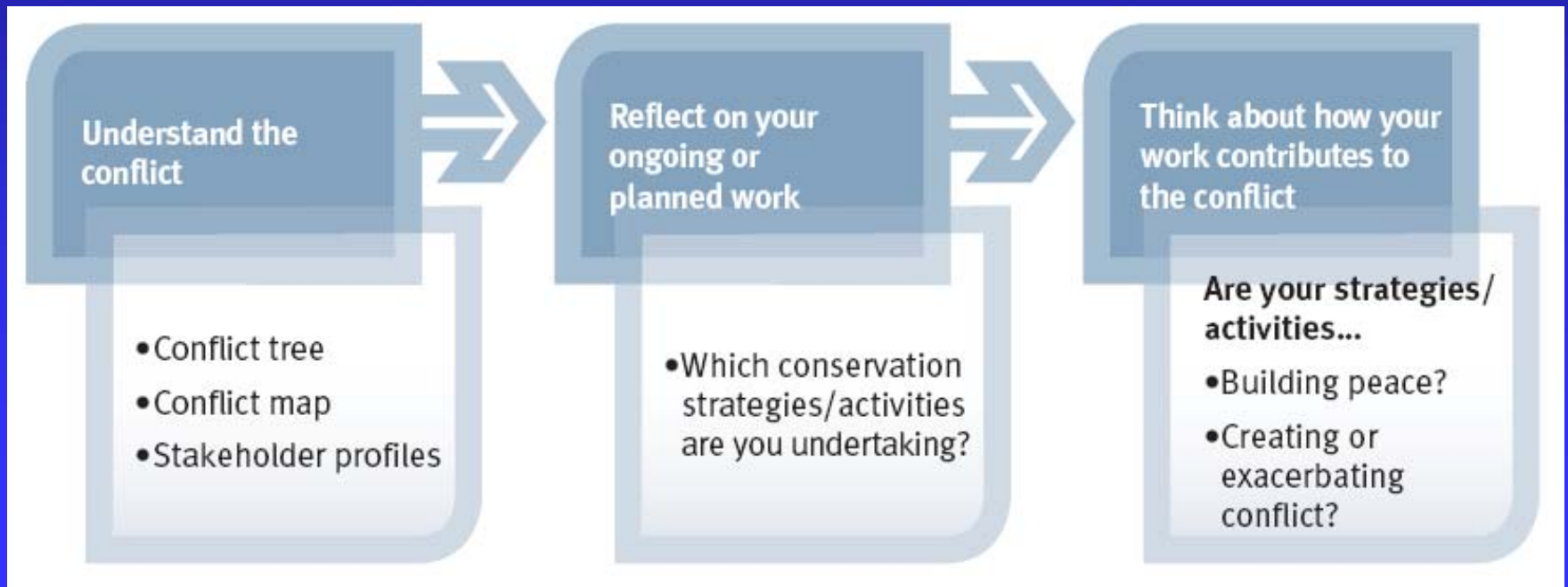
# Analyze Conflict: Stakeholder Profiling

Uganda Wildlife Authority	Basongora pastoralist lobby group
<b>Positions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA boundaries must be respected</li> <li>No settlers should be allowed in the PA and any encroachers should be resettled outside the PA</li> </ul>	<b>Positions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A politically marginalized group</li> <li>The protected area is situated on their ancestral land and should be returned to them</li> </ul>
<b>Interests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of biodiversity</li> <li>Existence value of the PA</li> </ul>	<b>Interests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political representation</li> <li>Sustainable livelihoods</li> </ul>
<b>Needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preservation of the ecological value of the PA</li> <li>Income from tourism</li> </ul>	<b>Needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Their identity to be recognized and respected</li> <li>Access and rights to land</li> </ul>
<b>Capacities and Capacity Gaps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing legal mandate</li> <li>Technical know-how</li> <li>Pro-people management approach</li> </ul>	<b>Capacities and Capacity Gaps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Networking at the national level – political and civil society</li> <li>Strong lobbying skills</li> <li>Ability to appeal to international human rights groups</li> <li>Wealth (cattle)</li> </ul>

- Understand underlying interests
- Look for common ground
- Move from public positions

# Always link analysis to your work

- For each analysis refer back to your work and its potential impacts to exacerbate the conflict or promote peace



# Identifying interventions

Conflict: Pastoralists encroaching into QECA			
Conflict analysis tool	Where can we intervene?	How to address?	Description, suggested activity
Conflict tree	Insufficient natural resource base <b>(cause)</b>	Modify to enhance	Could increase productivity of existing NR base → look into supporting high-value agriculture (e.g., coffee wet processing).
	Community-park tensions <b>(effect)</b>	Modify to enhance	Move beyond awareness-raising, promote dialogue between community and park through informal forums.
	Human-wildlife conflicts <b>(effect)</b>	Modify to enhance	Expand awareness raising and training activities, establish participatory monitoring and response systems.
Conflict map	Pastoralists and local government <b>(blocked communication)</b>	Develop new activity	Doing nothing but important to addressing encroachment → Dialogue forums?
	Close relationship with pastoralist justice group but not to cultivators <b>(alliance)</b>	Modify to reduce negative impact	Organization may be seen as supporting only pastoralists, reinforcing divisions. Explore appropriate links to cultivators.
Stakeholder profile	Park needs tourism income, pastoralists need identity recognized and respected <b>(needs)</b>	Develop new activity	Doing nothing but could explore options for linking tourism opportunities with pastoralist culture?

