



AFRICA ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE.

CASE STUDY: UGANDA

BACK GROUND:

What is Environment?

In Simple English, Environment is the sum total of what is around something or someone, it includes living things and nature forces.

In fact this is what you are familiar with, its everything that make our surroundings and affect our ability to live on earth like the Air we breath, the water that covers most of the Earth surface, the plants and the Animals around us and much more.

What is culture?

Is the belief and the value of the people in a certain group, culture also include how people think about and understand the world and their own lives ,so different countries have different cultures for example some old Japanese wear Kimonos and arrange flowers in vases and have tea ceremonies .

In simplicity culture is a word for people's ways of life, meaning the way groups do things.

So how do we see a Culture in people, it is seen in writing, religion, music, clothes, cooking and in what they do.

Therefore, in today's presentation we are going to look at E. Africa particularly Ugandans and how they think and understand their surrounding s world and their own lives.

A map of East Africa showing Uganda and bordering countries.



Uganda is found in East Africa and it's a landlocked country with bordering countries like Sudan in the North, Kenya in the East Tanzania in the South and Rwanda and Congo in the west.

This East African country is smaller with square meter but it has a lot to offer.

Uganda fondly called the pearl of Africa is the starting point for the people who have never been in Africa before as the people are friendly, the official language is English and the country is quiet safe for tourist.

In Uganda you can experience hectic yet fun in the capital city Kampala , experience the Nature , where it be its national parks , lakes mountains or islands or learn a diverse culture .

- Natural tourist attractions in the country



Kasubi Tomb



Lake Albert Oil Base in Uganda



Game parks



Mountain Rwenzori



Natural Mabira forest Ugabda

THE SOCIAL -CULTUTER AND ENVIRONMENT OF UGANDA:

INTRODUCTION:

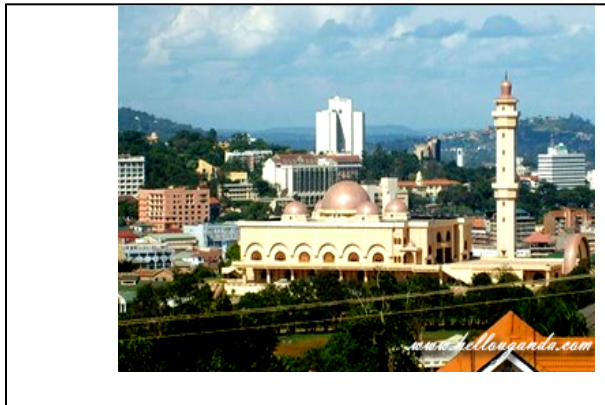
Uganda is a pluralistic society with a complex social order characterized with a multitude of ethics, linguistic and religion divisions.

RELIGION:

The Romans Catholics with population of 46% , followed by the protestant with 42% ,Sevenths Day Adventist 1.5%, Muslim 8% , others 3% and non 0.9%.

Photos of worshipping places in Uganda;

- Kibuli Mosque



Rubaga Cathedral



Namirembe Cathedral

ETHIC:

Uganda is also made of various ethnic groups;

The Baganda are the majority in the country comprise about 16.4% in the central region ,in western the Banyankole 9.5%, the Basoga in the south Eastern 8.4%, the Bakiga 6.9%, south westerns' , Iteso 6.4% in the North Eastern , Langi 6.1% in the Northerners .Acholi 4.7% Northerners ,Bagishu Eastern 4.6% , Banyoro westerners 2.7% and other. This was the census 2002.Acholi northern region.

THE FOOD:



The main food is Banana / plantains for central and west and east.

Millet, cassava, and maize flour for the North and west Niles.

We our serve the foods with any stew of their choice like Meat, local chicken, Peanuts Beans stew etc.

THE WEARS:

The cloths Industry was bark cloth in past but we have cultural like busuti for central women and East west Suka ,and Kanza for all ethics in Uganda .

Photos of a few ethnic groups and their cultural wears:

Baganda central Men traditional Wear



Baganda Central Women Wear



Western Women Wear



CULTURAL IN ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION IN UGANDA:

Decent life depends on nature's provision of stable resources.

About the 70% of all Ugandan people live in the villages that continued to be underdeveloped and backward.

Photos of rural people in Uganda and their houses





Photos of urban people in Uganda and their houses



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In Uganda there is shortage of employment opportunities, road transport facilities and electricity Hospital and schools in rural areas.

The gain of industrialization and development during the past 50 years have mostly been coined by urban areas on average city dweller earn 2.5 time more than a rural dwellers.

The gains of technology back through and industrialization are yet to reach the villages.

The poverty of the masses is an important feature of Ugandan social system despite the fact of having made a considerable progress in the field of agriculture and industrialization, poverty level in Uganda decreased significantly between 2002 and 2005, but the African Development Bank still estimates 51% of Ugandans live in extreme poverty {less than \$ 1 US per day 2100 Uganda shillings.

Disadvantages households have the less access to health, social and financial services and other basic products required by human being.

