



**Review of the Existing Linkages between HIV/AIDS  
and Natural Resources Management in Uganda**

***Workshop proceedings***

*10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> December, 2007,  
Ridar Hotel, Mukono, Uganda*



## List of Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IDPs	Internally Displaced People
IGAs	Income Generating Alternatives
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LCs	Local Councils
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NRM	Natural Resources Management
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
PLWA	People living with Aids
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing



## 1.0 Background Information

In Uganda in particular and in sub-Saharan Africa in general, AIDS is not only a health crisis, but a challenge to development, since AIDS affects every dimension of social and economic life, especially in the worst affected countries. HIV/AIDS is affecting every person, organization and sector in Uganda, including natural resources where little has been done to address the challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the sector.

With the scourge of HIV/AIDS, there is a threat to the sustainable use of these natural resources. The disease is impacting local and national economies, governance structures, agricultural production, food security and education. In fact, HIV/AIDS is resulting in a new social structure and dynamics affecting every person, organization and sector including biodiversity conservation and natural resources management. However, it has been found that available information on the linkages of HIV/AIDS with the environment is very anecdotal. The linkages have not been well explored and hence cannot provide clear guidance on action in this area. It is this paucity of knowledge and skills in linking HIV/AIDS with the environment and effectively managing such links that has generated the need to explore these linkages.

To gain a better understanding of the linkages between HIV/AIDS and natural resource management, the IUCN Uganda Country Office, in collaboration with IPPF and through financial support from the IDRC, organized and facilitated a three day workshop on "Sharing identified knowledge/information on the linkages between HIV/AIDS and environment in Uganda" from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at Ridar Hotel in Mukono District, Uganda. Mr. Alex Muhweezi, IUCN Country Director, Mr. Jackson Bwagiro Tumwine (Consultant) and Ms. Chiheny Mvovi, IUCN Programme Officer, facilitated this workshop. The workshop attracted about 30 participants working in the areas of conservation, health, agriculture and HIV/AIDS.

- Develop future action points and recommendations;
- Chart a clear way forward on “next steps”.

### **1.3 Implemented Activities**

In the process of achieving the outputs indicated above the following tasks were implemented:

- The desk study that was conducted on the documented relationships between HIV/AIDS and the environment in Uganda was presented by Mr. Jackson

between HIV/AIDS and Natural Resources Management in Uganda for further details).

The following issues were generated during the plenary discussion on the study findings:

- There was general concern about the increasing dependence on natural resources; specific emphasis was laid on the current unsustainable resource utilization practices such as poor fishing methods;
- High risk labourers need to be trained so that they become aware of the risks associated in engaging in their jobs;
- There is need to know how to mainstream HIV/AIDS into government departments especially the Ministry of Environment, This raised the importance of developing guidelines for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into environmental issues;
- Indigenous knowledge should be documented and preserved and ethno-botany gardens established to prevent loss of biological resources;
- The impact of global influences and external factors on the environment should be explored;
- There is need to put in place workable policy frameworks to protect both employers and employees;
- Communication strategies and packaging of HIV/AIDS and environment information should be developed and appropriate dissemination channels promoted;
- Sensitizing other professionals to carry a message concerning HIV/AIDS and environment should be carried out;
- There is need to look at the multiplier effect of conflict in congested settlements, i.e. internally displaced peoples camps, since IDPs also degrade the surrounding environment and other adjacent areas;.
- Medical practitioners should appreciate the role environment and natural resource management contribute towards the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS.

### **3.0 Presentations of Community Lessons in implementing projects that link HIV/AIDS and the Environment**

Four community based presentations were given by community members from around the Mt Elgon ecosystem (i.e. Mt Elgon National Park and Mbale District) and Manafwa District (around the Nambale area). These presentations focused on various activities that are being undertaken in relation to HIV/AIDS and the environment and the existing challenges that some of these community based initiatives are facing. The presentations have been structured into lessons learnt and documents generated from this workshop.

#### **3.1 Group Discussions on HIV/AIDS and Environment in Uganda**

Participants were then tasked, in break-out groups, to either discuss the activities that they are involved in, that link HIV/AIDS and the environment or the area within which they are currently carrying out specific related activities. In addition, they also discussed how HIV/AIDS has impacted the people and how the environment has contributed towards fighting the scourge. Furthermore, discussions also emanated on the problems that HIV/AIDS have caused to the environment and their possible

solutions. The discussions concluded by assessing what the participants had achieved in the workshop.

The break-out groups were divided according to the regional participants represented as follows:

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**Introduction - area,  
people and livelihoods**

**How has HIV/AIDS  
impacted our people in  
our area?**

Uganda workshop on HIV/AIDS and the environment



## **4.0 Community Action Plans/Recommendations**

In the same four break-out groups, participants were then tasked to either discuss the activities that they are involved in that link HIV/AIDS and the environment or the area within which they are currently carrying out specific related activities and how they measure or can measure their success and monitor their progress. In addition they also discussed how they could influence others and share their experiences and lessons.

These discussions were conducted as a basis for future community action points or recommendations.

The participants' discussions are summarized in the tables below.