- Using the three analyses try to identify where you can intervene and reduce conflict
- Implement and monitor its impact



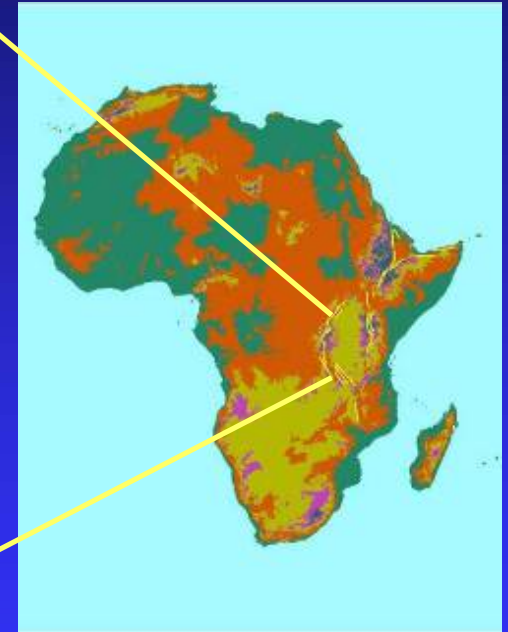
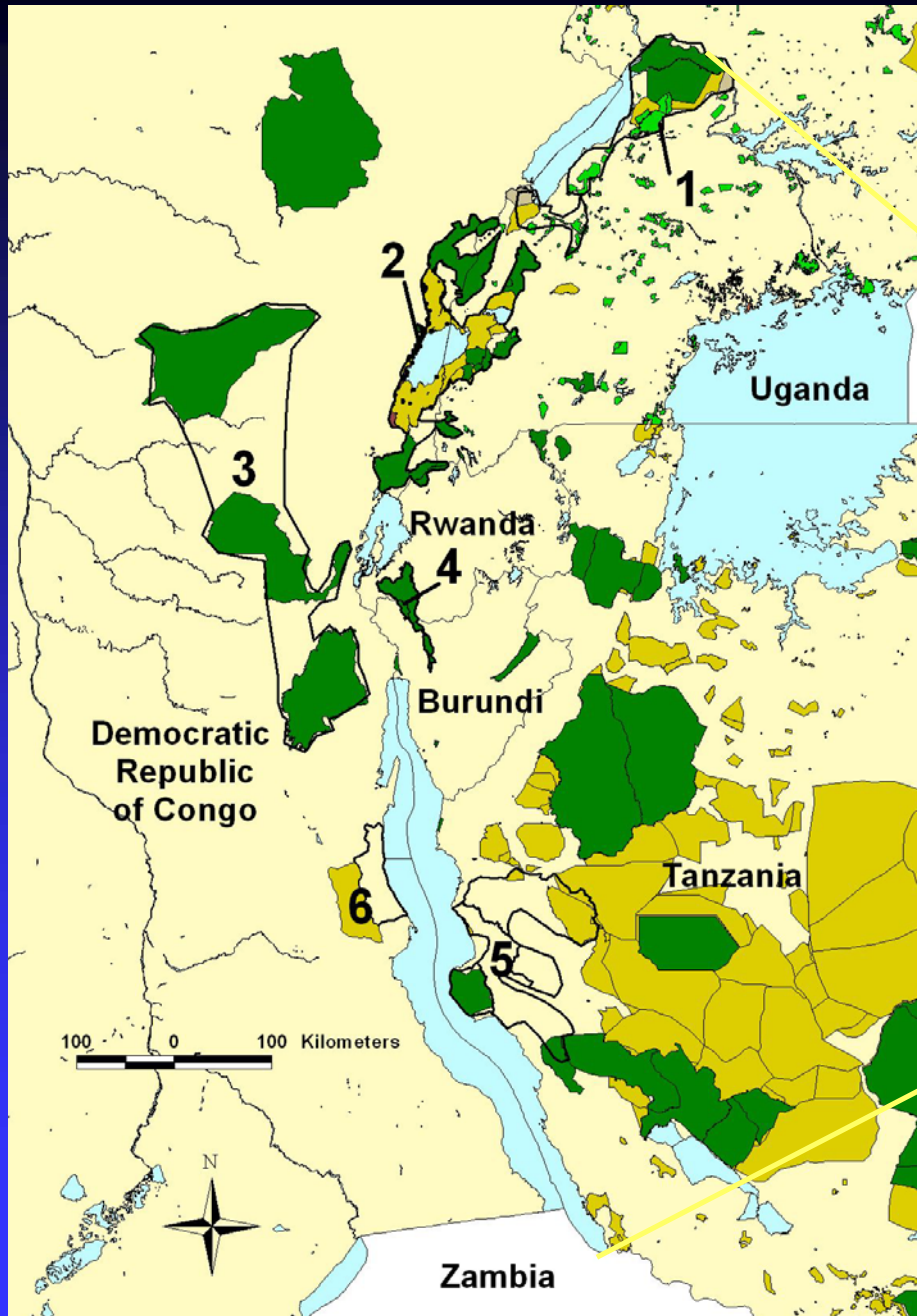
**CONFLICT-SENSITIVE CONSERVATION**

**Practitioners' Manual**





# The Albertine Rift



# Addressing conflict in the Albertine Rift

## Phase 1



- Conflict project in Virunga Park (2006-2007 – 18 months)
- Build capacity of ICCN to address conflicts in Virunga Park
- Tackle 4 pilot conflicts after analyzing them using IISD's method

