

AFRICA ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE.

UGANDA

The profile:
 Uganda is a land locked nation in Eastern Africa the west of Kenya, south of Sudan, Rwanda and Tanzania to the south and to the west Democratic Republic of Congo. Uganda is a fertile well-watered country with many lakes and rivers including a seized part of Lake Victoria. The country is mostly plateau declining in the north and rimmed with highlands and mountain and volcanoes. Map of East Africa showing Uganda and bordering countries.




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 quite safe for tourists.

In Uganda you can experience a hectic yet fun capital city Kampala, experience the Nature, especially in its national parks, lakes, mountains and islands as well as its diverse culture.

The Natural Attraction of Uganda;








Uganda is a home to some of highest concentration of biodiversity in Africa

The Nature conservation and resources:

1. The wildlife ;

The Rwenzori Mountain has abundance wildlife, some which are considered endangered species, such as Mountain Gorilla, resources reports that there are only about 300 mature adult gorillas however; there entire population is estimated 680-720. Even though Uganda is small than other East African countries, it has an extreme abundance of wildlife including over 1015 different kinds of birds and 354 species of mammals.

There are over 350 species of fish known to exist in Uganda's water bodies like Nile Tilapia and Nile perch. Nile perch, the maximum length of two meters and 530lbs, this is one of the largest fresh water fish.

It was introduced in 1950's; however, it ruined the ecosystem of Lake Victoria from that time.

There are also around 165 species of reptiles in Uganda; the Nile crocodile is the largest living reptile dating back 150 million year.

There is also the African largest the rock python –over 5 meters in length.

1. Forests :

Uganda loose about 6000hectores of forestry every 30days, in 2050 Uganda per capital forests will be zero, and this is 2009 report from NEMA.

And already 28 districts have lost the entire forest ecosystem while 19 have forest of 1% .

1. Agriculture;

Although Uganda has a Favorable soils and climate, Crops and livestock production are affected severely by degradation) over cultivation, over grazing and deforestation. 70% of the area under cultivation is used to produce locally consumed food crops.

- Women provide a half of agriculture labor, plantains, sweet potatoes, cassava and Banana, are the major food crops.
- Per capital food production has declined mainly because of a rapid population growth and because of the conflict in the north parts of the country.
- Receives plenty of rain in most areas, though short dry seasons in the North during December and January, still, weather allows continues continuous cultivation in the south.
- Coffee is the primary export for Uganda and cotton, tea, Roses, tobacco are all major export.
- Livestock have suffered in the past decades.

Beekeeping industry and much more small scale industry

The population of Uganda directly or indirectly depends on the products and services from agriculture, fisheries, forests, wetlands etc. Natural resources account for 85 % of export earnings and% of Uganda's natural ecosystems are undergoing conversion, degradation and decline in a totally unplanned and uncontrolled manner.

What are major causes of environment problem in Uganda?

Poverty, High levels of illiteracy, climate change, water toxin, Industrial pollution mercury from the mining and oil extraction from lake Albert, acid rain, primitive Agriculture methods, rapid population growth, and political climate, hence the **loss of biodiversity**.

Discussions:

Biodiversity:

Not Uganda a lone that is losing her diversity but the world has begun, relatively to lose species and habitats at an ever-increasing and alarming rate. Why?

Because of us

- In order to prevent and preserve biodiversity one should avoiding certain wildlife and wood product. Do you agree? Discuss...
- How does biodiversity loss affect you and everyone else?
- Does Japan has any environment problem similar to Uganda is a threat for the future generation? Discuss...

Therefore, on behalf of Uganda society, I welcome every one of you to volunteers or support existing environmental methods and also bring innovation to local organizations in a struggle to revive the **PEAR OF AFRICA** [Uganda].

THE SOCIAL -CULTURE OF UGANDA:

Uganda is a pluralistic society with a complex social order characterized with a multitude of ethnic groups, languages and religious groups.

RELIGION:

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

Worship places in Uganda;





Uganda is also made of various ethnic groups;

In this East Africa country, mainly speaking languages of three families—**Bantu, Nilotic, and Central Sudanic**—constitute most of the population.

Bantu peoples are the most numerous and include the **Baganda** in the central area (17%), **Basoga** in the south-eastern area (10%), **Banyankole** in the south-western area (8%), **Bakiga** in the most south-western area (8%), **Banyoro** in the mid-western area (3%), **Batooro** in the mid-western area (3%), **Bagisu** in the eastern area, **Bahima** in the south-western area (2%), Bafumbira in the south-western area (6%), and other much smaller ethnic groups.

Nilotic peoples, mainly in the north, are the next largest, including the **Lango**, 6%, and the **Acholi**, 4%. In the northwest are the **Lugbara**, 4%. The **Karamojong**, 2%, occupy the considerably drier, largely pastoral territory in the northeast. Europeans, Asians, and **Arabs** make up about 1% of the population with other groups accounting for the remainder.

More than half of the population is under the age of 15 – more than any other country in the world. Uganda's population is predominantly rural, and its population density highest in the southern regions.

Life expectancy at birth

Total population: 52.72 years

Male: 51.66 years

Female: 53.81 years (2009 estimate)

This is according to the 2002 national census. .



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:



he 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.

TRADITIONAL WEAR:

In the past people used to wear BARK CLOTH made from tree.



More modern traditional clothes were adopted later: BUSUTI, for Central and Eastern Women. SUKA, for Western women. KANZU, for men of all ethnicities in Uganda.

A few ethnic groups and their cultural wears.

Photos of a few ethnic groups and their cultural wears:

Baganda central Men traditional Wear



Baganda Central 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 villagers 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



In Uganda there is shortage of f 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.

Here 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.

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Also the Baganda preserved nature through totems, like each clan has a TOTEM [Omuziro] which could be an animal, bird, plant or insect and its forbidden to eat ones totem as well as that of the mother or grandmother.

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

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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 7100hectores 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.

1. 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.

1. 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 perseveration 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 passed on the next generation and explain how environment is preserved in Uganda?

Discussion:**Ethnicity:/**

- Why do you think Uganda became a pluralistic society with a multitude of ethnic groups, languages and religious groups, and has this affected the culture and environment, if so why and how?
- Have you identified any similarities or differences in Uganda culture, wear, Marriage, Gender and Religions?
- How has culture contributed to Nature conservation in your own country after seeing Uganda?

Thank you

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