Uganda depends on her natural fertile soils for food production to sustain the local families and as well the cash crops for exportation for the country's economy and minerals.

In Uganda we experience two types of seasons, the wet and dry season throughout the year.

Anyway, the back grounds of this study will explore the importance of culture in environment conservation in past to reflect the present Uganda by looking at Buganda region on its own since the country is multi-cultural, though they are almost similar to other ethnic group in the country.

Her are the few areas like, **education, Marriage Gender Inequality, Religion.**

I will show you how culture aspects had contributed to nature conservation especially in the past era than at present, where human development, modernity, and political climate in the country have degraded nature conservation.

EDUCATION IN NATURE CONSERVATION:

The oral tradition was passed on from generation to generation through strict instructions of the young ones by the old through stories and songs, riddles and proverbs etc, with intent to teach them conservation of Environment.

The Baganda people respected nature and the needs for future generations, for instances they discouraged hunting for young ones and as well as pregnant animal, bush burning was strictly forbidden and punishable, but today there is less family gathering or community to learn from the elder people about the importance of nature.

Also the Baganda preserved nature through totems, like each clan has a TOTEM [Omuziro] which could be an animal, bird, plant or insect and it's forbidden to eat ones totme like mother or grand mother.

This ethical stands a responsibility on each member to promote Ecological sustainability through protection of totems against harm and distraction.

MARRIAGE IN NATURE CONSERVATION:

The culture of Marriage between people of the same clan is a TABOO and prohibited to date. The reason for this was to prevent spread of diseases such as sickle, cells, anemia as an aspect of preserving life.

Secondly, marring from another clan was to promote harmony and togetherness.

The TOTEM system is one of the outstanding and respected cultural practices in Uganda as a whole.

GENDER IN NATURE CONSERVATION:

In Buganda/ Uganda up to date the Women are the most efficient custodian of diversity of food species, in their gardens to create an access and control over a wide range of crops which helps them to provide for their families, a virtue regained of BIODIVERSITY.

In Uganda we, practice mixed farming where organic manure are obtained from plants remaining.

Trees were planted in gardens to provide shades for plants and act as wind breaks no use of green houses and we use shifting cultivation this would help the soil to regain their fertility. Revving ORGANIC agriculture that would help to retain water, moderate climate change and ensure sustainable Biodiversity.

The local leaders were to ask people to preserve nature, because the Baganda respects the sacredness of life by showing utmost care for fellow human and plant and animals.

In Africa we believe an individual does not and cannot exit alone" an individual can, I'm because we, and since we are, therefore I am".

The Baganda believed life after death so they used to plant trees at the burial sites, believing those trees are the resting places for the departed relatives.

And due to the influence of mordent this cultural practice is ignored as people are buried at concrete graves, the clearing of tress a round burial sites as well as construction of concrete grave destroys natural environment of the area.

Religion and spiritualism:

Each village had a sacred groove or small forest, natural water fall, rivers dedicated to the ancestors, in another case these forest, rivers were source of healing it was an abomination to fetch wood or to

cut a trees or bath in these rivers, These were special places for worship or acquire special powers from their gods.

As of today, the existence of modern religion in Uganda has changed people's perception about themselves and environment resulting in destruction of nature.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING BUGANDA / UGANDA CULTURE AND NATURE CONSERVATION:

1. POLITICAL CLIMATE :

In 2007 the government of Uganda announces a plan to lease some country's forest the biggest in East Africa for a sugarcane plantation; the Baganda spear headed the campaign to avert this plan ..

The King of Buganda kingdom, he instead offered 7100hecters of his own land but the proposal was ignored by the central government and the private developer and many people were injured and 2 died in the demonstration of not to sell out Mabira forest.

2. GENDER INEQUALITY:

In most rural areas, in Uganda women are not to have property rights and many not to inherit property at the death of Husband and father.

Though Ugandan constitution provides equal rights to family property for Husbands and wives the cultural norms together with high level of illiteracy level among the women renders this provision ineffective.

In 2007 human development report, indicated the largest percentage of poor people in Sub –Saharan Africa are women who face gender inequality such as lack of access to land, credit and training, limited decision making and more dependence on natural resources and grate caring responsibilities.

3. MORDEN RELIGION:

The existence of Christianity and Islam in Uganda changed people ways of thinking about themselves and environment .As a result of this the identity and traditions of Uganda and Africa has greatly changed. It was spiritualism that affected everything in central of the country.

In conclusion:

Uganda has several ethics groups of people who have different cultures, and a culture is passed on to the next generation by learning whereas environment is preserved for generation to come.

Now development which is not grounded in the past valves become irrelevant for the present generations .Therefore, development policies such as those of environment and nature perseverance in

Uganda and as well as elsewhere, must strive to consolidate what was good in the past to mutually interact with the present ideas, if the future is to remain meaningful to Ugandan and Africa at large.

THE WAY FORWARD:

Questions;

- What should Uganda do to revive her nature glory?
- What make a country unique explain in your own words in a shortest form?
- How do we see culture in different countries?
- How culture is is passed on the next generation and explain how environment is preserved in Uganda?