# Developed a conflict resolution strategy for Virunga Park

## STRATEGIES DE RESOLUTION DES CONFLITS DANS LE PARC NATIONAL DES VIRUNGA

Deo Kujirakwinja, Anne Hammill et Andrew Plumpton

2007



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- Assessed existing conflicts
- Analyzed each one
- Identified where ICCN and its partners could act now and where partnerships needed to be developed
- Selected 4 conflicts to address:
  - ◆ Overfishing on Lake Edward
  - ◆ Involvement of military in poaching
  - ◆ Encroachment of Park
  - ◆ Conflict with pastoralists from Uganda

# Conflict with pastoralists



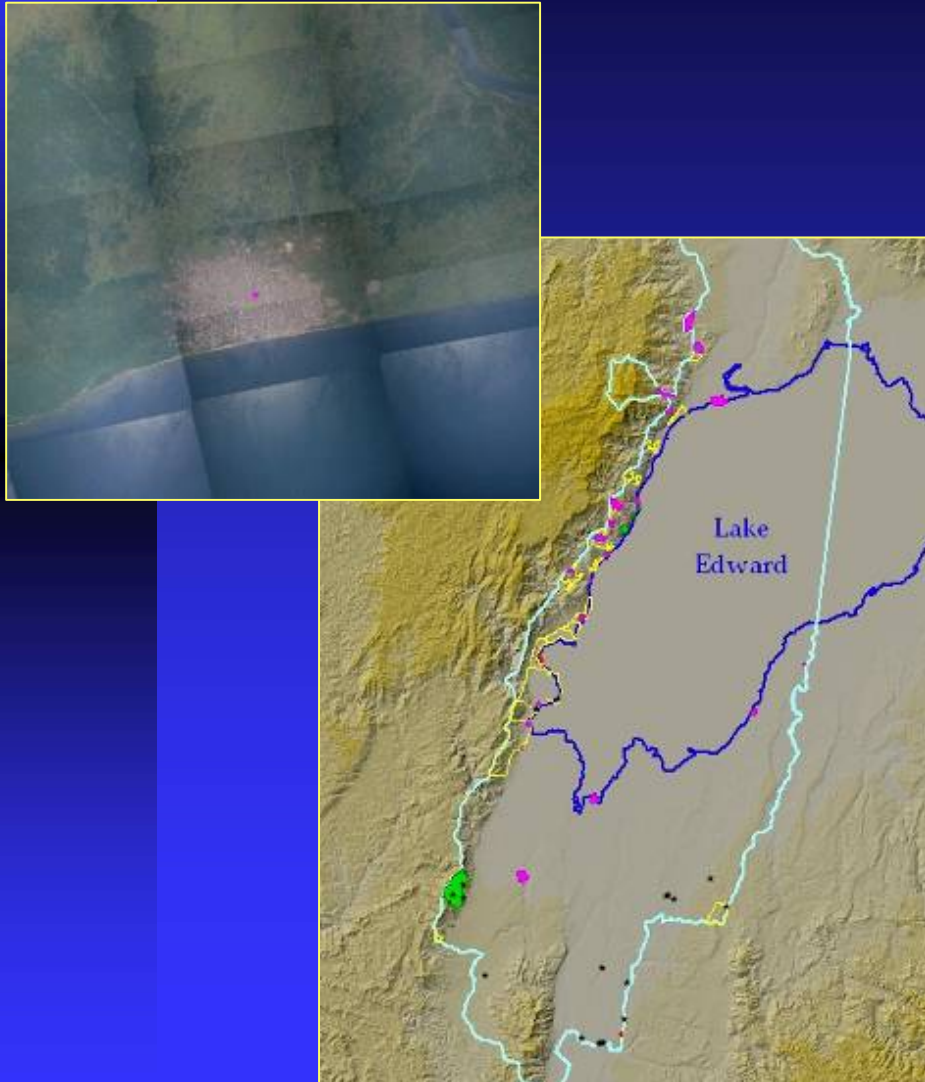
- Pastoralists from Uganda had settled in Virunga Park during war – been there 6-7 years
- Transboundary collaboration between DRC and Uganda with WCS support led to agreements for them to peacefully return to Uganda
- Unfortunately they were resettled in Queen Elizabeth Park for 8 months before they were settled outside the park

# Settlement of encroachers during wars

## Resettlement of encroachers in Congo

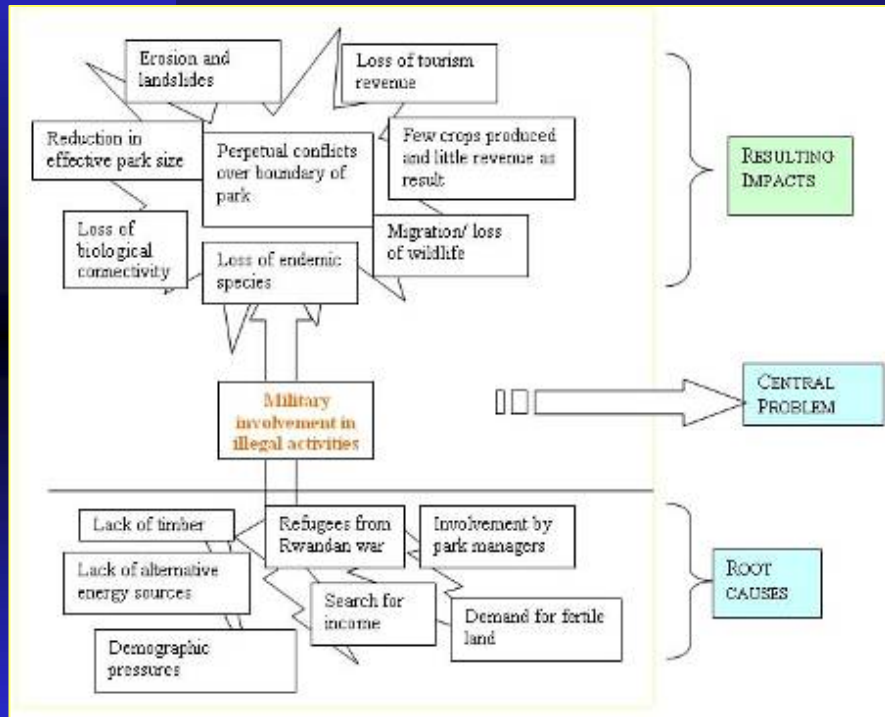


# Conflict over encroachment



- Mapped park with aerial photography
- Digitized all settlements and mapped farmed areas within the park – 140 km<sup>2</sup> being farmed with 3,750 houses on western coast of Lake Edward
- Established process to get agreements to peacefully resettle people