**GROUP ONE: MT ELGON NATIONAL PARK AREA**

**Activities/actions**

<b>GROUP TWO: MBALE DISTRICT- BUSIDEF DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION</b>					
<b>Activities/actions</b>	<b>Measures of success</b>	<b>Monitoring of progress</b>	<b>How to influence others</b>	<b>How to share experiences</b>	<b>Other remarks</b>
<p>Activities currently involved in:                      Construction of shallow wells, rain water harvesting tanks;                      Public health and hygiene promotion i.e. sanitation, waste management and disposal;                      Established millennium village; MDGs are being localized, poverty reduction, mortality reduction, education.                      Environmental conservation, i.e. bee keeping, fruit tree growing, pig farming</p>	Detailed below	Detailed below	Detailed below		Need to ensure sustainable approaches and incentives and introduce activities on prevention
Tree planting	Number of trees planted and acreage covered	Number of trees that have grown	Meetings; Reports; Publications, Local Government LCs, NGOs.	Networking; Seminars; Exchange visits.	-
Bee-keeping	Number of apiaries established; Amount of honey harvested by infected or affected households.	Number of bee-hives colonized; Amount of honey harvested or produced; Records.	Records on sales; Interviews.	As above	Value addition to by-products meetings

**GROUP TWO: MBALE DISTRICT- BUSIDEF DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

**Measures of success**

**Monitoring of progress**

**How to influence others**

**GROUP THREE: MANAFWA DISTRICT - NAMBALE WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION (CBO)**

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring of progress	How to influence others	How to share experiences	Other remarks
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**GROUP FOUR: KABALE DISTRICT- GREEN BELT MOVEMENT**

Activities/actions	Measures of success	Monitoring	BT275 1447au0 0.7529 015activities/action
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<b>Activities/actions</b>	<b>Measures of success</b>	<b>Monitoring of progress</b>	<b>How to influence others</b>	<b>How to share experiences</b>	<b>Other remarks</b>
Provision of seedlings to the beneficiaries	PLWHAs engaged in tree planting	Visits to the sites	Set demonstration sites and extension services	As above	As above
Provision of mosquito nets to PLWHAs	Presentation, recording and distribution of nets	Surveys, interviews and observations	----	As above	As above
Provision of clean water and sanitation	Presence of safe water points	Visits to sites Surveys Interviews	Sensitisation on best use of clean water and management	As above	As above

*Note: Some of the group work indicators suggested are not measurable so the consultant will develop measurable indicators on how to monitor the progress.*

## **5.0 Future Action Points and Workshop Recommendations**

The workshop reflected on possible future action points that could continue supporting efforts in HIV/AIDS campaigns and promote sustainable natural resources management.

There was consensus that participants who represented various organizations and institutions should go back and think about interventions that link HIV/AIDS and the environment that could be included in their programmes. Participants were also keen on establishing networks amongst themselves for further lesson learning and synergies in their activities. One immediate key output of interest was the establishment of a mailing list-serve that could enhance information sharing. Concerns were, however, raised about who would manage it and keep it functioning.

Furthermore, multi-sectoral approaches between communities, health and environment related organizations, civil society, Government and related programmes were seen as necessary to ensure a holistic approach towards involvement and participation of all stakeholders.

In conclusion, the workshop recommended that all participants would commit themselves to promote the above future action points. To enable the establishment of this network, participants provided their full contact details and the physical location of their institutions for easy sharing of the information.

**Annex 1: Workshop Programme**

<b>1.1 Day One: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
10:00 p.m.–6:00 p. m.	Checking in	
<b>1.2 Day Two: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007</b>		
<b>Session One: Introduction</b>		
<b>8:30 –9:00 a.m.</b>	Registration	
	Chair	<b>Alex</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:15a.m.</b>	Introductions and Introductory remarks	<b>Alex</b>
<b>9:15-9:45 a.m.</b>	Workshop Objectives, Process and Output	<b>Chihenyo</b>
<b>10:00-10:30a.m.</b>	Presentation of findings on the study on HIV/AIDS and Environment	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>10:30-11:00a.m</b>	Break	
<b>1.3 Session Two: Validating Study - Chair: Alex</b>		
<b>11:00-1:00p.m</b>	Discussion on Study	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>1:00 – 2:00p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Session Three Experiences and Lessons – Chair: Alex</b>		
<b>2:00 – 5:00p.m.</b>	Plenary: Presentations of Community Lessons in implementing projects that link HIV/AIDS and environment	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>1.4 DAY THREE: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007</b>		
<b>1.5 Session one: Documentation of Lessons Learnt</b>		
8:30 – 9:30a.m.	Recap of Day One	<b>Chihenyo</b>
9:30 – 11:00a.m.	Introduction to Lesson Learnt by Community Members	<b>Jackson</b>
11:00 – 11:30a.m.	Break	Hotel
<b>1.6 Session One Continued</b>		
11:00- 1:00p.m.	Documentation of Lessons Learnt by Participants continues	<b>Chihenyo (with Alex)</b>
1:00- 2:00p.m..	Lunch	
<b>Session Two: Continued</b>		
2:00 –4:00p.m	Developing Wider and Common Lessons, Future Actions Points and Recommendations	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>DAY FOUR: 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>8:30-11:00 a.m. Conclusion and Departure</b>		

## Annex 2: List of Participants

	NAME	MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION	DESIGNATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TEL. CONTACT
1	Moses Kisiibo	Manafa (Nambale Widows	Community Worker	<a href="mailto:kissboohugo@yahoo.co.uk">kissboohugo@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Manafa (Nambale Widows 0.0