# Conflict with military poaching



- Military involved in poaching in park – threat to ICCN safety
- Held high level meetings with Governor of North Kivu
- Meetings were also held in military camps to educate soldiers about conservation
- Military personnel have been punished for poaching as a result although still an issue
- Working to create a battalion who will work with ICCN in park

# Overfishing on Lake Edward



- Established fishing village committee in Nyakakoma village – elected representatives
- Comprised of fishermen, Traditional chief, Police, Military, ICCN, Local govt
- Developed system of self policing – arrests of illegal canoes and nets
- Stopped ICCN's involvement in illegal fishing



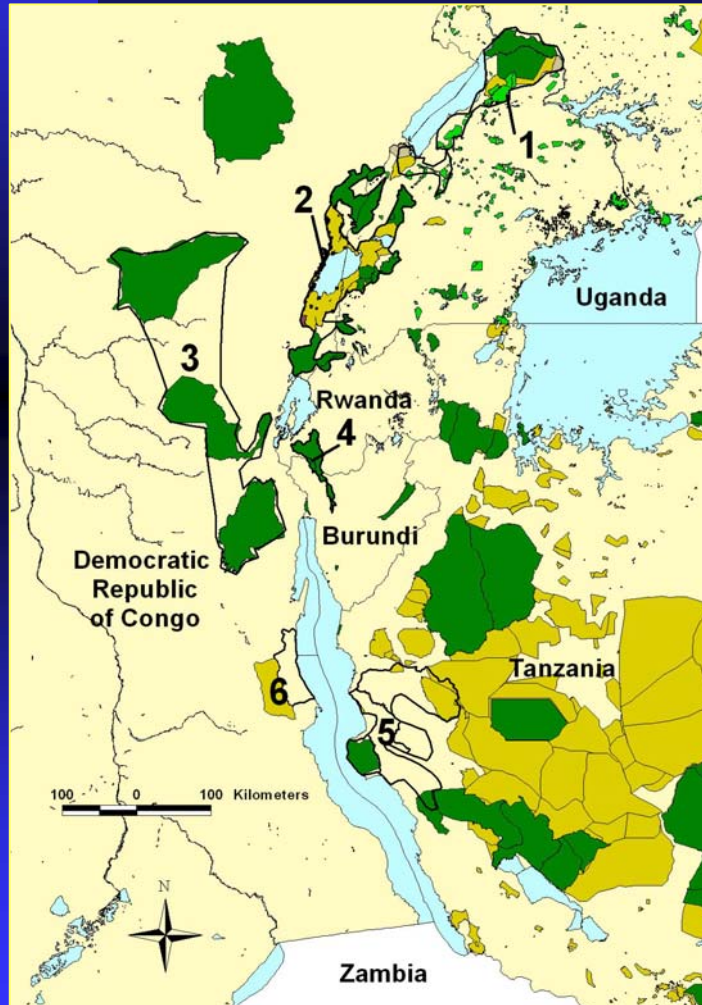
# Transboundary collaboration



- Supported transboundary collaboration in GVL since 2003 between Uganda and DRC
- Bring together PA authorities regularly
- Also bring together police, customs, immigration, army, judiciary, fishing departments, forestry departments, local government, security officials

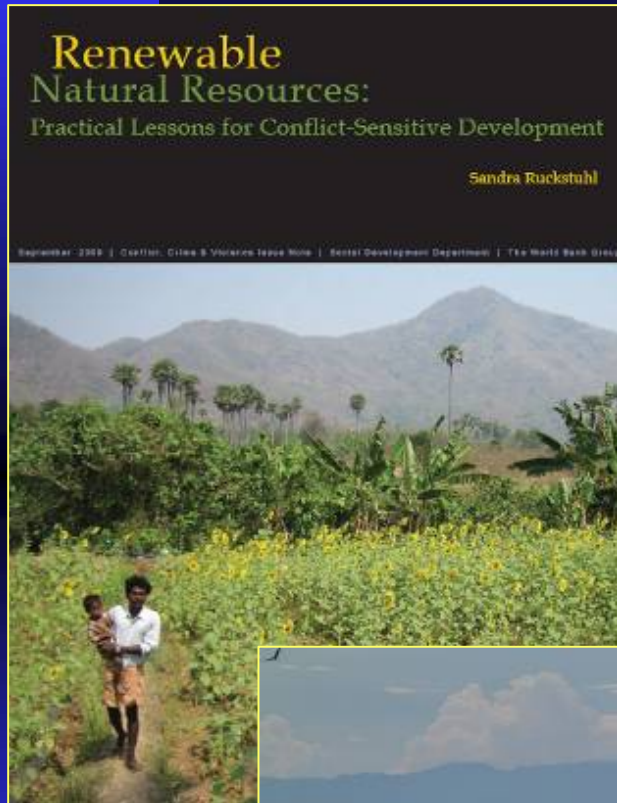
# Addressing conflict in the Albertine Rift

## Phase 2



- 2008-2010 – 2 year project
- Took lessons learned from first phase to three new sites in the Albertine Rift
  - ◆ Kahuzi Biega Park
  - ◆ Itombwe Massif
  - ◆ Misotshi-Kabogo
- Expanded work in fishing villages in Virunga

# Overfishing Phase II



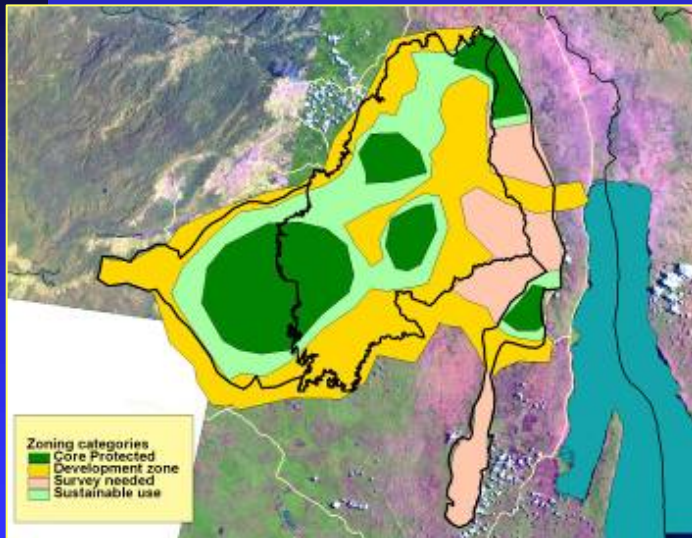
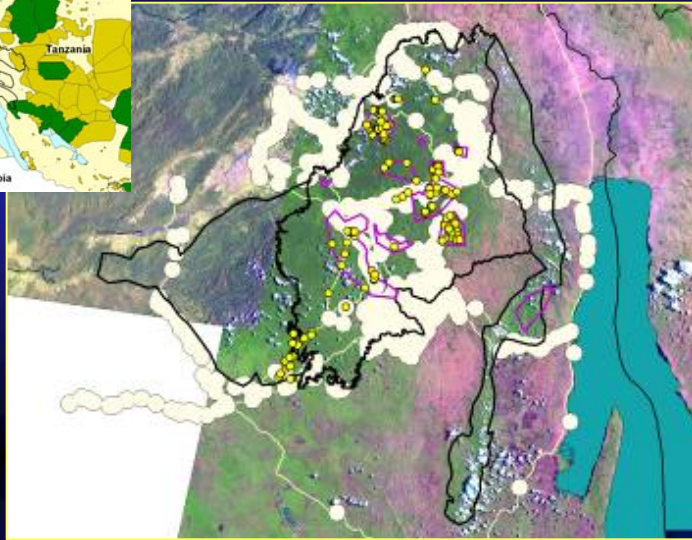
- Vitshumbi and Kyavinyonge requested help establishing fishing committees in their villages
- Led to protection of spawning grounds and arrests of illegal canoes and nets
- Led to Governor of Nth Kivu supporting committees with funds for their operations
- Written up in World Bank Case study on conflict over natural resources by Sandra Ruckstuhl

# Community Conservation Committees - PNKB



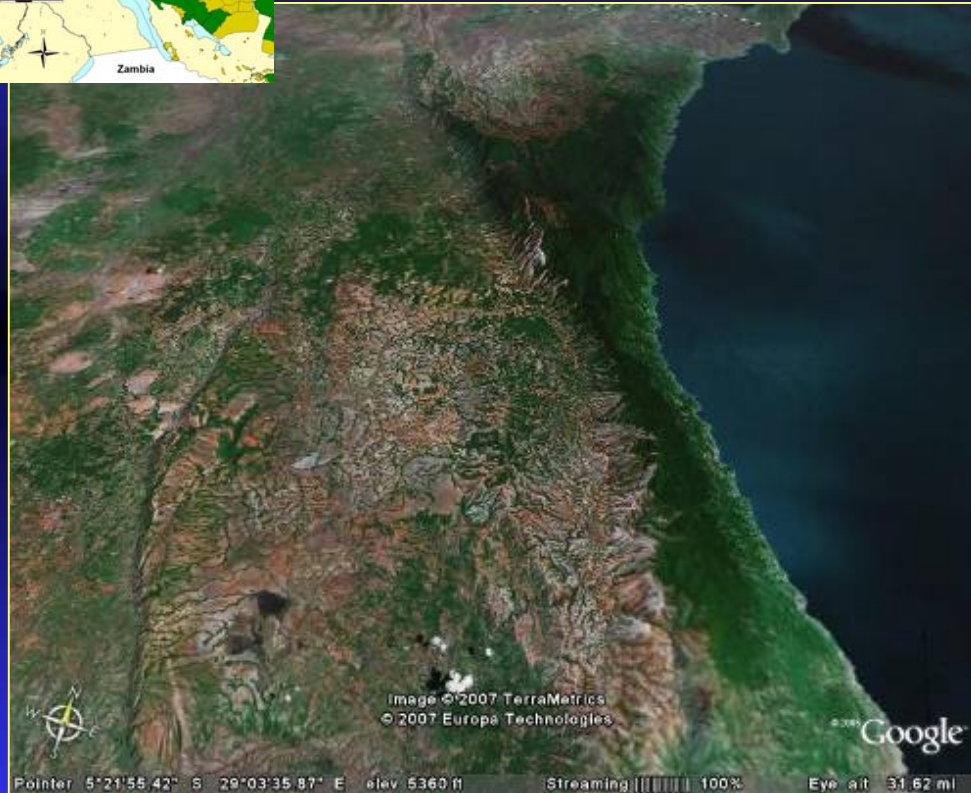
- Problem with Park Community Conservation Committees (CCC) because seen as part of ICCN
- Worked with local community and CCCs in Kahuzi Biega Park to improve relations
- Working better now and people willing to self police over extraction of bamboo from park

# Protected area creation



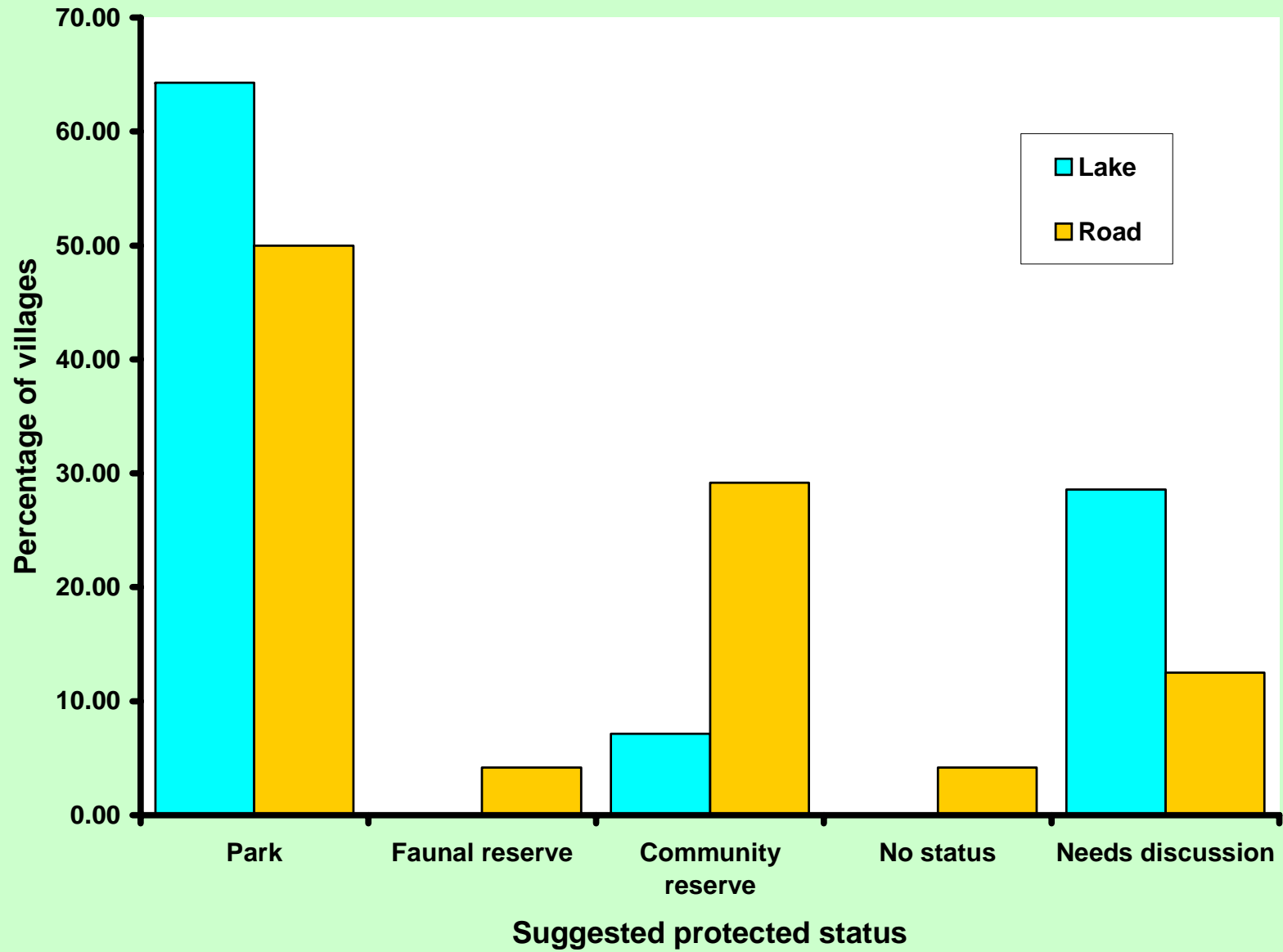
- Being proactive to avoid conflict
- Itombwe massif and Misotshi-Kabogo
- Itombwe
  - ◆ Conflict over Ministerial arrete to create Reserve
  - ◆ Brought main NGOs, civil society, and government representatives together to agree way forward
  - ◆ Zoning plan being developed with local people's input.

## 6. Kabobo-Marungu Landscape



- Aerial survey with flight program in 2006 – Marungu completely degraded
- Biodiversity survey of Kabobo in 2007
  - ◆ 6 new species of vertebrate discovered
- Followed up with Socioeconomic survey in 2008





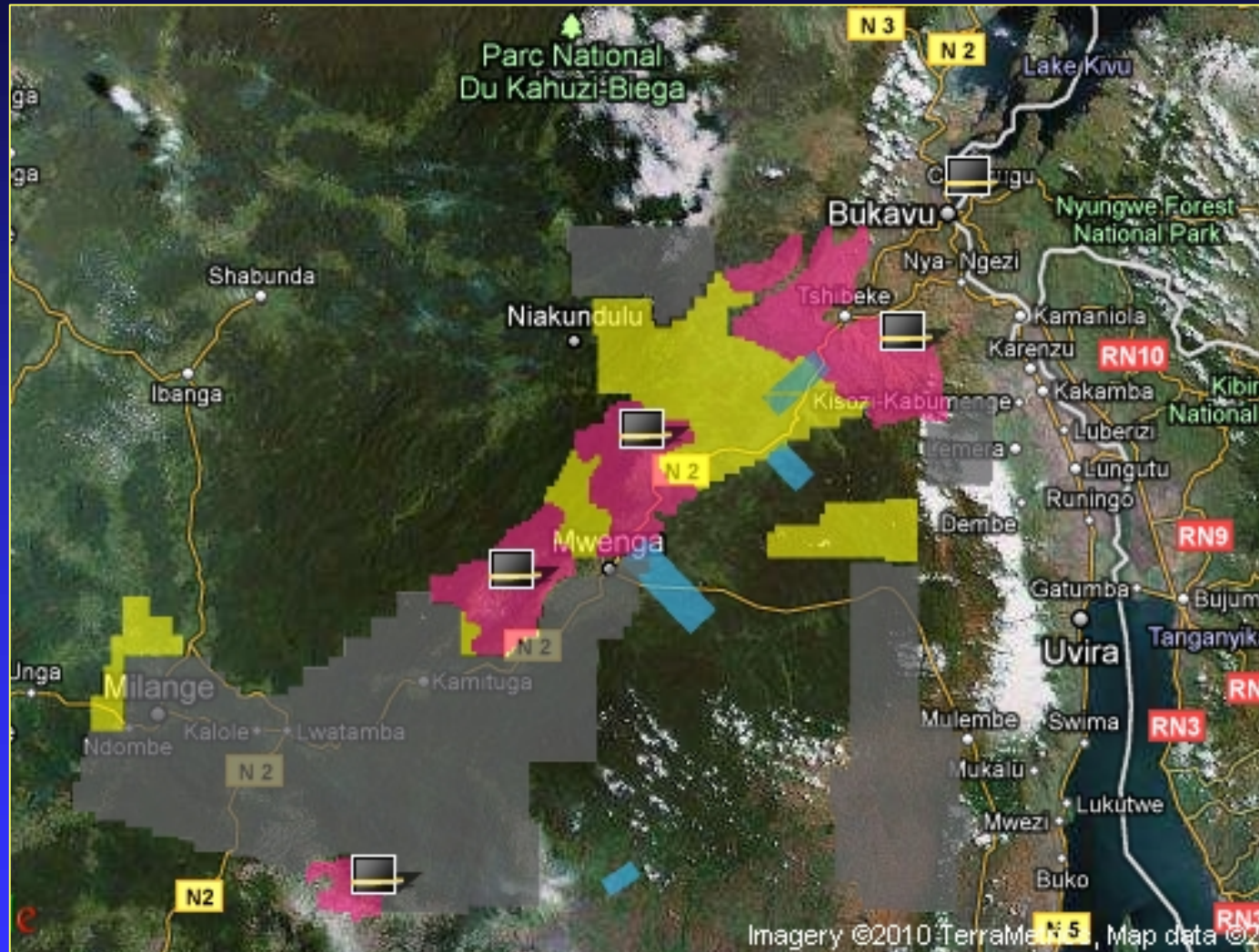


# Creation of DR Congo's 8<sup>th</sup> Park



- Meetings held with traditional chiefs and Government in July 2009
- Led to agreement to create a National Park for Kabobo
- Working with villagers to agree boundaries of park and surrounding natural reserve

# New conflicts – Large Scale Mining



**BANRO** concession

# Lessons learned

- Conflict resolution approach gives the weaker members of society a voice at the table – encouraging democracy
- Workshops that facilitated joint problem sharing tended to build relationships between antagonists.
- Training of ICCN staff was best approached by working with them to facilitate conflict resolution meetings
- By legitimizing a committee to tackle a conflict, people can “name and shame” in public leading to greater likelihood of action.
- Need to review and monitor conflicts over time as situations change

## Lessons learned cont'd

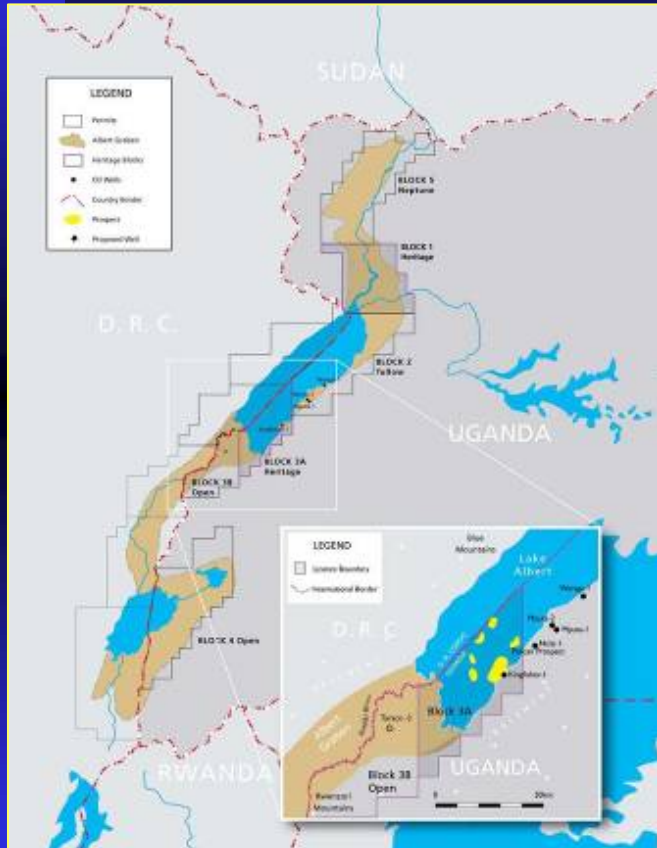
- Re-establishing the rule of law in the park and getting agreement to give ICCN the authority to act meant that other conflicts were reduced also – created an enabling environment for law enforcement
- Linkages with higher levels of authority and also regionally through the transboundary collaboration gives recognition of the national and international mandate
- By thinking about conflict early on you can plan activities to make sure you do not create conflict or exacerbate existing conflict – be proactive

# Future plans



- Focus on conflict over natural resource extraction in DRC
  - ◆ Large scale mining of minerals
  - ◆ Oil mining in Greater Virunga Landscape
  - ◆ Fisheries on Lake Edward
  - ◆ Local community harvesting of resources from protected areas
- Use conflict-sensitive approach to finalize creation of protected areas in Kabobo and Itombwe

# Mining



- Anglo Ashanti may establish gold mine in Ituri region in near future
- BANRO establishing gold mine between Kahuzi Biega and Itombwe
- CAMECO establishing gold/uranium mine near Kabobo
- Dominion Oil wants concession in Virunga Park

# Creation of Protected areas



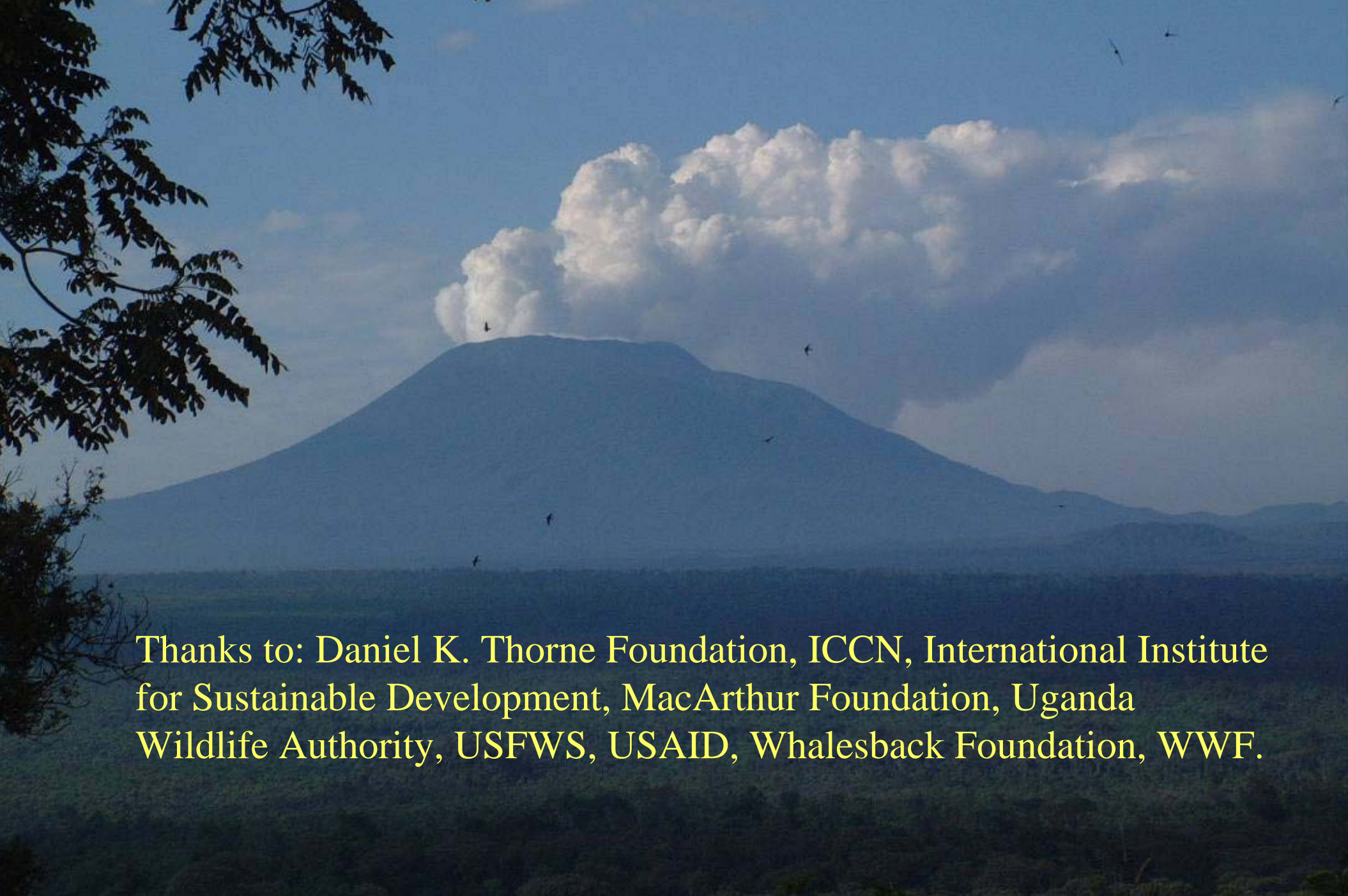
- Work with local communities to participatively agree boundaries and zoning plan for Itombwe and Kabobo
- Negotiations needed over boundary placement in order to maintain connectivity
- Look at incentives for community – employment and carbon funding for example

# Extraction of biological resources



- Work with local communities in Itombwe and Kabobo to develop sustainable methods of harvesting of forest products in zoned areas
- Continue to support conflict resolution committees in Virunga fishing villages
- Expand collaboration to transboundary fisheries on Lake Edward





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